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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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SALUTING THE IRISH EXPERIENCE



The cast of Frank McCourt's musical revue "The Irish And How They Got That Way" – Gregg Hammer, Janice Landry, Jon Dykstra, Meredith Beck, Andrew Crowe and Irene Molloy – playing at Davis Square Theatre in Somerville, January 24 - March 17. Story, Page 9.

Kickoff time for 'The Gathering Ireland 2013'

With the dawn of the new year comes the beginning of "The Gathering Ireland 2013," a major marketing effort by the government of Ireland to encourage Irish Americans to visit the island this year to reconnect with their roots.

The Gathering was launched by the Irish Taoiseach, Tánaiste, and Minister for Tourism last May and is being supported by Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland. It is expected to be the biggest tourism initiative ever staged on the island. The Gathering is not a single event; it's an exciting year-long celebration of Ireland, its people, and all that is great

about its connections, both at home and abroad. The Gathering Ireland invites anyone who has a link to Ireland, or just a love of the country, to visit Ireland for a series of events throughout the new year.

There will be clan gatherings, festivals, special sporting events, music, and concerts taking place all across the country, and all year long. Cities, towns and villages throughout the country will showcase and share the very best of Irish culture, tradition, business, sport, fighting spirit, and the uniquely Irish sense of fun.

(Continued on page 20)

A giver's profile:

Dick Connolly, right, is a patron saint of golfers and their caddies and of individuals in need, with more contributions, affiliations, and honors to his credit than most anyone in Boston. He has been dubbed "The Blue-Collar Broker." Greg O'Brien writes, Page 8.



Kylemore Abbey as 'a new icon'

Sister Maire Hickey, the abbess of Kylemore Abbey for the past five years, says that under new plans the celebrated monastery "will develop into a new icon. Until now it has been a tourist attraction and a school with a community of nuns in the background. We want it to be a Benedictine monastery that is the center of activities of various kinds, and open to visitors of many kinds." Judy Enright story, Page 16.

Cameron admits to British role in Finucane murder

Widow blasts inquiry denial

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — British Prime Minister David Cameron last month condemned actions by British agents in the 1989 death of the Belfast lawyer Pat Finucane one of the most bitterly disputed killings of the entire Northern Ireland conflict.

Cameron cited a long-awaited report on the slaying that said there was a shocking level of state collusion with an outlawed Protestant group in the murder of Finucane in his Belfast home as he was having Sunday lunch with his wife and three children. He specialized in defending Irish Republican Army suspects.

Two gunmen from the Ulster Defense Association shot him more than a dozen times, and employees of the state and state agents played "key roles" in the murder, the report says.

"It cannot be argued that these were rogue agents," Cameron said. However, he declined to order an inquiry, saying that more was learned from the report by human rights lawyer Desmond de Silva than would have been gained through a public inquiry.

However, Geraldine Finucane, the wife of the Belfast solicitor killed in his family home in February 1989, dismissed the report ordered by Cameron in 2011 as a "whitewash" and a "sham. The dirt has been swept under the carpet without any serious attempt to lift the lid on what really happened to Pat and so many others," she said at a press conference.

"This report is a confidence trick dressed up as independent scrutiny and given invisible clothes of reliability. But most of all, most hurtful and insulting of all, this report is not the truth."

Previous investigations already have confirmed that both the British army and the anti-terrorist unit of Northern Ireland's police had agents and informers inside the Ulster Defense Association involved in the killing.

Cameron said de Silva concluded that Finucane probably would not have been killed were it not for the actions of British agents in the Ulster Defense Association.

"Sir Desmond is satisfied there was not an overarching state conspiracy to murder Patrick Finucane," Cameron said. "But while he rejects any state conspiracy he does find, quite frankly, shocking levels of state collusion."

Finucane specialized in defending Irish Republican Army suspects and had three brothers in the outlawed group.



British Prime Minister David Cameron, top, and the late Pat Finucane, below.



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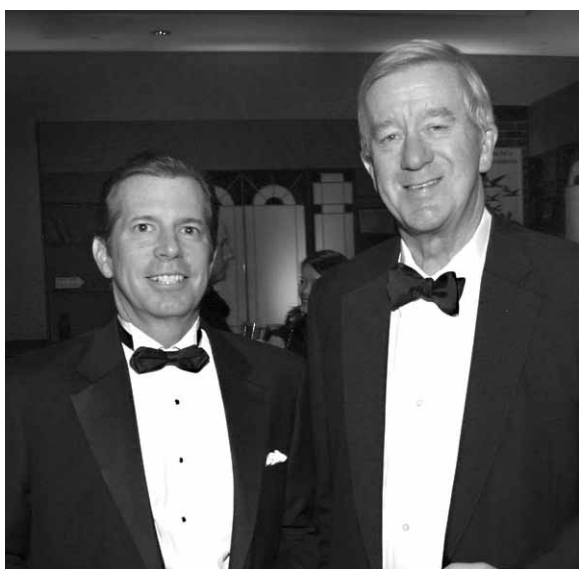
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American Ireland Fund gala raises \$2.5-plus for charities



Joe Corcoran and Sharon McNally

Some 1100 gathered for The American Ireland Fund's 31st Annual Boston Dinner Gala at the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel Nov 15, raising over \$2.5 million. The Worldwide Ireland Funds Promising Ireland Campaign The gala was chaired by Ron O'Hanley, President of Asset Management & Corporate Services at Fidelity Investments, and



Matt Power and Bill Weld

the Vice Chairmen were: Douglas Donahue, Managing Partner of Brown Brothers Harriman & Company; John Fish, Chairman and CEO of Suffolk Construction Company and William

Teuber, Vice Chairman of EMC Corporation. The event honored new Boston Red Sox Manager John Farrell, the 20th Red Sox manager of Irish heritage.



Steve Greeley, Dinner Chair Ron O'Hanley, Mike Sheehan.

Photos courtesy American Ireland Fund



The Irish International Immigration Center hosted its annual Solas Awards on December 6 at the Kennedy Library, Dorchester. Pictured with the honorees at the event are, from left, Sister Lena Deevey, IIC executive director; honorees Vincent Ryan, founder of Schooner Capital; Beverly Edgehill, Ed.D, vice president of TJX Companies Inc.; Kevin Kelley, CEO of Ironshore Insurance; and Juliette Mayers, Blue Cross Blue Shield.

USA Track Hall honors sprint legend Arthur Duffey

Early last month, when Arthur F. Duffey, a Boston native, was inducted into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame, his descendants viewed the honor as the resurrection of man and his reputation as a runner without peer in his time.

On May 31, 1902, the 22-year-old Duffey, who was at the time a student at Georgetown University, burst from the starting line of the 100-yard sprint in the national intercollegiate track and field championships at the Berkley Oval in New York City and hit the tape 9.6 seconds later, in the process lowering the world's record from 9.8 seconds.

Three years later, in November 1905, the run was over; all of his records were ordered erased in perpetuity by a national amateur track organization in the wake of never-confirmed reports about sponsorship expense money.

The public record of the time shows that for many track fans, the case was one where a zealous recititude had prevailed over fairness and any sense of justice, a view finally accepted by the world of track at the Hall of Fame ceremony last month.

-TOM MULVOY

Irish community stalwart Kathleen Lawlor dies

One of the Boston Irish community's brightest lights was extinguished a week before Christmas with the death of Kathleen Lawlor, who leaves her husband John, five children—Mary, Maeve, Paul, John, and Owen—four grandchildren, and two brothers, Paul and Brian Kingston.

In her youth Kathleen was beautiful, brilliant in scholastics, a gifted step dancer, and enamored of all things Irish. She had degrees from Newton College and Bos-

ton College, represented Boston in Ireland's international Rose of Tralee pageant, and later was a teacher.

A member and director of the Eire Society of Boston for decades, Kathleen served as its president from 1975 to 1977, a post held earlier by her father, Paul Kingston. She was an active officer and organized countless Society events as former Eire president John Daley remembers: "For years she did almost everything in the Soci-



ety ... you could always count on Kathleen to do it with charm, dignity, and grace. She was a real Irish woman, a real class act. She will be sorely missed.

Maureen Connelly, a former Eire Society

president who was a friend and Milton neighbor of Kathleen and John, remembers the Lawlor parties where those in attendance might include Seamus Heaney, John Hume or a member or two of the Chieftains. John fit right in as a champion NCAA and Olympic hammer thrower and captain of the 1964 Irish Olympic team.

On a personal note, I was privileged to sit across the table from Kathleen for thirty years

as a fellow director of the Eire Society. She made it grand fun. She had a smile as welcoming as a toddler's embrace and a mind that respected the Society's mission of "spreading awareness of the cultural achievements of the Irish people."

Kathleen was a long-time parishioner of St. Agatha's Parish in Milton where she sang in the choir.

—BILL O'DONNELL

New mystery for Lehané

The problem may have been resolved by the time you are reading this, but Tessa, the beloved black-and-tan beagle of mystery novelist Dennis Lehane and his family went missing over Christmas weekend in the Coolidge Corner area of Brookline. The author went on line to pledge "the naming of a character in the next book for anyone who gets her back to us!" He added a picture of the pooch, available at universalhub.com.



Robert and Mary Muse

Robert Muse, family man, defense lawyer; at 92

Robert Muse, who, with his wife Mary of 68 years and their family of 11 children, 38 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren, was honored at the Boston Irish Reporter's Boston Irish Honors luncheon in October, died on Nov. 29. He was 92 years old and made good use of

virtually every day in his long life.

A graduate of Boston College and Suffolk Law School, Mr. Muse was a Marine Corps fighter pilot in World War II and, as Jack Thomas wrote in a profile of the family, he and Mary "were in concert long before they wed in 1944"; after the

attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Bob joined the Marines and Mary enlisted with the Navy's Waves.

On his return home, Mr. Muse went to law school and then began a defense practice that saw him work some 1,000 trials before he retired in 2008 at age 88. For her

part, Mary, a graduate of Emmanuel College and BC Law School, went onto serve on the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court bench and a career that made her a model for women in the law and a tireless activist for many community causes.

Peter Muse, Esq., dies 16 days after his father

Peter Muse, an attorney and one of 11 children of Robert and Mary Muse, died on Dec. 14, 16 days after his father of the effects of a brain

tumor. He leaves his wife Deborah (Greene), and his children, Peter J.C., Stephen Patrick T., Rita Claire, Michael V.R., and Maureen D. Muse.

At right: Peter Muse, one of 11 Muse children



Publisher's Notebook

Boston set for a dancing spectacular

By Ed Forry

The region's thriving Irish dance community has had four years to prepare, and now the clock is ticking toward a huge event being hosted by Boston in March – the annual World Championship of Irish Dance, an eight-day event that will run from March 24 to March 31 at the Hynes Auditorium.

Considered the most prestigious and largest Feis in the world, the annual event will bring upwards of 6,500 Irish dancers to Boston from all over the world, including contingents from Ireland, Great Britain, Australia, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. Dancers will compete in age-grouped competitions from under 11 to senior level (dancers over 21 years old.) The program will include Ceili and Figure Dance competitions as well as Dance Drama. Separate competitions are organized for male and female competitors in solo events, and also sections for mixed and unmixed teams.

Sponsored and organized by An Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha (The Irish Dancing Commission,) Boston and the Hynes Convention Center won the event over 20 other cities around the world. It is just the second time for these championships in the United States and the first time they have come to Boston. Glasgow, Dublin and Belfast hosted the last three annual events. In 2009, Philadelphia was the venue.

The news of the Boston award was first reported in these pages in 2009. Speaking about the events at that time, Jim Rooney, executive director of the Hynes and the Mass Convention Center said, "We're so pleased to be bringing this unique event to Boston. We were in competition with Chicago and other big cities, and we won based on our award-winning facilities, our top-tier service and – we admit it – being the most Irish city in America."

"Ireland has a long association with Boston, and the strength of Irish dancing in the city and its environs is a very tangible illustration of its bond with Ireland," said An Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha spokesman Seamus O'Se. "One could almost say that, as far as the decision on a venue 2013 World Championships was concerned, this was a one-horse race. We are looking forward to working closely with the people of Boston to make this the greatest Irish Dancing event ever".

State Senator Jack Hart added, "As a father of four Irish step dancers, I can fully appreciate the level of excitement with Boston being chosen as host to this world class competition. Young dancers from all over the globe must qualify to participate in this event. I welcome these dancers to our great City of Boston."

The event is expected to generate 17,800 hotel room nights in Boston and an estimated \$11 million in economic impact to the city and Commonwealth.

The Boston Irish Business Association (BIBA) has announced a full slate of events for the new year, including a series of monthly meetings to connect local business people with their counterparts from Ireland. The first in the speaker series takes place at 6 p.m. on Wed., Jan. 17, when Bob Coughlin, president and CEO of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, will be featured speaker at the Algonquin Club in Boston's Back Bay.

Other BIBA events in the new year include an awards breakfast on March 14, and a five day trade mission to Ireland (April 29-May 3). More details at bibaboston.com.

Just after US Ambassador to Ireland Dan Rooney stepped down from that post in early December, the Associated Press reported that he and his wife Patricia made a long, sad journey back to Pittsburgh for the funeral of their daughter, Rita Marie Rooney, who passed away on December 1.

Ms. Rooney was a resident of Milton where she served as the Director of Faith Formation at St. Elizabeth's Church and was attending Boston College for a master's degree in theology. A graduate of Brown University and the University of Pittsburgh Law School, she had practiced law in Pittsburgh, Dublin, and Boston. The 54-year-old Rooney leaves her son, Alexander Conway of Boston. A memorial Mass will be held in the new year at St. Elizabeth's church.

Ed Forry is the co-founder and publisher of the Boston Irish Reporter. Contact him at edforry@bostonirish.com

Commentary

Coming soon: A United Ireland

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

A re-united Ireland may be a few years away, but its inevitability is certain. And it will happen within the lifetime of many people now living here. But unless current leadership in Belfast, Dublin, and London manages the process very carefully, there will likely be much turmoil as the prospect comes closer and closer.

The recent rioting throughout Northern Ireland is a good example of what might happen.

The reason for this latest unrest was the anger of some Protestant/Unionists over a vote by the Belfast City Council to remove the British flag over City Hall on all but 22 designated days each year. Catholic/Nationalists are now the leading political parties in the Belfast City Council. Of the 51 councillors, 24 are Catholic/Nationalists, 21 are Protestant/Unionists, and 6 are middle-of-the-road members of the Alliance Party. Two decades ago, there were 13 Catholic/Nationalists on the Council.



Joe Leary

This decision on the flag presentations would have been impossible were it not for the strong gains in Catholic voting power since the Peace Process began in the early 1990s.

Despite the caution urged upon them by Unionist First Minister Peter Robinson and Sinn Fein Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, angry Unionists took to the streets, attacking buildings, cars, and then the police when the officers arrived on the scene to stop the violence.

Many in the Protestant community are very upset over the developing "new" Ireland. They view themselves as British and will resist the idea of becoming Irish. For all that, the problem they face is democracy, where the majority rules, and after nearly one hundred years of frequently oppressive Protestant/Unionist control, the population, and, therefore, the voting power in this small part of Ireland is changing.

A united Ireland up-or-down vote as provided by the Good Friday agreement may not even be relevant a few years from now since the changes are already happening in town and village councils throughout the North. The major vote would be somewhat anti-

My 24-hour visit to way back when

By Tom Mulvoy
REPORTER STAFF

On a recent afternoon, I had the privilege and opportunity via a magazine assignment to sit down for an hour and engage in conversation in his Belmont home with a man who was 10 years old when Johnny came marching home from World War I. He will be 105 years old next month, and he remembers his Civil War-veteran grandfather bathing him and he will readily tell you what he thinks of the recent election, and how he doesn't "buy the Republican plan to cut back on Social Security and Medicare."

He will also give you chapter and verse about how he ran his history and social studies classes at Watertown High School over a 42-year span that ended 40 years ago: "The main thing I tried to do was graduate respectful citizens, and that is the key word – citizens."

It was awesome while sitting with him to consider that a mere handful of the seven billion people alive in the world today have walked this man's walk and been able to talk about it in details, and with a witty relish.

That evening, I had dinner with a man who three years ago, at age 90, and after a lifetime in journalism, much of it spent in the higher editing echelons at the *New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*, published a lengthy memoir wherein he conceded that while newspapering was his religion during all those years, his deep and abiding faith in the value of facts and figures didn't help him reconcile himself to life's ups and downs the way his late wife's dearly held Catholicism had guided her through a long, full life and her dying time.

Still, at 93 now, he continues to genuflect to daily journalism, print division, and is ready by mid-morning to debate, with no less acuity than he brought to his job 40 years ago, the content and display of that day's *Globe* and *Times* reports.

The next day, I stopped by a nursing home in Braintree to see my Aunt Mary, who was born in 1920, the year that the Red Sox sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees. When I got to her floor, she was leading, with considerable exuberance, her mostly reluctant fellow residents in the singing of a 45-minute medley of songs that echoed the Tin Pan Alley days of Victor Herbert. The words from 90 years and more ago slipped out of her mouth with nary a mumble.

Time has worn down this mother of six whose pep-periness and keen sense of fun animated so many family gatherings over so many years; she isn't sure what happened to her six siblings, three of whom reached 90 years and more, and all of whom are dead; and she repeats a lot of questions. But stay with her an hour, and talk about our extended family and the memories come back with a sureness of recollection, and a poignant, understated touch of regret that they

climatic in that Northern Ireland will have already become a Catholic state. Many in Northern leadership quietly acknowledge this today, and many, especially the politicians, are preparing their parties for the new balance of power.

On Tues., Dec. 11, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency finally released the detailed figures from its 2011 census.

BBCNews Northern Ireland reported on the release and ran the headline: "NI Protestant population continuing to decline."

The Statistics and Research Agency census numbers showed that 48 percent of the resident population are either Protestant or were brought up Protestant. The Catholic or brought-up Catholic population is up to 45 percent, a narrowing of the gap to three percentage points.

In 2001 the Protestant population was 53.1 percent and the Catholic population 43.8 percent, evidence of an astounding narrowing of the gap.

This only tells a part of the story, however, since the young population now in the Northern Ireland school system is overwhelmingly Catholic. According to the Northern Ireland Department of Education, the figures for the 2010-2011 year show 163,693 Catholics and 120,415 Protestants in primary and secondary schools. Queens University reports 8,710 Catholics and 6,740 Protestants and the University of Ulster reports 11,070 Catholics and 7,020 Protestants. It is easy for almost anyone to see the trends and make a judgment as to the future population balance.

In Belfast, for instance, where the "flag" vote took place last month, the 2011 census data show significant changes. The Irish Times reports that the Catholic population has risen to 48.6 percent while the Protestant number is now 42.3 percent. It can safely be said that the Protestant/Unionist ascendancy is over in Belfast.

A strong, vibrant ,exciting United Ireland would benefit all its citizens. Economically, most all businessmen and women agree that Ireland would be far stronger if a single country. Businesses want to avoid operating where rioting and unrest occur.

A unified Ireland is such a desirable outcome that men and women of good heart both in Ireland and the United States should reach out to all communities involved to help make the transition as easy, pleasant, and welcoming as possible.

happened so long ago.

This is the time of year when we give thanks for what we have, whatever it adds up to; for some, it's a time to take cheery note once again of an epochal event that happened far away some 2,000 years ago; for still others, it's a time to once again make an accounting of what came to pass over the past 12 months and of their roles in the process, and to consider the hopes for the next 12 months.

As I consider that accounting and those hopes in this, my 70th year, I take comfort in the 24 hours that I spent talking with three individuals who, so far as living and moving on are concerned, have been there and done that.

Why them and not others? A creator's will? Unknowing fate? A remarkably positive conflation of genetic markers? There are billions of people on this earth who will say they know the answer, and more power to them as my sturdy trio and the rest of us make our way to our common destiny.



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Mary C. Forry, President (1983-2004)

Edward W. Forry, Publisher

Thomas F. Mulvoy Jr., Managing Editor

William P. Forry, Contributing Editor

Peter F. Stevens, Contributing Editor

News Room: (617) 436-1222

Ads : (617) 436-1222

Fax: (617) 825-5516 news@bostonirish.com

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Point of View

When black-and-white stories leave out the gray

The release of the Boston FBI'S Kevin White files raises issues of fairness and history for public figures after their deaths

BY PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

The dead can't defend themselves. While cliché, the sentence is a truism nonetheless as witness the recent release of FBI files on the late Kevin White offering

some 500 pages of roughly composed, heavily redacted documents that delve into purported corruption during White's four-term tenure (1968-1983) as Boston's mayor.

Predictably, many in the media have almost gleefully seized on the files as "proof" that White and his cronies were crooked, on the take, you fill in the blank. Others have denounced the records, in the public domain due to the work of MuckRock, a journalistic watchdog group, as unsubstantiated allegations that never saw the light of day in an indictment, let alone in a courtroom.

So wherein lie the truth, the half-truths, and the distortions? In the historical record, death doesn't absolve a person's untoward deeds in life, and as posthumous facts emerge, they should and must be a measure of the man or woman. The key word is *facts*.

The FBI files on White teem with allegations of bribes, kickbacks, political strong-arming for contributions, and a cozy pay-for-play arrangement – again, alleged – between the White administration and various local waste-removal companies. A tidbit that is hardly new but has set off breathless "outrage" in the usual media quarters was the FBI's suspicion that White personally "convinced" John Hancock Insurance to sign a \$4.5 million charitable donation to Boston University. It is a fact that when White finished his tenure as mayor, he soon ensconced himself in pricey BU digs perched above the Charles River and became a conduit between the school and Beacon Hill.

At first glance, the portrait the FBI files presents



Kevin Hagan White

seems damning. A second, deeper look reveals something far murkier, a political and public portrait far more akin to hazier Impressionism than the Realism that a number of local columnists want it to be.

Historically speaking, there are two incontrovertible facts here: the Boston FBI office did launch investigations from 1975-1987 into purported bid-rigging and pay-for-play; however, the FBI never brought charges against White. The same files made public by MuckRock are colorful and compelling and stir up a miasma of suspicion, but they are very same files – an amalgam of testimony from sometimes specious sources, internal memorandums, agents' handwritten notes, and even copies of newspaper stories, all but the latter heavily redacted – that were never solid enough to support actual charges. In a blunt assessment, the US attorney's office stated that there was "a lack of evidence to substantiate and prove a federal violation." In one investigator's memo to the FBI brass, a concern was evinced that the evidence was "not solid enough" to follow without

"possibly harming White's chances in the forthcoming mayoralty campaign and a possibility of White's obtaining a slot on the national Democratic ticket."

Another aspect of the FBI's investigation lurks amid all the furor – then and now. George Regan, White's former press secretary, wrote a letter to the *Globe* and predictably asserted, "The case against Mayor White was not pursued by the US attorney's office because it was built upon lies." Another point, however, that Regan made is one that those seeking to trash White in perpetuity will likely try to evade or ignore: The Boston FBI that was investigating White was the same FBI office that was acting in deep concert with a certain local luminary named James "Whitey" Bulger – a fact that hardly inspires confidence that every aspect of the White investigation was circumspect. Regan correctly pointed out, "The Boston FBI had its so-called enemies list and was not above breaking the law or twisting the facts."

To her credit, the *Globe's* Joan Vennochi gave passing mention to that point.

If facts that prove wrongdoing by White or, for that matter, any historical figure, emerge one day, or centuries, after death, they must be entered into the record. Half-truths, allegations never acted upon, and such murky scholarship should not be enough to sully one's reputation beyond repute. Can it be said that Kevin White was demonstrably guilty of the allegations? In a word, no. Can it be said, as White himself claimed, that he had been "vindicated" by the FBI? Again, no.

I'm reminded of something that appeared in this space in last month's *Boston Irish Reporter* about Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy in "The Patriarch," David Nasaw's biography: "When it comes to the bromide that Kennedy was a man who made his fortune in bootlegging, Nasaw convincingly contends that there is no hard shred of evidence to support the charge – other than Kennedy's providing alcohol for his tenth Harvard reunion." Regarding White and the FBI files, that clear-cut, irrefutable shred of evidence that White was guilty has yet to surface from reams of the plausible. Until it does, history's jury can't be sent out to deliberate a verdict "beyond a reasonable doubt." Of course, that will never stop some from arriving at just such a conviction on their own.

'Austerity' has many faces as Ireland turns to 2013

BY LIAM FERRIE
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

GALWAY – For the last four years or so "austerity" has been the favorite word of the Irish media and popular with many of our politicians. I am not sure what image of the country this conjures up to the outside observer but, whatever their expectations, visitors must be totally bemused when they arrive in any of our cities or towns. This would be particularly true in recent weeks as Christmas shopping momentum gathered pace.

"Austerity" isn't a word that comes to mind in the modern Ireland with interminable traffic jams, crowded stores, busy restaurants and bars, and full car parks in city centres and shopping malls. For real signs of austerity it is necessary to search out the unfinished and abandoned housing estates, half completed or vacant office blocks and retail outlets, and other business premises with "For Sale" or "For Rent" signs outside.

For the average person with a job or a state pension, "austerity" means not having any of the luxuries that had become the norm. Unfortunately, a substantial minority is feeling real pain and understand the true meaning of the word. These are the people who bought houses at the top of the market and have since lost their jobs.

"Austerity" is also a good word to use when looking at the state of the nation's finances. In early December, Minister for Finance Michael Noonan delivered the 2013 Budget, the sixth austerity budget in four years. Most analysts described it as the toughest to date as it took 3.5 billion euro out of the economy – 2 billion in spending cuts and 1.5 billion in increased taxes. What made this budget so harsh was not the sum involved but that the government believed it had to resort to substantial cuts in such sensitive items as child benefits and the carer's respite allowance.

The question being asked in the wake of this budget presentation is, "Will we be in a better place at the end of 2013?" Noonan believes we are through the worst, although at the same time he reminds us that he must save a further 3.1 billion euro in the 2014 budget. Elsewhere, there are mixed views. First of all, we are dependent on the state of the world economy. Any downturn in the EU or the US will have a detrimental effect on the Irish economy. The converse should be true, but growth first has to be sufficient

to fill the gap created by a further curtailment in the average citizen's spending power brought about by the government's budgetary decisions. Those in employment will have reduced "take-home" pay; families will have at least 10 euro per child less to spend each month; homeowners will have to pay a new property tax (averaging around 200 euro in 2013 and 400 in 2014); it will cost more to own a car; and cuts in certain allowances will result in a reduction in discretionary spending by pensioners.

Reduced consumer spending means fewer jobs. Fewer jobs mean increased social welfare spending (already 39.5 percent of current expenditure) and a reduction in tax income. Both outcomes make it more difficult for the government to balance its books and Noonan may therefore be underestimating the savings he will have to make in 2014.

On the face of it, 2013 looks like another bleak year for the Irish economy. There are, however, a few positive developments that could change that picture. Some recent data show a modest increase in consumer spending in the third quarter, an increase that was particularly pronounced in October. Reinforcing these statistics was an increase in the Consumer Satisfaction Index in October, from 60.9 to 63.8, with the figure trending upward. It is also worth noting that economists believe that for every one percent improvement in the world economy, the Irish economy will grow by around 1.5 percent. The optimist can also take comfort from the fact that house prices seem to have stabilized and a very slight improvement in the unemployment rate was recorded. A further encouraging trend is in the level of foreign direct investment. In recent months we have had a steady flow of announcements from the IDA giving details of multi-nationals, mostly US-based, expanding their operations in Ireland or setting up new subsidiaries in this country.

Whatever happens in 2013 the Irish economy will still be in need of major surgery. We have a public service in which the average salary is 50 percent higher than in the private sector. Despite the state of the nation's finances those on the state payroll continue to receive annual increments unless they are already at the top of the scale for their grade. The same public servants can look forward to index-linked pensions while their counterparts in the private sector have seen their pension funds decline

in value and have been moved from defined benefit schemes to defined contribution schemes. Numerous experts have highlighted an impending disaster as the pension bill for retired state employees will soon become unsustainable.

Bringing about meaningful change is difficult for any government. Trade union power has been in decline in recent decades but it still remains strong in the public sector and no government so far has been willing to take a hard line against union threats. Capitulation to union demands has created a dysfunctional public service and this government has shown no inclination to challenge the unions in an effort to correct the situation.

Asking anyone to make sacrifices to restore the economy is a difficult task at the best of times, but the situation is not helped by an almost daily exposure of stories of individuals who, directly or indirectly, are being paid by the state and who seem to have escaped the recession. Former prime ministers Bertie Ahern and Brian Cowen are in receipt of pensions of around 150,000 euro (\$195,000). Politicians who served in Europe are even better off as they receive their Dáil and ministerial pensions plus European pensions. We also have at least one member of the European Parliament collecting his EU salary in addition to his Dáil pension. He was impervious to an outcry that has prompted some other former politicians to suspend their Irish pensions while on the EU payroll.

The list seems to be endless. In recent days we heard of 60-millikon euro in bonuses being paid to bank executives over a two-year period. That would normally be of primary interest to the banks' shareholders but that money was part of the enormous bailout that the banks received from the Irish taxpayer. The latest "scandal" is that of "public interest" directors on the boards of the banks receiving fees ranging from 60,000 euro (\$80,000) to 90,000 euro (\$120,000) per year for their efforts. All of those holding these positions are retired politicians or retired senior civil servants who are already in receipt of very handsome pensions.

If Ireland is to recover fully, it will do so very slowly unless the government grasps that nettle and ensures that we are all seen to be in this together.

Boston Irish Reporter’s Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Swift Boaters, Tea Party Losers Go After Kerry

– It comes as no surprise that the Swift Boat gang that helped torpedo US Sen. **John Kerry’s** presidential bid in 2004 has been resurrected to do the same for his expected appointment as Secretary of State. They will have as allies in the attempted Kerry take-down the shrinking Tea Party stalwarts whose advocacy of right wing nut-case candidates has probably cost the Republican party five US Senate seats in just the past two elections.



Bill O'Donnell

The latest rumblings of the Swift Boat reactivation was reported in print by the *Wall Street Journal* and picked up in lock-step conformity by the puny *Boston Herald*, fortunate enough to be editorially alive because Boston revels in the good-sport label as a “two newspaper town.” To what price? it could be asked.

The revisit this year of the Swift Boaters came unsurprisingly by the hand of the *Journal*, the reliably conservative house organ, in the form of an op-ed piece by former WSJ editorial board member **Seth Lipsky** wherein the hired gun revisits the 1971 testimony by Kerry regarding US troop actions and supposed atrocities in the Vietnam war, and asks “Why in the world would the president consider” appointing Kerry to either a State or a Defense department post?

Kerry’s testimony of 40 years ago has been repeatedly supported by FactCheck and the official record while Lipsky cites Swift Boat Veterans for Truth founder **John O’Neill’s** smear of three-time Purple Heart recipient Kerry as “... well qualified to be the Secretary of Defense – of Cuba or Venezuela.”

As part of the full-court press by the right wing media, an earlier Fox TV report by anchor **Megyn Kelly** noted the Swift Boaters’ challenge to Senator Kerry’s record as a war hero. In yet another program with O’Neill and the Boaters, Fox’s **Sean Hannity** praised their 2004 TV ads as having been “powerful and effective” even as they were being discredited by extensive media reporting. The double-barreled attack by the *Journal* and Fox, both **Rupert Murdoch**-owned, is no coincidence.

Despite the efforts of the truth-challenged Swift Boaters and their Tea Party junior partners, Senator Kerry will skate through the Senate confirmation hearings and will be easily confirmed to succeed **Hillary Clinton**.

Remembering “Tip” at the JFK Library – It was Sun., Dec. 9, at the Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum in glorious Columbia Point when media veterans of the **Tip O’Neill** era gathered to celebrate the late US House speaker’s 100th birthday on that very day. And what a party! The panel discussion audience was greeted by JFK Library Director **Tom Putnam** and opened by Tip O’Neill’s longtime gatekeeper, **Christine Sullivan**. Contributing memories and anecdotes were: **Charlie Gibson**, ABC-TV; **Al Hunt**, Bloomberg News; **Cokie Roberts**, ABC-TV; **Steve Roberts**, NY Times; **Mike Barnicle**, MSNBC; and former O’Neill staffer **Chris Matthews**, Hardball, MSNBC.

For nearly two hours the panelists recalled the life and times of the legendary Tip. How he reacted to his Cambridge constituency, and his fellow lawmakers in Washington, and how every day he lived the most famous of O’Neill quotes, “All politics is local.” The panel stories recalled O’Neill the schmoozer, the smiling arm-twister, the loving husband, the tough negotiator, and the feet-on-the-ground legislator who never for a moment forgot where he came from. The comments were book-ended by two excellent excerpts from a Barnicle feature on Boston’s Chronicle TV program on WCVB-Ch. 5.

The John F. Kennedy Library & Museum has shown the Tip tribute via its website and is likely to make the panel discussion available on tape after the first of the year. As one viewer who watched and remembered, I want to express my thanks to the Library for hosting the birthday party for Tip and arranging to make it available to a wider audience. For further information the Library phone number is 617-514-1600.

Ireland and Gtech Firm Could Join in National Lottery – The Republic of Ireland is in the final stages of selecting a company to run its national lottery and a Rhode Island firm is the front-runner to win the coveted license. Gtech, a subsidiary of Lottomattica with 7,500 employees in 50 countries and its headquarters in Providence, is a high-stakes bidder for the Irish contract. Gtech has recently raised a stunning \$650 million war chest to bid on the lottery license that is also being sought by similarly large lottery operators in the UK and Australia.

The Irish lottery, the modern successor to the famed Irish Sweepstakes, has raised some \$5 billion in its brief history, which is used by the Irish to underwrite charitable and other good causes. Some of the proceeds from the licensing fee collected by the government – \$260 million – will help finance the new National Childrens Hospital.

Brits “Sorry” ... Finucane Widow Calls Report a “Sham” – Despite the fact that British Prime Minister **David Cameron**, in addressing the House of Commons, called the evidence in the 500-page Finucane Report “unacceptable,” with “shocking levels of collusion,” there will be no public inquiry as demanded by the family of the slain Belfast lawyer **Pat Finucane**. Cameron apologized, saying he was “deeply sorry.” Finucane’s

widow, **Geraldine**, dismissed the report as “a sham...a whitewash...a confidence trick.”

The author and journalist **Ed Moloney** has publicly stated that both the Irish and British governments were aware that the lives of Finucane and two other solicitors were under threat from loyalist assassins well before the Finucane murder in February 1989. Moloney’s statement directly contradicts the findings of the Finucane Report’s author, **Sir Desmond de Silva**, who claims that the first contact between the two governments relating to loyalist threats against nationalist lawyers did not happen until the day *after* Finucane’s murder, on February 13.

Moloney recounts a conversation he had with **Tommy Lyttle**, the west Belfast commander of the loyalist UDA in December 1988, in which Lyttle told Moloney about a RUC detective who had recently suggested that the UDA ought to consider killing three “IRA lawyers,” Pat Finucane, **Oliver Kelly**, and **PJ McGrory**. On Feb. 12, 1989, Finucane was gunned down as he was having a meal with his family.

All in all, the de Silva inquiry states, there were three UDA conspiracies to murder Finucane (1981, 1985, and 1988/89) that were known to the RUC special branch and/or MI5, but on none of those occasions was Finucane warned of the threat against his life. It is hard to believe when one listens to the official findings of the government appointed Queen’s Counsel in this report that a public inquiry, of whatever shape or context, could be any more damning for the British government than this document.

Do Dead Politicians Have Any Reputational Rights? – The FBI had a file on the late Boston Mayor **Kevin White** that it added to and updated over the years until it reached some 500 pages. There was information or alleged claims masquerading as fact, some hand-written, some scribbled or neatly typed notes in numbered pages on topics ranging from alleged illegal firings of city employees to murky lawsuits that seem to belong in the dust bins of some white shoe Boston law firm. In page after page the names of accusers are redacted, erased from hard scrabble follow-up or clarifying testimony from the aggrieved finger-pointers.

In looking at some of the FBI file contents, it is hard to say whether the files compiled for the *Boston Globe* by MuckRock could be defined as finished files or merely “raw files,” dumpster-style files that collect everything, clear nothing, and constitute a mish-mash of accusations and innuendo by now nameless individuals, some good citizens, and some with unrequited grudges.

It was fairly well known that **Bill Weld**, the US Attorney during the final years of White’s 16-year reign, was aggressive and upwardly mobile and there was the usual gossip and street talk about the long-in-the-tooth White administration and the possibility of City Hall corruption, which comes with the tenure and territory.

No charges were ever brought, no legal proceedings initiated, and Kevin White drifted into his long goodbye with reputation reasonably intact. Now comes the *Globe*. First on Nov. 29 with a neutral headline in the Metro section, “Kevin White’s FBI Files Released.” White had been dead ten months. The release prompted little public reaction but **George Regan**, longtime White press secretary, sent a letter to the editor and complained of the libeling of a dead man and the vulnerability of the FBI at the time. Good for him.

In a Dec. 9 revisit of the propriety of dredging up a damaging file simply because you can, Joan Vennochi was not particularly critical or fault finding of the November story. She wrote, as some possible attempt at armor-plating of the *Globe’s* two articles on White, that “death is not reason enough to withhold negative information about a public figure.” True, no quarrel there, but who said that it should be?

But Kevin White has gone to his reward, and is no longer a “public figure.” There is only one thing that the *Globe* stories can accomplish: the diminution of Kevin White’s reputation and, arguably, his place in Boston’s history. It seems to this Boston native, a City Hall presence for a period after Kevin White’s tenure, and someone who believes that your good name is precious, that there should have been a hell of a lot more meat on the bone to justify the unreeling of those purposeless, dead-end files.

Peter Robinson Poking Around in Bonfires Past – DUP leader and First Minister **Peter Robinson’s** life these days must be mildly mundane or less exciting than when he was dodging

brickbats aimed at his wife **Iris** and himself not all that long ago. In an apparent attempt to stir up some mischief or to get a feel for upcoming electioneering, Peter has found a new phrase to add to the Northern demographic lexicon – “Northern Irish.” It is something that has the world’s top golfer, another native of the province, thinking about himself these days.

Robinson recently told a DUP party gathering that the fastest-growing section of Northern Ireland society is neither “unionist” nor “nationalist.” No, indeed, it is “Northern Irish” and Peter is going to get him some. It is his belief that the real political crisis at present is within nationalism. He said that the views of many Catholics on social issues, education, and the economy are not reflected in the policies of the SDLP and Sinn Fein. Easy enough to claim by Robinson, but truth is another issue.

In the wrap-up rap on unionism’s place in Northern society, the First Minister is telling his people that his pursuit of Catholic votes will not lead to an abandonment of sections of unionism. “Unionism is not a religion,” sayeth Peter and it is “capable of attracting a working class Protestant, a Catholic businessman, and an immigrant seeking a new life in our country.”

He could be right, I suppose. If the Orange Order, a tired relic of the 17th century, can get all cuddly, start hosting community festivals, hiring marketing consultants, and emerge as champions for its Papist neighbors, who’s to say that the Robinson vision of Catholic voters sprinting to gatherings around unionist campfires is not destined to become the new reality.

A Christmas-Hanukkah Story – It’s a true story not a fable and it happened almost two decades ago in the Big Sky region of Billings, Montana. It was December 1993 and the edges of this quiet Montana town were growing a bit ragged. Some neo-Nazis in small numbers had come to town and pockets of anti-Semitism were popping up from time to time. The Ku Klux Klan also had quietly moved a few members into town. The overwhelmingly white, Christian community didn’t say much at first, hoping to work through it or around it, quietly. But many knew it would likely get worse before it got better.

One December evening a rock came crashing through a window in a Billings home, demolishing a menorah, a nine-branch candelabra, and a Star of David display, all part of the Schnitzer family’s Hanukkah remembrance, and upending the equanimity of Isaac, aged 5 and his 2-year-old sister, Rachel. For safety the children were bundled into sleeping bags under their parents’ four-poster bed, far from the windows. But it was a terrifying night for this young family.

The police came, surveyed the damage, and said they would look into it but offered no assurances. In the days that followed several incidents were reported that involved skinheads and another when racist youths had to be turned away from an African-American church event by friendly white neighbors.

Then the local paper, noting the ugly incidents, wrote an editorial and at the suggestion of one of the paper’s readers, the Billings Gazette printed a full-page image of a menorah and by the end of that week more than 6,000 Billings households had cut out the paper menorahs and placed them in their windows across town as a defiant show of solidarity for their Jewish neighbors.

The response was gradual in coming. Bricks and bullets broke some windows at the Central Catholic High School that had been displaying a banner reading, “Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish Friends.” And several other troubling incidents proved the newly discovered sentiment was not unanimous, but slowly the harassment stopped. The bigots eventually withdrew because a town faced reality, joined together, and faced down bigotry.

It probably couldn’t happen everywhere but it did happen in Billings, Montana, in 1993 when fewer than 50 Jewish families and thousands of white Christian neighbors stood together and won out over intolerance. And that’s the Truth.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Dan Rooney, 80, the good man who co-owns the Pittsburgh Steelers, has finished his three plus years as our Ambassador to Ireland and is heading home. His daughter recently died and he reportedly misses the NFL action. And forget the Chicago newspaper suggesting that **Bill Clinton** could have the job. Not a chance. ... **Rebecca Brooks**, Rupert Murdoch’s former editor of the Sun & News of the World isn’t leaving broke. Her parachute is purely platinum, valued at \$17 million. Is that severance, or hush money? ... **Elizabeth Warren** landed right where the American consumer needs her – on the US Senate Banking Committee. ... Speaking of high finance it should be noted that AIG, recipient of a huge \$180 billion federal bailout, will soon see the last of its US-owned shares hit the market as US taxpayers gain another windfall. ... Galway is leading the Irish in planned “Gatherings” for this new year 2013 with scores of events already booked. ... *Rollcall*, the political bible in Washington, picked the biggest upset in the last election, choosing Bay State congressman **John Tierney**, who surprised us with a re-election win.

Ryanair is hanging in there, pursuing enough shares to gain control of Aer Lingus. ... New York’s **Cardinal Dolan** surprised most everyone by his early support for **Dorothy Day’s** sainthood push. ... A poignant moment when **Kevin McHale**, who had just lost a daughter to lupus was embraced by old Celtic friends when he and Houston came to the garden. ... **Tim Pat Coogan**, author and historian, was twice denied a visa to visit the US on a book tour and one wonders if he was trying to hustle some free PR or had problems doing his application. ... Prior to his recent health problems and extended hospital stay, it was assumed **Tom Menino** was ready and eager for a sixth mayoral term. That could be a no-go now. ... Only in a courtroom could anyone ever try to make a case that federal law enforcement would ever think they could get away with granting immunity to **Whitey Bulger**. Talk about crazy time. ... The news out of Killarney in my Kerry homeland is that officials there are looking to build an artificial roof over entire streets to allow locals and tourists to shop sans the rain drops. ... There will be no nude female bathing at Forty Foot Landing at Sandycove, Dublin. No women members, say the suitless male members. ... Labour’s Taniste **Eamon Gilmore** is accusing Sinn Fein of hypocrisy for advocating taxes in the North but opposing property taxes in the Republic. ... Another laurel for Ireland’s gift to the ages, **Seamus Heaney**, who has a new chair in writing in his name at Trinity. ... Kudos to the *Globe’s* **Dan Shaughnessy** for his flat-out pre-game prediction that the Patriots would blow away the then 11-1 Houston Texan. And that they did, in convincing fashion!

A happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year to all out there.

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110

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

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



Advancement class graduates 14 students

By REBECCA AMOAH

Last week, I had the joy of attending the graduation celebration for the fall term's computer and career advancement class held at the Irish International Immigrant Center (IIIC). After twelve weeks of rigorous training, and countless hours of homework, these students have been transformed from computer novices to proficient experts.

In a day and age where technology is a necessity, this course serves as a bridge connecting students to the ever expanding digital world. Also known as the Online Learning and Readiness course, this intensive class that is sponsored by the Timothy Smith Network afforded these students with the unique opportunity to switch career fields, or even attend college. Students were trained using the Microsoft Digital Literacy Curriculum and learned word processing, how to create spreadsheets, databases, presentations, among other things. Additionally, at the end of the course, students had a resume, cover letter, improved interviewing technique, and a netbook. This course provides students with the confidence needed to thrive in the workplace and the tools they need to keep their skills up to date.

Mary, originally from Galway, is one of students

who had to juggle many responsibilities while taking the course. She works seven days a week as a home health aide, and is a mother of two. In spite of these challenges, there was no question about her decision to do both. She urges those considering taking the class, "Don't be afraid of the challenge. You're not going to know what the world is like until you take a step out."

In addition to the skills and confidence Mary has gained, she has made great friends along the way.

The IIIC is accepting applications for the spring 2013 session. If you would like to be a part of this experience, contact me, Rebecca Amoah, at ramoah@iiicenter.org or call 617-542-7654, Ext. 30. Classes start on Jan. 22.

Congratulations again to our graduates! The IIIC would also like to thank the Timothy Smith Network for its sponsorship, and instructor Chris Tegmo and assistant Berlanga Gauthier for their hard work.

IIIC invites you to the "Taste of Ireland" celebration on Cape Cod on Feb. 10 – We invite you to a fun day at Cape Cod's Irish Village in South Yarmouth on Sun., Feb. 10, starting at 1 p.m. for the 15th Annual "Taste of Ireland" event. The entrance fee of \$15 includes the opportunity to sample Irish dishes from a wide range of Cape Cod area restaurants who provide



a wonderful selection of seafood dishes, comfort food classics, soups, Irish specialty breads, and desserts.

Participating restaurants donate their efforts and all proceeds to benefit the important legal, wellness, and education services work of the Irish International Immigrant Center.

While the food is the main attraction for most people, the event is really a celebration of Irish

culture featuring live Irish music, dancing, and a wide range of activities for kids. Raffle prizes include items donated by local businesses and art galleries, and gift certificates to local restaurants. The event will be preceded by a free, walk-in immigration and citizenship advice workshop. The IIIC's staff and volunteers will be on hand to give confidential advice about immigration and citizenship issues. The free clinic,

also held at the Cape Cod Irish Village, will run from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. that day.

Irish Village owner Jack Hynes is again offering a special accommodation package to those who would like to make a weekend of it. For bookings and information about accommodation, please contact the Cape Cod Irish Village at 508-771-0100 or visit their website at capecodirishvillage.com.

Mark your calendar for

Feb. 10 and for what promises to be a great afternoon of food, music, and craic. For more information on the immigration clinic or the Taste of Ireland event itself, please contact Ann Marie Cugno at 617-542-7654, Ext. 32 or via e-mail at amcugno@iiicenter.org.

The Irish International Immigrant Center wishes all readers a very healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year.

Matters Of Substance – 2013 – A year to change

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world"
– Mahatma Gandhi

So we survived the "Mayan" prophecies. We are still here, and that means we may be facing our annual "New Year's Resolutions" internal conversation. Clear out all our "bad" habits at once; no more cookies, ice cream,



Danielle Owen

chocolate, or shopping for clothes you don't need – and only go out on a Saturday night!

You are going to give up smoking, and try to exercise more. Some are successful with one or two but for most of us, we are left with a shoulder full of guilt, and we throw away the list and pledge to try again next year. Maybe, instead of the "usual," we

could focus on one single thing we would most like to change?

What would that be? How motivated you are to make the changes you want to make? Maybe there is another way to understand how someone can begin to make changes in their lives?

The "Stages of Change" model, developed in the late 1970s/early 1980s by James Prochaska and Carlo DiClemente, was designed to help those who were trying to quit cigarettes. It can be very helpful when you are considering a change of any kind in your life whether your want to change your spending or food habits, or maybe even the kind of relationships you have.

This model says that there are five stages we go through when we change something in our life. I have listed them along with some example statements that can help you identify how ready you might be to change:

Pre-Contemplation: "I'm not using drugs"; "I spend the same as anyone else!"; "It's you who has the problem, not me!"

Contemplation: "I hate smelling of smoke but I need my cigarettes to help me cope with stress"; "I'll stop tomorrow"; "I will

do things differently next weekend".

Preparation: "That's it! I can't deal with this relationship anymore"; "Where can I get help to lose weight?" "What if I can't stop drinking?"

Action: "I could use a drink now but will find an AA meeting instead"; "I am tired but if I just put on my runners, I can get 15 minutes walk in before

dinner"

Maintenance: "I am bringing Mike to a meeting, because it has helped me so much"; "I have not eaten biscuits in over a month, I feel great, maybe I will keep going?"

Think about the one thing in your life you would change. Look through some of the statements above. Where are you in this cycle of change?

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IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER
Calendar of Events

January 8th Free Legal Clinic
IIIC, 100 Franklin St., Boston
All clinics are first-come, first-served. For complete details, please call (617) 542-7654.

January 10th Citizenship Preparation Course
Thursdays IIIC, 100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA
1:00 - 3:00 PM For complete details or to register, please call Rebecca Amoah at (617) 542-7654.

January 14th Free Legal Clinic
6:30 PM Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton
All clinics are first-come, first-served. For complete details, please call (617) 542-7654.

January 22nd Career Advancement Online Learning Computer Course
Monday - Thursday IIIC, 100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA
9:30 AM - 2:00 PM For complete details or to register, please call Rebecca Amoah at (617) 542-7654.

January 23rd Free Legal Clinic
6:30 PM St. Mark's Parish, 1725 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester
All clinics are first-come, first-served. For complete details, please call (617) 542-7654.

February Taste of Ireland at the Cape Cod Irish Village
Free Health Screening
Saturday Citizenship Clinic

March Host Families welcome first Wider Horizons group

April Home Health Aide Course
CPR Certification Course

For more information, please call us at (617) 542-7654 or visit www.iiicenter.org.

Profile

At the office, on the golf course, or wherever he finds himself, Dick Connolly is always practicing

BY GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

At 16, Richard Francis Connolly Jr. had a vision for life. A golf prodigy at Woburn Country Club where his game was moving toward scratch, he queued up on a Friday night to a fully stocked buffet table that would have satisfied the most famished adolescent: steaming, lean roast beef, honey ham, sausage and pork, and a selection of thinly sliced deli meats that would delight a king. His buddies, all playing the following day in a junior tournament, put on the feedbags. To everyone's surprise, Connolly wistfully walked away from the table empty-handed.

"You hungry, son?" a tournament director inquired. "Yeah, but I don't eat meat on Fridays," Connolly said.

Fully impressed with Connolly's faith and discipline, the man replied, "You keep thinking like that, son, and you'll be just fine throughout life. Always do what you think is right!"

Dick Connolly—today one of the country's most successful stockbrokers, overseeing a team at Morgan Stanley that manages close to \$4 billion in assets, a man whom Barron's calls one of the nation's top financial advisers, ranking him in the 99.96 percentile among some 300,000 brokers in the country — never forgot those words of counsel. His gut instincts have endured through all the birdies, bogeys, and mulligans of life. He's fully comfortable in his own skin, and at 72, that's something to say.

The pride of working-class Woburn, where he made his mark in this closely knit community and on the links of Woburn CC, caddying at the nine-hole municipal golf course from an early age and working there part-time through grad school at Babson, Connolly has remained faithful to his roots. He is a patron saint of caddies and individuals in need, with more contributions, affiliations, and honors to his credit than most anyone in Boston. In an edifying profile last year of Connolly's accomplishments, the *Boston Business Journal* dubbed him the "Blue-Collar Broker."

Connolly is all about the tick, tick—not so much the pulse of the stock market, but the spray from sprinkler heads that maintains verdant greens and fairways. You must water your resources, Connolly advises, to keep them green. Golf is life to Connolly, and he plays golf and life with verve. At home, work, and on the course, where his handicap is still in the single digits, he lives the words of his idol, Arnold Palmer, who once said, "I never quit trying. I never felt that I didn't have a chance to win."

Connolly has never quit trying, even when it came to pursuing Palmer as a client. For 35 years, he has handled Palmer's investments adroitly; they are close friends, to the point that Palmer gave the commencement address at Connolly's oldest son Richard's high school graduation. There are other celebrity friends and clients in Connolly's loop, like hockey legend Bobby Orr, but he is equally comfortable on Horn Pond, a primary source of the Mystic River in proletarian Woburn. Perhaps that's what endears them to him.

In the last census, the per capita income of Woburn was \$26,207. When his father, Richard Francis Sr., worked in Watertown at BF Goodrich as a supervisor in the footwear section, "he never saw the north side of \$12,000 in salary, but never owed anyone a penny," says Connolly, who was raised with the admonition, "It doesn't matter whether you're handsome, rich or smart, if people can't trust you, if they don't think you're a good person, then all is wasted." Connolly is speaking in his Morgan Stanley office on High Street on Boston's Financial District.

That admonishment had roots in Mayo and Galway, where his grandparents were born. Work ethic in the Connolly household was as much a staple as Sunday Mass and then pot roast for dinner.

"My dad was strict in his own way, but easy going so long as you toed the line," says Connolly in noting that his father also was a Woburn alderman for close to 20 years. "He could have been mayor, but my mother wasn't going to have any part of that."

The elder Connolly was a star athlete at Woburn High School, one of the best in the history of the town. He played football and baseball, but never went to college. Instead, he paid the bills.

Connolly's mother Ruth May (Doherty), second oldest of ten children, nine of them boys, seven of whom played scratch golf or close to it, "was the prettiest woman in Woburn; she had the whole package," he says. "She never went to college, she never had a driver's license, she never flew in a plane, and yet she was the single most impressive individual that I've ever known with her work ethic, concern for people, the way she dealt with adversity and serious illness in life. She was an amazing woman. I've been blessed to be around a lot of big people in life, and she was the biggest. She was that great."

She was tough, too, never putting up with flak from Connolly or his sibling. "If my mother ever heard me sass someone, oh, my God, she'd tattoo me quick!"

In all ways, Connolly is the fine work-in-progress of his parents and his caddying days, which continue to propel him on Wall Street. "You see the best and worst in people on the course," says this student of



Dick and Ann Marie Connolly: a Holy Cross combo.

Photo courtesy Connolly family

the links whose parents encouraged the study of the yin-yang of human nature.

"When you have great parents, you can't have a better start than that. They don't make parents the way they used to. I was never afraid of my folks, but desperately didn't want to disappoint them. That kept me in line. It would break my heart to disappoint them."

Yesterday and today.

No worries, his folks smile broadly at the Lord's side today, as their son continues his pursuit of excellence into his eighth decade. There are no signs of retreat from this man with a leprechaun's smile.

A jock at heart, Connolly's 130-pound frame as a youth dictated his sport; it also helped that his uncles had game in their genes. So he turned to golf, becoming captain of the Malden Catholic High School team, then captain again at Holy Cross where early on he had visions of becoming a dentist before deciding that he didn't want to spend his life "looking into people's mouths all day." So he majored in history, then turned to finance, earning an MBA in business at Babson.

His educational pedigree is not that simple; it buttresses his parents' core Catholic values. With great promise, Connolly was offered a golf scholarship to Wake Forest University, which at the time boasted one of the finest golf programs in the nation. But since the university was founded as a mainstream Protestant school, no dice. His parents, with little financial resource, wanted their son to have a Jesuit education, and insisted upon it. The heavens opened, and Connolly was awarded a scholarship from the Francis Ouimet Caddie Scholarship Fund. In time, he reciprocated many times over, becoming a driving force behind the fund; he is its leading benefactor. He established the Ouimet Fund's annual banquet and welcomed Palmer as its first honoree. That event is now the largest annual golf banquet in America. Over the years, the Fund has honored the likes of President George H.W. Bush, Jack Nicholas, Tom Watson, Greg Norman, Curtis Strange, Ben Crenshaw, Nancy Lopez, and others, raising millions in scholarship dollars for young men and women.

From the very start, mentoring has been the foundation stone of Connolly's legacy. When he was 11 years old, he caddied for a successful businessman named Jim Powers who treated him like a son and instructed him on the need for practice, whether on the golf course or the board room. "If you're going to be successful at anything, if you want to be as good as you can be," Powers told him, "you're going to have to spend a lot of lonely hours practicing. Practice. Practice. Practice."

Connolly is still practicing, and quick to give praise to those on his team, an investment group at Morgan Stanley that includes talented brokers and staff, some of whom have been with him for as long as 27 years.

He points to his loving family as the prime motivation for success, particularly to his partner Ann Marie (Reilly) from Providence, who also attended Holy Cross. The couple is still joined at the hip to the college at Worcester, and Connolly often jokes

about nemesis Boston College, "Are they accredited yet?" Connolly's three sons also give him needed ballast: Richard, who teaches English and coaches soccer, hockey, and baseball at St. Sebastian School in Needham; Ryan, who works with his father after coming off five years on the New York Morgan Stanley trading desk; and Kevin, a regional marketing associate at Putnam Investments.

After graduating from Babson, Connolly began his business career at Ford Motor Company in its executive training program, then joined Merrill Lynch in 1968 where he was recognized as Merrill's most successful "rookie" broker. But this was no rookie. In the early 70s, he was hired by Blythe, Eastman to run its Fixed Income Desk where he successfully managed accounts for local institutions. After PaineWebber acquired Blythe, then UBS, Connolly enjoyed a successful 34-year career at the expanded firm as a 30-year member of the elite Chairman's Club and UBS's top producing broker for more than 20 years. Maneuvering the often-serpentine pathways of finance with aplomb, Connolly joined Morgan Stanley in 2007, reaching Chairman's Club status in only 10 months, something of a Wall Street record.

Along the way, Connolly has served on numerous cultural, non-profit, and charitable boards, including the Ouimet Fund, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Society of Jesus, Worcester Polytechnical Institute, and the Children's Medical Research Foundation in Ireland where a wing at Dublin's Our Lady's Hospital was recently named in his honor. His awards are equally impressive: an honorary degree at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkhill, New York; honors from Bridge Over Trouble Waters (BOTW), a high-risk youth counseling and education program; and the Laboure Medal from Boston's Laboure College, awarded to a member of the business community who embodies the spirit of St. Catherine Laboure in generosity, humanity, and kindness. He also is among the leading annual contributors to more than 15 organizations and philanthropies. Among them: Catholic Charities, Inner City Catholic Schools, Boston Children's Hospital, Wareham's Tobey Hospital, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Colby College, Davidson College, College of the Holy Cross, the Joey Fund benefiting Cystic Fibrosis Research, and The Pine Street Inn.

"I truly understand how lucky I am," Connolly says. "I work very hard, but a lot of people work hard. I know it's not all about me. The best lessons I ever got in life were from just basic people. I couldn't have grown up at a better time."

As to his financial acumen, he is quick to retort "I'm not saving lives."

Dick, your parents and Jim Powers, your mentor, would call you out on that. You are saving lives. Keep practicing!

Greg O'Brien is president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political/communications strategy firm based on Cape Cod. A regular Boston Irish Reporter contributor, he is the author/editor of several books and writes for regional and national publications.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

BOSTON IRISH ARTS,
ENTERTAINMENT,
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Gregg Hammer appears in Frank McCourt's musical revue "The Irish And How They Got That Way" at Davis Square Theatre in Somerville, January 24 - March 17.

Frank McCourt's 'The Irish And How They Got That Way' Opens Jan. 24 at Davis Square

BY BOB DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Frank McCourt, born in Brooklyn and raised in Limerick, will forever be known as the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Angela's Ashes." What may not be as well known is that he also wrote the musical revue "The Irish And How They Got That Way," which premiered at the Irish Repertory Theatre in 1997. Recounting the tumultuous history of the Irish experience, both on the Emerald Isle and here in America, the evening is a colorful tapestry of music and dance with a healthy dose of irreverent humor added. The musical numbers include: "Galway Bay," "The Rose of Tralee," "Finnegan's Wake," "Has Anybody Here Seen Kelly?," "Harrigan," "No Irish Need Apply," "Skibbereen," and others.

For the production playing Davis Square Theatre in Somerville from January 24 to March 17, producers have reunited the lively six-member cast from the well-received revised production that played Philadelphia's Kimmel Center. Featured is Gregg Hammer. In singing his praises, reviewers said Hammer was "a standout" . . . "the type of guy everyone wants to sit next to at the bar while drinking a pint," adding that he delivered "an impressive rendition of 'Danny Boy' that is surely one the highlights of the entire show."

Raised in California, Gregg traces his own family roots back to Cork. The actor-composer was seen in the

(Continued on page 13)

Boston Comhaltas honors Reynolds

The Boston branch of the Irish cultural organization Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann has a new name, honoring its late co-founder who was a vital member of the Boston Irish community.

Last month, the branch was rededicated as Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley, in recognition of the late Larry Reynolds, who helped found the organization in 1975 and was its chairman. A celebrated musician, leader, and organizer in the local Irish music scene over six decades, Reynolds died on Oct. 3.

The original Hanafin-Cooley branch name also honors the memory of two other prominent and influential musicians in Boston's Irish history, fiddler Michael Hanafin and accordionist Joseph Cooley.

In addition, Tara Lynch was appointed as the branch chairperson. A native of the Bronx, NY, Lynch moved to the Boston area in 1998 and soon became an active member of Boston Comhaltas. She joined the branch's music school faculty and later served as the school's executive director.

"I am honored and humbled to have been elected as chairperson of the Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley branch," said Lynch. "It's quite a challenge to follow in the steps of Larry: He was an amazing friend and mentor to me. Thankfully, we have a wonderful group of dedicated officers and members to carry on Larry's legacy and continue to nurture and grow the branch and its goal of preserving the traditions of Ireland through its music, song, dance and language."

— SEAN SMITH

Katie McNally answers big challenge with élan

BY SEAN SMITH

SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Boston-area fiddler Katie McNally already knew it was going to be a busy fall, what with recording her first album, getting ready for her annual stint with the Childsplay ensemble and, basically, living life as a college grad trying to make it as a Celtic musician.

Then, suddenly, opportunity came knocking.

McNally, a Westford native and Somerville resident, got the chance to go on tour in October with Carlos Nuñez, an internationally renowned bagpiper whose extensive resume includes collaborations with The Chieftains, Jackson Browne, Sharon Shannon, and Ry Cooder. It meant a frenzied couple of weeks learning a whole new repertoire to play with musicians she had never met before, followed by a slate of performances (one of them at The Burren in Somerville) interspersed with thousands of miles of travel across North America, and between-gigs downtime that featured a memorable museum tour, sing-alongs in a piano bar, and even a phone conversation with a pop music icon.

All pretty heady stuff for someone who, only six

Whirlwind tour with Carlos Nunez



Katie McNally in concert with Carlos Nuñez at The Burren.

Michael McNally photo

months before, had been finishing up her senior year at Tufts University — and McNally not only enjoyed just about every minute of the experience, but in her view, emerged from it as a better performer.

"The biggest thing I feel I learned from Carlos is the difference between being just a musician and being an entertainer," explains McNally. "Those involve two skill sets,

and just because you have one set doesn't necessarily mean you have the other. Carlos has both and that's why he's so successful."

McNally started out at age 8 as a classical violinist, but when she was 11 her teacher, Joe Jewett, introduced her to fiddle tunes from Celtic traditions. A class with Catriona MacDonald, a fiddle player from the Shetland Islands, at the Gaelic Roots Festival and

Summer School at Boston College inspired her to further explorations of Celtic music, especially from Scotland and Cape Breton. She attended the Boston Harbor Scottish Fiddle School and then studied with Hanneke Cassel, a highly acclaimed Boston-area fiddler in the American-Scottish style.

All the while, McNally was venturing more and more into the concert

(Continued on page 14)

Gaelic Roots spring slate announced

Boston College's Gaelic Roots series of traditional music will host the acclaimed duo of fiddler Matt Cranitch and accordionist Jackie Daly during the spring semester portion of its schedule. Also featured will be Boston native Brendan Bulger, New England husband-wife duo Keith Murphy and Becky Tracy, and the trio of Kathleen Conneely, Dan Gurney and Eamon O'Leary.

The series, directed by Sullivan Artist-in-Residence and master fiddler Séamus Connolly and sponsored by the Boston College Center for Irish Programs, brings to campus acclaimed musicians and experts in Irish, Scottish and other related Gaelic music traditions. Gaelic Roots events, all of which begin at 6:30 p.m., are free and open to the public.

Bulger, a former student of Connolly's, will open the spring schedule on Jan. 31 in the Walsh Hall Function Room. His credits include the prize-winning recording "Music at the House" with Marty Fahey and Kathleen Gavin, the Huntington Theatre production of Edwin O'Connor's "The Last Hurrah" by Ed-



A concert by fiddler Matt Cranitch and accordionist Jackie Daly highlights the winter/spring Gaelic Roots series.

win O'Connor, and the soundtrack of the independent film "The Bounty."

The Feb. 12 concert with Conneely (whistle), Gurney (accordion) and O'Leary (guitar, vocals) — postponed from November due to weather conditions — will take place in the Gasson Hall Irish Room. Conneely is a widely respected musician and teacher who has often appeared at BC, and has just released her first album. Gurney, who lived in Boston while attending Harvard University, released a well-received solo album in 2011. Dublin native O'Leary has been part of the thriving New York City Irish music scene for

the past two decades.

Cranitch and Daly, whose concert takes place March 14 in the Walsh Hall Function Room, are regarded as among the foremost interpreters of the rich tradition of instrumental music from Sliabh Luachra, the unique cultural area on the borders of northwest Cork and east Kerry that is marked by a special repertoire of tunes as well as a very distinctive style of playing. The two — who were part of the faculty at Gaelic Roots when it was a summer festival — have made or appeared on numerous recordings, including their 2010 release "The Living Stream."

On April 2 in the Walsh Hall Function Room, Murphy (guitar, mandolin, piano, foot percussion, vocals) and Tracy (fiddle) will present traditional music from Newfoundland, Quebec, Ireland and New England. In addition to playing with Tracy — as a duo, and as part of the popular trio Nightingale — Murphy has shared his natural, intimate singing and quietly powerful percussive-style guitar style in stints with Boston-area fiddle ensemble Childsplay, among others. Tracy, who studied Irish fiddling with Brendan Mulvihill and Eugene O'Donnell, has a strong background and wealth of experience in the New England contra dance scene.

The 2012-13 Gaelic Roots series will close out on April 17 with an Irish dance and ceili in the Gasson Irish Room, with music by Connolly, Boston College students, and other area musicians. There will be participatory dances, all of which will be taught; no experience is necessary.

See the Gaelic Roots website at bc.edu/gaelic-roots

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At last, tin whistler Conneely comes through: it's an album

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

For years, Kathleen Conneely's friends asked her the same question over and over: "So when are you going to make an album?"

Conneely has finally satisfied them, although the result may only create demand for a sequel.

A widely acclaimed tin whistle player with strong ties to Boston's Irish music community, Conneely released "The Coming of Spring" this past fall, marking the occasion with a concert last month at The Burren in Somerville – one of her many familiar local haunts. She'll be returning to town on February 12 along with accordionist Dan Gurney and guitarist Eamon O'Leary for a concert at Boston College as part of the Gaelic Roots series [bc.edu/gaelicroots].

Recorded in Galway, the 14-track CD is a showcase for Conneely's lyrical,

flowing style of playing in what her long-time friend and fellow musician Seamus Connolly praises as "an unhurried fashion." The selections represent an anthology of Conneely's musical life, mainly encompassing tunes she heard growing up in a family of musicians – although Conneely herself is a native of Bedford, England, and her parents were from Galway and Longford. Those family connections are further expressed in the presence of her brother Mick's bouzouki accompaniments, and a duet with her father, Mick Sr., on a jig medley; also joining her on the album are pianist Brian McGrath and legendary bodhran player Johnny "Ringo" McDonagh, who along with McGrath and Mick Conneely are members of the non-Frankie Gavin version of De Dan-nan.

As she prepared for the recording, Conneely found herself thinking

about, and trying to reconstruct, various tunes from her past, but not always when she had a whistle close to hand. Fortunately, technology provided a solution.

"I would sing the tunes into my answering machine," she says. "Then, I'd go back and listen, and document them, start organizing them into sets, decide on the various keys, and so on. All in all, it was a good education: Although the recording went fine, I think if I were to do it again, I would be more prepared."

A definite highlight of the recording for Conneely was bringing her father into the studio, where they recorded the medley "The Primrose Vale/Lark in the Morning #1" – although there was a little subterfuge involved.

"I didn't tell Dad where we were going," she laughs. "But once we got in there, everything went fine. He had great rhythm, and it was loads of fun

doing these jigs, both of which he played regularly when I was growing up."

Sister and brother Conneely blend very well, too, such as on a trio of jigs that begins with "Joe Derrane's" – associated with the celebrated Boston accordionist – and a set of reels, "The Old Torn Petticoat/Thady Casey's Fancy/The Ballina Lasses." Mick's bouzouki style is built more around arpeggios and harmonies rather than straightforward chord runs, and thus enhances the melody; it also sits comfortably alongside McGrath's piano, which is spare yet supportive. And Ringo McDonagh fans of yore will be delighted to hear that he's lost none of his deft touch – his pairings with Conneely on some of the tunes, such as "The Gneevgullia Reel" and "Hardiman the Fiddler," are a treat.

"Piano, bouzouki and bodhran are as good as it gets, especially when you have those guys playing them," says Conneely of her accompanists. "I couldn't ask for a better supporting cast."

Two other tracks stand out as highlights: A medley that leads with a reel partly composed by the estimable Doolin whistle player Micho Russell, and which Conneely dedicates to her late husband Michael Shorrock, who had a special fondness for Russell's part of the world; and the concluding jig medley ("Rosemary Lane/My Brother Tom/Hinchy's Delight/Lark in the Morning #2") that also contains a Doolin association.

"That last tune came from a recording called 'Fisher Street,' which is the main street in Doolin, by the MacMahon brothers John and Seamus, along with Dermot



Kathleen Conneely, a former Boston resident with strong ties to the local Irish music scene, released her first CD recently.

Lenihan and Noreen O'Donoghue," says Conneely. "It's always been a favorite recording of mine, and I like their version of 'Lark in the Morning,' which they refer to as 'Willie Clancy's version' – it's so beautiful I had to play it four times through, and I knew it was the perfect way to end the album."

For Conneely, the experience of recording "The Coming of Spring" was a satisfying one, and not only from a sheer musical standpoint. Reacquainting herself with parts of her repertoire, she says, provided an opportunity to reflect on her education and development as a musician, which included the five years she lived in Boston, where she was a regular at the Brendan Behan, O'Leary's, Kitty O'Shea's, and other sessions, and at the Boston College Gaelic Roots fes-

tival.

"This was a way for me to simply put my particular stamp on the music I've loved since childhood," explains Conneely, who now lives in Rhode Island. "There aren't that many recordings of solo whistles, although people like Mary Bergin and Joanie Madden have done some superb CDs, of course. In fact, growing up I was less influenced by whistle players and more by fiddle and accordion – Seamus Connolly, Paddy O'Brien, Kathleen Collins, Marty Byrnes, Liz Carroll and Andy McGann were among the musicians I listened to a lot."

"So, I thought I could just offer a sense of what my involvement with the instrument and the tradition has been."




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A column of news and updates of the Boston Celtic Music Fest (BCM Fest), which celebrates the Boston area's rich heritage of Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton music and dance with a grassroots, musician-run winter music festival and other events during the year.

—SEAN SMITH

Time for the celebration—Things are rounding into shape for BCM Fest 2013, which takes place January 11 and 12 at locations in Harvard Square. The festival, which marks its 10th anniversary this year, features some of the Boston area's best performers in the Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, and other Celtic traditions. This year's lineup includes The Deadstring Ensemble, George Keith & Sean Gannon, Hanneke Cassel & Mike Block, The Coyne Family, Katie McNally & Eric Mc-

Donald, Bronwyn Keith-Hynes, Joey Abarta, Core 4, The Liz Hanley Band, Nic Gareiss & Anna Lindblad, Amanda Cavanaugh, Mairin Ui Cheide, Skylark, Belclare, Corvus, Kira & Cliff McGann, Armand Aromin & Dan Accardi, Diane Taraz, Michael O'Leary, Ivonne Hernandez & Adrianna Ciccone, Bob Bradshaw, Laura Cortese, Emerald Rae, Carraroe, Matt Heaton & The Electric Heaters, The Whiskey Boys & Shinbone Alley, Molly Pinto Madigan, The Boston Scottish Fiddle Club, The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston, The Bell Family, and Kyte MacKillop & Friends.

The festivities begin on January 11 with a Friday night kick-off concert at Club Passim as well as the Boston Urban Ceilidh — BCM Fest's Celtic dance party — at The Atrium (50 Church St.), and continue the following day with family-oriented events in the morning at Club Passim and four stages of performances, participatory dance and jam sessions throughout the day at Passim and nearby First Parish Church, Cambridge (3 Church St.).

Concluding the festival will be the Saturday night finale concert at First Parish, emceed by "A Celtic Sojourn" host Brian O'Donovan, with Cape Breton music from Emerald Rae (fiddle), Matt Phelps (pipes) and Janine Randall (piano), a performance by Highland Dance Boston, as well as a tribute to Boston Irish

music legend Larry Reynolds (performers include George Keith & Sean Gannon, John, Lisa & Josie Coyne, Cara Frankowicz, Patrick Hutchinson and Regina Delaney). There will be plenty of special guest performers throughout the evening.

But there will be more fun to come on Mon., Jan. 14, and the debut of the new monthly BCM Fest Session in Club Passim. The session will take place on the second Monday of each month and will be led by a core of talented area musicians that includes Katie McNally, Armand Aromin, Neil Pearlman, Lindsay Straw, Dan Accardi and Caroline O'Shea. Their combined repertoire of Irish, Scottish, and Cape Breton tunes will make for an enjoyable evening, and, say BCM Fest organizers, will provide the opportunity to explore the ever-evolving Celtic music traditions in an informal, sociable atmosphere.

Those attending the BCM Fest Session are invited to bring an instrument and sit in, dance, or share a song or story. Each BCM Fest Session begins at 7 p.m. and is free of charge; there is a suggested donation of \$5 to show appreciation and support for the musicians who are giving their time to lead the session.

For more details on BCM Fest and 2013 and information about BCM Fest, see passim.org/bcmfest.

Frank McCourt's 'The Irish And How They Got That Way'

(Continued from page 9) national company of "Jesus Christ Superstar" and has appeared in regional productions of "Les Misérables," "City of Angels" and "The Fantasticks," among others.

From his home in New York, he spoke by phone recently about bringing "The Irish And How They Got That Way" to Boston. Here's an edited look at our conversation.

BIR: What is it that makes audiences embrace this show the way they do?

GH: First off, it's written by Frank McCourt. We're telling the story of the history of the Irish and we basically sing all the folk songs that you know and love . . . We get to be dozens of characters, each of us . . . The music takes it to another level. What makes it special, I think, that is that the audience knows these songs and it brings back a lot of memories.

BIR: And you get to sing "Danny Boy."

GH: I get to sing "Danny Boy". . . And there are times, more often than not, I'll see grown men weeping in the audience. It's very touching.

BIR: In addition to the lighter side, McCourt also tells of the hostilities and hatred the Irish have endured over time.

GH: Yeah, that was something that I knew somewhat about, but learned more, and researched more, once I got in the show. It really surprised me. African Americans were protesting to have their own

cemeteries because they didn't want to be buried next to Irish people. It's just incredible that this country has [seen] that [kind of discrimination] with every new group that's come in. For the Irish, it took the Civil War for them to really prove themselves — what great soldiers they were for their country. They were accepted after that for the most part.

BIR: Tell me how you got your start as an actor.

GH: I'm the youngest of four boys and we're kind of a sports family, but we also grew up on music. My Dad loved Irish music . . . I went to Cal State Fullerton for musical theater — it's one of the bigger musical theater schools on the West Coast — and just decided that's really what I wanted to do with my life. And so I moved out to New York and have been working around ever since.

BIR: Do you have a memory of your first time on stage?

GH: My first time on stage, geeze, probably fourth grade in elementary school. I only did it because my brother did it and I thought it was cool and did everything that he did. I'm sure that annoyed him. I ended up doing it and was a big hit [laughing] . . . As the youngest, I liked the attention and that was one way to get it.

BIR: I hear you've entertained on a lot of cruise ships.

GH: I just finished working on a cruise. We were in Ireland quite a



The cast of Frank McCourt's musical revue "The Irish And How They Got That Way" -- Gregg Hammer, Janice Landry, Jon Dykstra, Meredith Beck, Andrew Crowe and Irene Molloy -- playing Davis Square Theatre in Somerville, January 24 - March 17.

bit. I had been to Ireland once before with my family. This time, going into the pubs and listening to the older men sing songs and tell stories was my absolute favorite part of the whole cruise experience.

BIR: How long were

you away and how many stops did you make.

GH: I went on this cruise because I was going to see the world — 48 different countries. I was on it for nine months. That was about five months too long [laughing] . . . It's

really a great way to save money for an actor. You get free room and board, plus they're paying you and you get to travel and see the world. It's not something I would probably do if I had a family, so it was wonderful time

to do it.

BIR: So to circle back to "The Irish And How They Got That Way," is there a particular moment in the show that has special meaning for you?

GH: There are tons of them. We talked about "Danny Boy" — that's an obvious one. But there's a song called "Rare Old Times" and it's talking about how the streets of Dublin are becoming pavement now and you can't ever go back from that. I've got this speech right before the song and it's a really poignant moment where I talk about technology coming and things getting bigger, but you can't lose sight of what it was and what's been there before — the history. That really gets me every night.

R. J. Donovan is publisher of onStageBoston.com.



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McNally answers big challenge with élan

(Continued from page 9) spotlight, with various bands or as a soloist, and taking on the role of fiddle teacher. Then in 2009, she was invited to join Childsplay, which gathers some of the most celebrated traditional and folk performers from Boston and elsewhere in New England for an annual tour and occasional recordings and concert videos; she has played with the group every year since then.

The past few years also have seen McNally turn increasingly to her own tradition-inspired compositions, while building a partnership with guitarist-mandolinist Eric McDonald. Earlier this year, McNally decided the time was ripe to record a CD, so she enlisted the help of McDonald and

other musicians, including friend and mentor Cassel, who agreed to serve as producer. In late summer, McNally launched a campaign to fund her CD project, “Flourish,” on the Kickstarter website; she met her goal in two days, and wound up raising nearly twice the amount she had originally asked for.

Dramatic life events can often have unlikely, nondescript beginnings. So it was, during the recording of “Flourish,” when Cassel mentioned that Nuñez had invited her to go on his first-ever North American tour but, because of scheduling problems and tendonitis in her arm, she doubted she could do it. One day, after Cassel noted her unsuccessful efforts thus far to recruit a replace-

ment, McNally piped up: “I’ll do it.”

“I was almost kidding,” recalls McNally, “because Carlos is so high-profile, and I didn’t have the reputation that Hanneke has. But because she’s worked with me so much, Hanneke had confidence in me, and Carlos trusted her judgment.”

Says Cassel, “Carlos was looking for someone with a similar vibe as mine, and I had no problem recommending Katie. She is, first and foremost, an amazing player and a hard worker. She’s able to learn tunes quickly and very well, and she’s very good with people.”

However spur-of-the-moment her “I’ll do it” comment might seem, McNally says her interest in taking Cassel’s place was not some rash

impulse. She recognized that this was a prime opportunity for somebody trying to get established as a musician.

“It was a chance to play at large-sized venues I wouldn’t be able to by myself. It was a way to get my name out there, a jump-start. And, of course, it was a pretty good challenge for me as a musician.”

One aspect of that challenge was taking a crash course in the music of Galicia, the Celtic-influenced region of Spain that is Nuñez’s birthplace. McNally wasn’t completely unfamiliar with Galician tunes, thanks to her stints with Childsplay, but after putting finishing touches on “Flourish,” she set about learning in earnest her new repertoire through sheet music,

sound files and even a Skype session with Nuñez himself.

“It was incredible, for all the differences, how Galician music was similar to Scots and Cape Breton,” she says. “Muñeiras, for example, are in 6/8 time like a jig, but they have a Spanish flavor and even an Arab influence, particularly in the harmonies. There also is the commonality of the bagpipe between the Galician and Scottish traditions, although Galician pipes are more subtle and sensitive than the great Highland bagpipes.”

The other challenge that awaited McNally was getting used to the dynamics of an ensemble built around a featured performer, and a very distinctive one at that. Nuñez is known for his rock star-like energy and charisma, as well as his virtuosity, and McNally knew she had some high standards to meet. What’s more, she didn’t have a chance to rehearse with Nuñez until the day of the first show.

Fortunately, notes McNally, she quickly found Nuñez and her new colleagues were a delight. “They’ve been playing and touring together for years, so they are total pros. They were very supportive of me. At the end of the tour, I had four friends.”

Cassel, who has played as a back-up musician to performers like Cathie Ryan, agrees that adjusting to personalities and temperaments is a fact of band life, but by no means an unpleasant one.

“It’s something you just don’t really learn about until you’re on tour,” she says. “I’ve personally found it a lot of fun, getting to interact with different people. And the traveling is awesome.”

For McNally, those nearly four weeks on tour live on as a kaleidoscope of memories, sights, and sensations. There was the stop in Seattle, playing in front of an enthusiastic audience at a concert hall that is home to the city’s symphony orchestra, followed by a huge reception attended by a number of Spanish dignitaries and ex-pats. Then there was the show at Phoenix’s Musical Instrument Museum, enhanced by a private tour of the museum, with its collection of some 13,000 instruments.

“We were like kids in a candy shop,” says McNally. “It was so cool seeing fiddles from around the world. This was a real spiritual experience, because it showed you the connectedness of different music from different cultures.”

And then there was Minneapolis, where the group had a few days off; the itinerary included a visit to the Mall of America and an evening at a piano bar, where McNally took part in some band sing-alongs of classic hits by the likes of Billy Joel and The Beatles.

One night, hanging out with the guys, McNally heard Nuñez’s brother Xurxo speaking on his cell

phone. “There is a beautiful girl here you must talk to,” he said, and handed McNally the phone. At the other end of the line was Jackson Browne, who was celebrating his birthday. McNally wished him many happy returns of the day.

“He was very nice, very complimentary. He told me, ‘You have to be a real monster to play with Carlos.’”

It might have been easy to get swept up in all the excitement, but McNally was indeed a quick study – not only of the music she was playing but also of the traveling-musician lifestyle.

“I learned the importance of pacing myself,” she says. “It was key to take time to just chill out, not be overwhelmed by all the travel, the performances, the people we met.”

As the tour went on, McNally’s respect for Nuñez only grew. “I was amazed at how hard Carlos was working, not just at the music but everything else: e-mails or calls to promoters, organizers, radio announcers – he really paid attention to a lot of those details.”

Most of all, however different their personal styles and deportment might be, McNally saw in Nuñez a worthy role model for striking a rapport with one’s audience.

“It sounds simple: standing up rather than sitting down when you play, for example, and smiling a lot more during the performance. But you have to pay attention to these things, because they bring you closer to the people who are watching and listening to you. It’s not being phony; it’s just a way to show the audience that you really care about what you’re doing.”

McNally didn’t have a whole lot of time to kick back when the tour was over. There were still some details on the CD to attend to, and she had the Childsplay tour for which to prepare. December was a bit more low-key, but this month she’ll be playing with McDonald at BCMFest in Harvard Square (January 11 and 12) and on January 18 at the Loring-Greenough House in Jamaica Plain as part of the notloB Parlour Concerts series, as well as recording a new album and concert video with Childsplay. There’s also her CD release concert at Club Passim on January 24.

That may all sound humdrum compared to gallivanting around the country with a quartet of genial, fun-loving Spanish musicians, but McNally is perfectly delighted to be playing close to home.

“I just love being able to have this music, and the people I play it with, in my life,” she says. “I don’t know where it will take me, but considering where I’ve been already, I have to think the possibilities are pretty exciting.”

For more on Katie McNally, see katieanderic-music.com.

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CD Review/Sean Smith

Luka Bloom, “This New Morning” • Singer-songwriter-true believer Bloom marks an ending and a beginning with this new release. His recordings of the past several years have been of a reflective nature, going back to and occasionally retooling his previous body of work, such as in his 2010 release “Dreams in America.” Now comes “This New Morning,” which with one notable exception is a collection of new songs, all imbued with Bloom’s characteristic deeply felt meditations on human experience and interaction – tragic, comic, glorious – whether on the very personal scale or across history and populations. He considers Ireland’s financial devastation (“Dignity and Backbone”), the possibility of Irish-Anglo reconciliation (“A Seed Was Sown,” inspired by Queen Elizabeth’s visit to Ireland) and the 2011 Japanese earthquake-tsunami (“Gaman”), as well as the fragility of wild youth (“Your Little Wings”) and the utter simplicity of love (“No Big Deal”). All delivered in that distinctive voice, sometimes as a song, sometimes as an invocation, and always with a heartening sincerity.

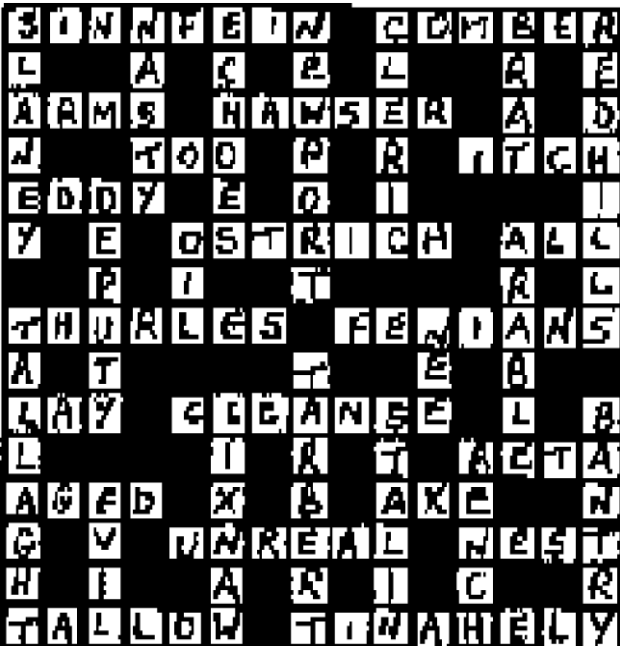
The content of the songs would be impressive enough on its own, but a good part of the appeal of “This New Morning” is the form – specifically, the helping hands (and voices) of an impressive supporting cast of musicians and especially vocals that includes Donal Lunny, Rita Connolly, Glen (“Once”) Hansard, Steve Cooney, Mairtin O’Connor and Iarla Ó Lionaird. Their various contributions provide an affirmation for or an underscoring of Bloom’s words, to great effect in particular on “Heart Man,” arguably the album’s high point – literally: It’s an archetypal soaring-spirit Bloom composition, a tribute to his friend Shane O’Neill, the late philanthropist and activist, with backing vocals of Hansard and Samuel Arnold (along with Cooney’s guitar and O’Connor’s accordion) helping make the song an elegy of triumph rather than loss.

“Gaman” (which is Japanese for “endure the unendurable”), meanwhile,

is built around a haunting vocal riff by O Lionaird and Eimear Quinn, with Lunny, Cooney, flutist Conor Byrne, banjoist/mandolinist Dirk Powell and a subtle orchestral accompaniment. By contrast, “Their Little Wings” relies on a delicate, plaintive fiddle backing by Caoimhín O Raghallaigh to offer its message of concern and resignation, familiar to anyone who’s had a teenager in their lives (“I can’t protect you from the world/I can’t protect you from yourself”).

There’s long been a kind of kinetic aspect to Bloom’s work, expressed in the lyrics or through the rhythm (or both), and that’s the case with the exuberant “The Race Runs Me” – its “breathing, running and breathing” refrain evoking Irish athletes Sonia O’Sullivan and Eamonn Coughlan – and “The Bike,” a sequel of sorts to one of his most popular songs, “The Acoustic Motorbike,” on the joys and Zen of cycling.

The aforementioned exception to these new compositions is another Bloom classic, “You Couldn’t Have Come at a Better Time,” energized by the interpolation of the traditional “Kesh Jig” with a session’s worth of guest musicians. But no complaints here about a reprise of one of the most unabashedly optimistic love songs you’ll ever hear, an entreaty to throw off doubts and follow the heart. When it comes to Luka Bloom, don’t resist, just enjoy the ride.





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Traveling People

On the drawing board: Kylemore Abbey as ‘a new icon’

BY JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Since before 2010, when the Benedictine nuns closed their highly regarded school for girls at Kylemore Abbey in Connemara, the most frequent question in the area has been: “What next?”

Would the picturesque castle, perched on a rise above Pollacappul Lake, become a tourist hotel? Would the property be transformed into a Celtic Magic Kingdom? Could developers build a casino or conference center in peaceful Connemara?

The answer has come with the unveiling of an ambitious proposal that maintains the focus of the Benedictine order but also enhances and upgrades the property. An eight-member board – The Kylemore Abbey Trust, a registered charity – has been established to develop and guide the proposal to completion. Assisting them will be professional advisors, including accounting and architectural firms, project engineers, and a development company, Venture Advancement Ltd.

“A new icon”

During an interview at Kylemore last fall, Sister Maire Hickey, OSB, Abbess for the past five years, talked about the plans and said, “Iconic Kylemore will develop into a new icon. Until now it has been



This delicate figure is carved into a marble fireplace in Kylemore Abbey’s library.

a tourist attraction and a school with a community of nuns in the background. We want it to be a Benedictine monastery that is the center of activities of various kinds, and open to visitors of many kinds. We want it all to have a certain kind of ethos and focus,” she said. “We see this as the continuation of our educational mission.” She described extensive

renovation and upgrading of the castle building to open more rooms to the public. Eventually, Sister Maire said, the hope is to refurbish and open the entire castle to showcase life in the late 1800s and to have it declared a heritage house.

Work has already begun to convert the former gym into a community chapel, which Sister Maire expects will be ready by next summer. When finished, there will be enough space for about 100 visitors to join the nuns in prayer and reflection. Nuns and former students used the castle’s ballroom as a chapel but it was not open to visitors. That former chapel will become an auditorium for a new education center.

An education center

The boarding school behind the castle will be extensively refurbished to create an education center with ensuite bedrooms, classrooms and community rooms for 25 students and teachers. Since the school closed, the nuns at Kylemore have been working on a new educational mission, “relevant for the needs of today while maintaining the Benedictine tradition and ethos.” The education center, Sister Maire said, “will be a place where good living is appreciated and where visitors can learn what makes life good.”

Also included in the plans is construction of a new purpose-built monastery, separate from the castle, that will include a monastic church and guesthouse for visitors. “We have always shared our building with the school and guests,” Sister Maire said. “For years, we have been thinking about and hoping to build a proper monastery on the grounds. Then we could open more rooms for guests.”

Funding will also enable continued maintenance of the magnificent Victorian walled garden – a highlight for the more than 250,000 tourists who visit annually.

In a glossy brochure, printed for fundraising, the Abbess writes, “The Kylemore Abbey Trust has taken on the responsibility of harnessing the very substantial financial resources and technical skills required to deliver on our plans and initiatives...”

Price tag: \$9.2 million

Funds are currently being raised on both sides



Early on an October morning, Kylemore Abbey is reflected in the still waters of Pollacappul Lake.

of the Atlantic for the \$9.2-million project and the Trust is seeking major contributions here to lay the foundation and get the project moving.

For more information or to inquire about making a pledge or major donation, contact Mary Reed at 914-420-3517 or e-mail her at reedmary44@yahoo.com. Mary and her campaign committee hope they can raise at least \$1.1 million in New York City and environs. They will welcome Sister Maire as the featured speaker at a kickoff event in the American Irish Historical Society in New York City on Jan. 15. For more information about that event, call Mary Reed.

The Abbess will also be the featured speaker on Jan. 9 at a Washington, DC, breakfast meeting to honor women of Ireland. The event will be held in the Hay-Adams Hotel. See the Irish American Partnership website (irishap.org) for details. Proceeds will benefit Kylemore.

Locally, tax-deductible donations may be addressed to Mary McAleer at the Irish American Partnership, 33 Broad St., Boston, 02109. Please note that the donation is for the Kylemore Abbey Capital Campaign. You may call the Irish American Partnership at 617-723-2707 or 800-722-3893 for more details or visit their website.

Most visitors to the West of Ireland have stopped to experience



It looks like tea is ready to be served in the library at Kylemore Abbey in Connemara, Co. Galway.

Judy Enright photos

the many attributes of Kylemore Abbey, which is truly the jewel of the west. The property has a fascinating history as well as many modern additions – such as the creation of a Children’s Play Trail, in collaboration with the furniture college (GMIT) in nearby Letterfrack, and the restoration of Victorian gardens, greenhouses and the teahouse.

“Perfect destination”

I have visited, taken guests, and written about Kylemore Abbey many times over the years because it is a perfect tourist and travel destination. You can see something different every time you go. Stop by the neo-Gothic chapel, the Mausoleum, the garden and teahouse, the castle itself with the history of the property and Mitchell Henry, a Manchester doctor who was modern beyond his time, and built the castle for his wife. You can visit one or more attractions on the property, enjoy a hot, tasty meal in the teahouse – adjacent to the gardens – or in the cafeteria or stop by the gift shop, one of the best in Ireland.

There are also opportunities to spend time living with the community at Kylemore in contemplation or volunteering. Several dozen women have come in the past three or four years because they heard about the opportunity by

word of mouth. There is no advertising, Sister Maire said. “They come to experience life here or work for us on a volunteer basis.”

She added that a number of groups also come for retreats, conferences or workshops. Plans are already in place for a group from Maryland (students and staff) to visit Kylemore next summer for a 12-day educational experience in Ireland for which they will receive course credits. Classes will include Irish history and culture and there will be workshops with local people in music, poetry and more.

“Our vision is that the Kylemore of the future will be a monastery and spiritual place of prayer, study and education and a wonderful tourist facility as well,” Sister Maire said.

TRAVEL PLANS

We are always happy to hear that US and Irish airlines have increased flights to and from Ireland and specifically from Shannon, which so handily services the wonderful, wild West. The expanded service announced for Dublin and Shannon means almost 270,000 more seats between Ireland and the USA next summer, a 20 percent increase over 2012.

Recently, we heard that:

- US Airways will return to Shannon (flights last landed there in 2009)

for the 2013 summer season, operating a daily service from Philadelphia.

- During the summer, United will operate a new service from Chicago to Shannon five days a week and will also restore direct service from the US Midwest to Shannon.

- Delta will fly New York JFK-Shannon daily throughout the peak summer season.

- American will introduce a daily service from New York JFK to Dublin, starting in June. And because Aer Lingus has increased its fleet from six to seven planes, there will be an increase in those flights during the summer season too.

- Two daily flights will operate between Boston-Dublin between late March and mid-June.


- Orlando-Dublin service will operate twice daily from the end of March to mid-June and increase to three flights a week for the summer.

- Dublin-Chicago is increasing from a daily service to 11 flights per week.

- The Dublin-JFK route will operate twice daily and there will also be daily departures from Shannon to JFK and Logan.

HAPPY 2013

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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Bliana Maith Ur! “Happy New Year” – actually, “Year Good New” in Irish.

Last month we looked at some of the uses of the preposition **le** and its combinations with the **subject pronouns**. These “prepositional pronouns” play a major role in Irish. These make up many Irish idioms, things which superficially make little sense but are indeed meaningful to native speakers. English has many idioms such as “catch a cold” or “have a cold” – a “cold” is a disease and you can neither “catch” it or “have” it. Irish, for example will say, “There is a cold on+me” – **Tá slaghdán orm**.

Some of the idioms we studied last month with **le** were the comparative, in the structure **Tá Noun chomh Adjective le Noun** such as **Tá Nóra chomh álainn le Maire** – “Nora is as beautiful as Mary.”

Other idioms last month with forms of **le** or **prepositional pronouns** of **le** included:

Cé bhí leat?	“Who was with+you?”
Bhí Maire liom.	“Mary was with+me.
Bhuail mé le Seán.	“I met Sean” or “I ran into Sean.”
Is maith liom caifé.	“I like coffee” Literally “Is good with+me coffee”)
Ollamh le ...	“Professor of ...”

To these we can now add ...

D'imigh lei.	“He went away”
Imigh leat!	“Go away!”
Is cuma liom faoi.	“I don't care about it.”
Chuaigh sé le ...	“He began ...” or “He got involved with ...”

How do you say, 1.) “Children, go away!” 2.) “They got involved with the police.” 3.) “The Professor of English doesn't like tea.” 4.) “Who is with her?” 5.) “I like coffee, thank you.” 6.) “They went away.” (Answers below)

Now let us look back at “a cold”, **slaghdán** /SLAH-dahn/ as in the sentence **Tá slaghdán orm**, “I have a cold.”

This idiom is made with **ar**, “on”, as in the sentence **Tá arán agus im ar an mbord** – “There is bread and butter *on* the table.”

The combinations of **ar** and the **personal pronouns** – the **Prepositional Pronouns** – in most cases take a form beginning with **o-**. The exceptions are “on him” which changes spelling but not pronunciation and “on her” which, although spelled with a **ui-** is still pronounced as /o/. Notice that in English we have to change the pronouns from “I” to “me”, etc. Also recall that there must be a slight vowel sound inserted between **-r-** and **-m** in **orm**.

orm	/OR-uhm/	“on me”
orainn	/OR-uhn/	“on us”
ort	/ort/	“on you”
oraibh	/OR-ee/	“on you-all”
air	/er/	“on him”
orthu	/OR-uhb/	“on them”
uirthi	/OR-uh/	“on her”

Some idioms that use **ar** include ...

Tá slaghdán ar.	/SLAH-dahn/	“To have (a) cold.”
Tá ocras ar.	/OH-kruhs/	“To be hungry”
Tá tart ar.	/tart/	“To be thirsty”
Tá deifir ar.	/JAY-fuhr/	“To be in a hurry”
Tá moill ar.	/mail/	“To delay, not to hurry”
Tá fearg ar.	/FER-uhg/	“To be angry”

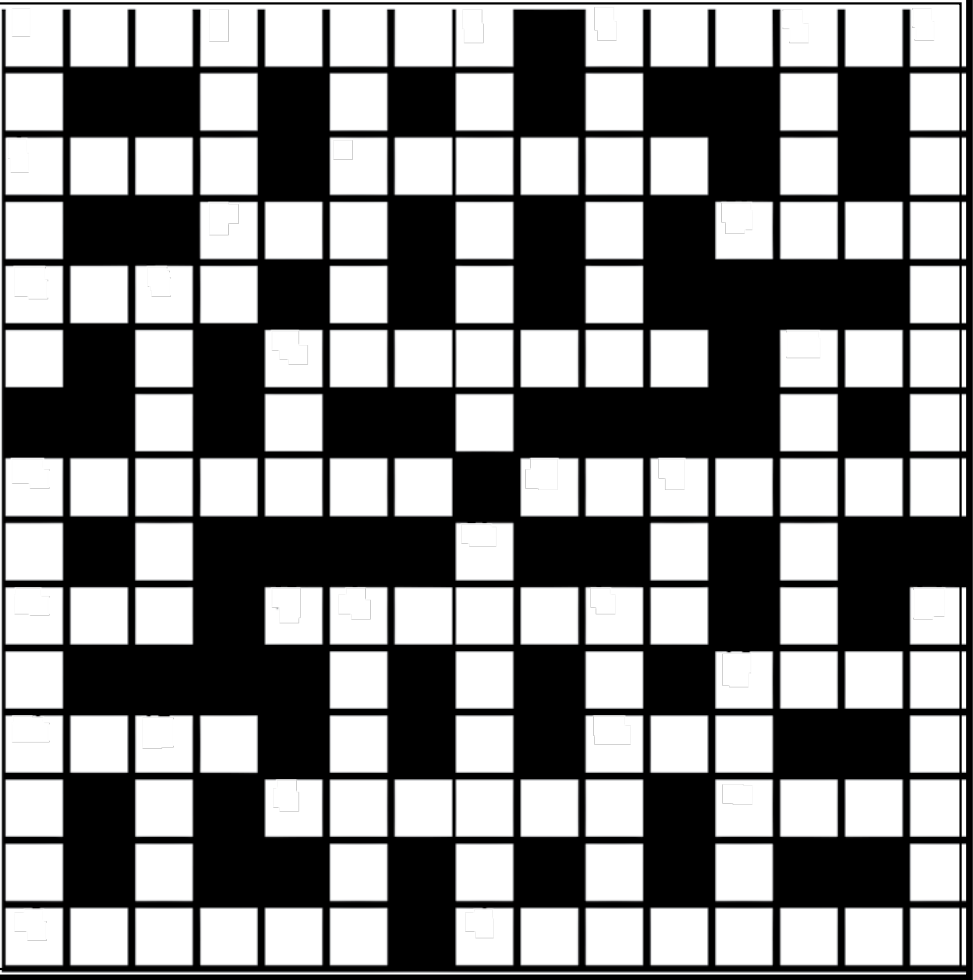
The names of some more common diseases are **casacht** /KAH-sahk/ “cough” as in **Casacht a bheidh ort**, “You have a cough” , and “measles” **bruitíneach** / BRU-cheen-yahk/ in **Bhí bruitíneach orm**, “I had (the) measles.” Although the technical word for “influenza” is **ulpóg** /OOL-pohk/ it is more common to say, **Tá an fliú orm**. “I have the ‘flu.”

How do you say the following: 7.) “She had the ‘flu.” 8.) “Is he hungry?” 9.) “She was very angry.” 10.) “Are you thirsty?” 11.) “They are in a hurry today.” 12.) “Did you have measles?”

Answers: 1.) **A leaní, imigh libh!** 2.) **Chaigh siad le na gardaí.** 3.) **Ní maith le Ollamh le Béarla tae.** 4.) **Cé atá léi?** 5.) **Is maith liom caifé, go raibh maith agat.** 6.) **D'imigh leo.** 7.) **Bhí an fliú uirthi.** 8.) **An bhfuil ocras air?** 9.) **Bhí go fearg uirthi.** 10.) **An bhfuil tart ort?** 11. **Tá deifer orthu inniu.** 12.) **An raibh bruitíneach ort?**

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- ACROSS**
- Northern leader mixed up with fine sin in organisation founded by Arthur Griffith. (4,4)
 - A dresser of hair in small Down linen town with an old distillery near Newtownards. (5)
 - “ — — and the Man.” 1898 play by Shaw. (4)
 - Was her entanglement with the ship's rope? (6)
 - “A man cannot be — careful in the choice of his enemies.” Wilde. (3)
 - Information Technology comes to the small church, causing irritation. (4)
 - Troubled dynamic motion includes whirling water. (4)
 - Torch is enough when he has his head under the sand. (7)
 - “What's — the world to a man when his wife is a widow?” Old Irish Proverb. (3)
 - Hurtles around in Tipperary town where Strongbow was defeated by O'Connor and O'Brien in 1174. (7)
 - If Anne's about recall those who organised the abortive Irish rising of 1867. (7)
 - Put down because one is not in church? (3)
 - See clan about being able to purify. (7)
 - Little Elizabeth takes article to Greek character. (4)
 - Getting on in Kimmage demesne. (4)
 - Public cutback, but working to a private agenda if one has it to grind. (3)
 - Run ale all over in a virtual sense. (6)
 - Make a home in Clones town. (4)
 - Wall to be demolished in Waterford town on the Glenaboy where John Hogan the sculptor was born. (6)
 - Heal tiny troubles in Wicklow village in the valley of the Derry River near Shillelagh. (8)

- DOWN**
- Les, any other way to Wicklow, Carlow and Wexford river that joins the Clody in Bunclody? (6)
 - “Do you know what a pessimist is? A man who thinks that everybody is as — — as himself, and hates them for it.” Shaw. (5)
 - Sound returns from the book and T.V. film by Maeve Binchy, filmed in Dunmore East. (6)
 - Row pent up in picturesque Mayo village on Clew Bay under the mountains. (7)

- Churchman dismantles relic after a century. (6)
- Unruly child returns from the beginning of 19 down. (4)
- Ill herds recover in uplands of County Kildare north west of Kildare town. (3,5)
- Irish politician in Glenade put you down. (6)
- Ring 49 for the fuel. (3)
- Bar ale spilled; it's fit for tillage. (6)
- G.A.T.T. hall demolished in large Dublin southern suburb with a pyramidical shopping centre. (8)
- Born in Ballylethane early. (3)
- Bart gets mixed up with R.T.E. in Kerry town with a car ferry to the Limerick side of the Shannon. (7)
- Lax win over Kerry village, with a ruined castle, once the seat of the Earls of Kerry, near Listowel. (6)
- Joseph Dzhugashvili (1879-1953) in last mixup. (6)
- N.Y. brat comes over to West Cork town across the bay from Glengarriff, with Whiddy Island nearby. (6)
- Little Benjamin comes to church to find a seat for the magistrates. (5)
- “Better knowledge of — — than — — without knowledge.” Old Irish Proverb (4) -something to live up to! (4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 14

Irish Sayings

“You are not a fully fledged sailor unless you have sailed under full sail,” “and you have not built a wall unless you have rounded a corner.”

“There is no strength without unity.”

“You must live with a person to know a person. If you want to know me come and live with me.”

“Praise the young and they will blossom”

“The raggy colt often made a powerful horse.”

“Age is honorable and youth is noble.”

“Youth does not mind where it sets its foot.”

“Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die.”

“The well fed does not understand the lean.”

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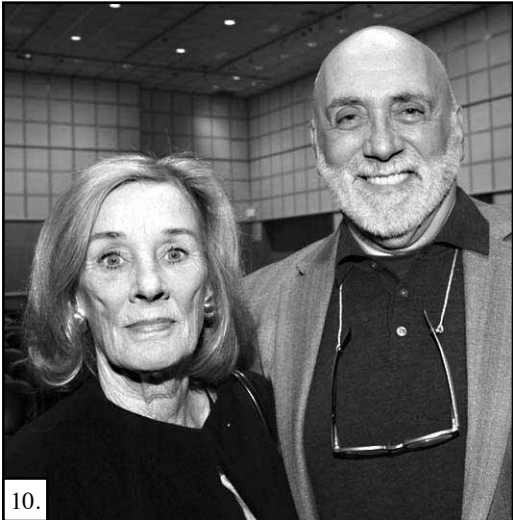
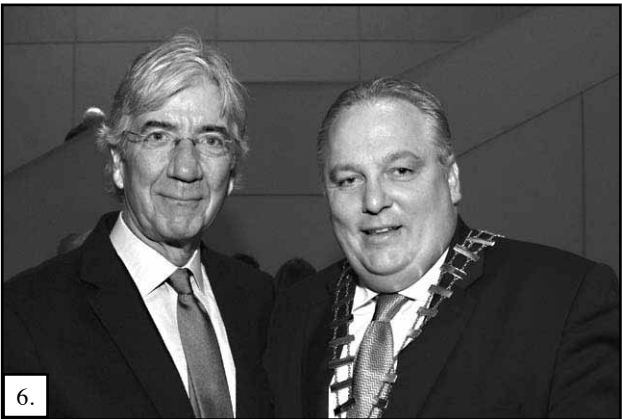
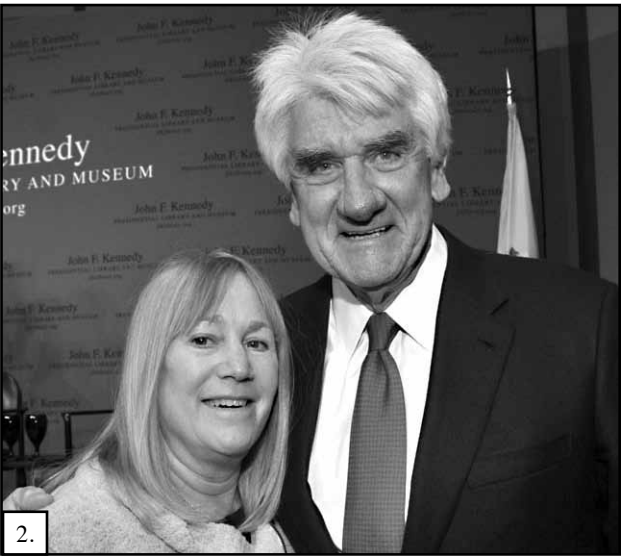
BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The JFK Library in Dorchester hosted a forum on December 9 in observance of the 100th anniversary of the birth of late House Speaker Tip O'Neill. Panelists included former ABC newsman Charlie Gibson, Steve Roberts of the New York Times and his wife, NPR reporter Cokie Roberts, Chris Matthews and Mike Barnicle of MSNBC and Al Hunt of Bloomberg News. Christopher "Kip" O'Neill, a Washington attorney, represented the family in closing remarks at the forum.

1.) Sen Paul Kirk; 2.) Hope Zabar, Swampscott; Tom O'Neill III; 3.) Mayor James and Marie Gill, Buncrana, Ireland; 4.) Dick Flavin, Boston; Al Hunt, Bloomberg News; Joanna Datillo, Boston; 5.) Jim and Francine Gannon; Nick Ordway, Christi Gannon all of the North End; 6.) Kip O'Neill (Tip's son); Counsellor Frank McBrearty, Mayor of Donegal, Ireland; 7.) Andrew Scibelli, Springfield; Linda Melcomian, former assistant council to Tip O'Neill; 8.) Mike Barnicle; Rosemary O'Neill, Washington, DC; 9.) Michael O'Neill, Franklin; Ken Loneragan, West End; Thomas O'Neill, III, Shrewsbury; 10.) Pam Frechette and Larry Moulter, Milton; 11.) Doug and Lisa O'Neill, Millis; 12.) Kevin Daly, New Haven, CT; Charles Daly, Chatham; Tracie Shea, Jamestown, RI; 13.) John McGee, Buncrana, Ireland; Dick Flavin; Tom Mulvoy.



They helped make the peace in Northern Ireland

Following is the last in a series of articles on individuals who had an impact on civic life in Ireland in the 20th century.

BY STEPHEN M. PINGEL
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

With its effects highly positive to date, the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 stands as a landmark in the long history of the island of Ireland where sectional strife and regional rear-guard actions against incursions of British forces had been the order of the day for centuries.

Looking back, the agreement was made possible by a convenient confluence of compromise: far-seeing men and women of capable abilities were in positions of power (and out of power, in some cases), and there was a palpable eagerness for peace as the only option across the lines of division, especially in the North.

In the years leading up to 1998, the echoes of violent IRA attacks had spread to English soil, with several prominent bombings in London. And in Northern Ireland, fear of Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) collusion with loyalist Protestant terrorist groups made life uneasy for all. By most accountings, some 3,500 men and women lost their lives during the years of The Troubles.

Onto the national stage stepped those who could, by virtue of personality, competence, and personal courage, do something about the stalemate, among them:

Ian Paisley

He was perhaps the most controversial party in the Good Friday Agreement process. In the early 1990s, the Rev. Ian Paisley and his Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) were talking publicly about the need for an agreement to curb the violence, but the voluble Paisley's ringing anti-Catholic rhetoric made any chance of progress almost laughable. Born in 1926, Paisley



was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1946, and soon after began a career as a prominent and outspoken, even notorious, Northern Ireland activist. Never hesitant to air his strong anti-Sinn Féin sentiment, Paisley bore considerable responsibility for his role in riling up both IRA and Unionist terrorist groups as the end of the century neared.

Then something happened, a remarkable conversion of sorts for Paisley whose name and face became associated with the cause of making a truly serious peace in the North. Today, he and his party associates are part of a power-sharing government with his long-time nemesis, Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness and the Sinn Féin Party, that continues to work at making the peace process a reality.

Gerry Adams

Largely responsible for having direct contact with the IRA throughout the Good Friday Agreement process, Gerry Adams was instrumental in negotiations that resulted in the disarming of the IRA and the dissolution of the RUC and the establishment of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) as a bipartisan-member force clearly more committed to keeping the peace than its predecessor agency.



Born in West Belfast in 1948, Adams was an activist from his earliest days and as he years went by, he moved into and up the ranks of the Provisional IRA and Sinn Féin. Although publicly seen as a fighter with IRA and Sinn Féin credentials who was taking on the establishment in the North during the 1980s and 1990s, privately Adams was trying to find ways to establish a lasting peace despite the fact that that was an unlikely prospect with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in power, which she was until 1990. So it was a waiting game: When she was gone, real negotiations could begin.

The notion of Gerry Adams as a major figure in Northern Ireland governance and prospects for peace took on a heightened sense in 1994 when the Clinton administration, aware of the serious peace efforts taking place, gave the Sinn Féin leader a visa to enter the United States, something it had denied him earlier because of his ties to the IRA.

Gerry Adams was a serious player in the North, to be sure, and he has remained one ever since.

Tony Blair



Edinburgh-born Tony Blair and his Labour Party would prove to be especially instrumental in the making of the peace in Northern Ireland. Considered one of most popular British prime ministers, he represented the modern swing to peace, away from Thatcher's staunch conservatism. Merely two weeks into his tenure, he visited Northern Ireland, and soon thereafter, in 1997, gave British negotiators the go-ahead for making reasonable formal concessions as part of the peace process. Gerry Adams and Tony Blair, theretofore a most unlikely pairing, met twice that year to discuss the upcoming agreement process and the possible steps and concessions that might be needed to make any talks successful.

Martin McGuinness

Born in Derry, Northern Ireland, in 1950, Martin McGuinness would become best known for his role as chief negotiator for Sinn Féin in the Good Friday Agreement talks in 1998. Although long associated in the public mind with the IRA and its violent activities dating to the late 1960s and running into the 1990s, McGuinness nonetheless was a major power player in the peacemaking

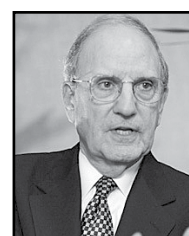


process.

In 1999, he and Gerry Adams were elected to a cabinet positions within the new power-sharing government, and today McGuinness is the deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland.

George Mitchell

A Waterville, Maine, native, onetime federal judge and majority leader in the US Senate, George Mitchell was a surprising central figure in Northern Irish



politics if you ignore the role that United States politics played in the peace process.

In 1995, after he had retired from the Senate, President Bill Clinton asked him to be his special envoy to Northern Ireland as talk of a serious steps toward peace were in the air, and soon enough Mitchell, an engaging man with a warm personality, was sitting down with all sides in a successful effort to keep things moving in a positive direction toward the agreement in 1998.

Conclusion

This personal accounting of certain personalities involved in the making of the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland is hardly inclusive. In fact, it leaves out, among many others, perhaps the most prominent makers of the peace, John Hume and David Trimble, who were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for what they did to help put an end the continual strife in their homeland.

On May 23, 1998, the roots of peace were sunk into the Irish soil as the Good Friday Agreement was approved by voters across the entire island of Ireland to take effect on Dec. 2, 1999. For all that, there are those who resent what has happened, and the fight for peace in Ireland goes on and on.

Stephen M. Pingel is a student at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell where he is specializing in the socio-economic history of modern conflicts as well as 20th-century Irish history.



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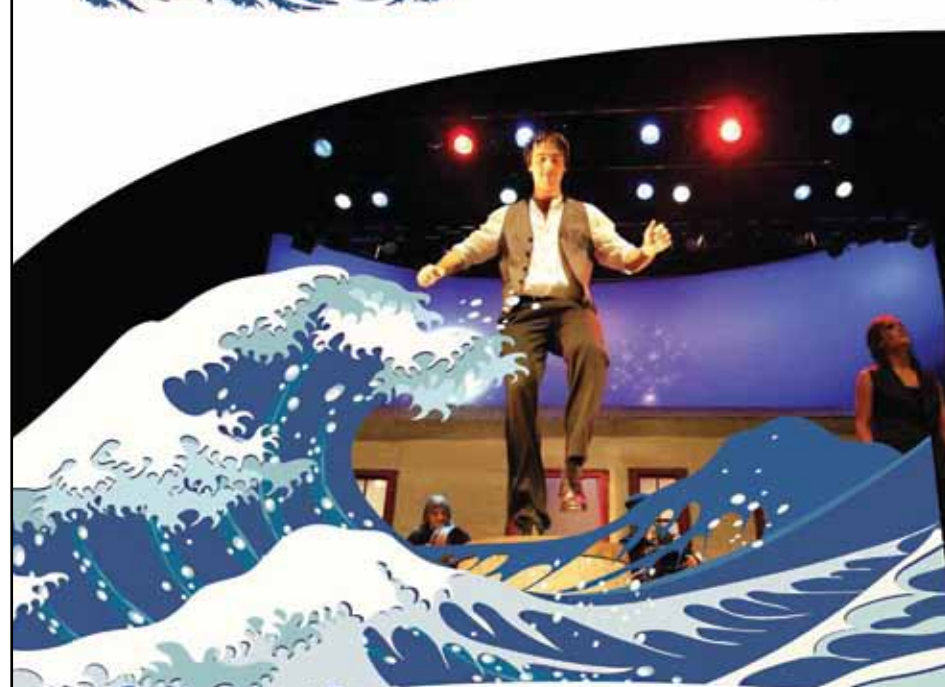
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A photograph of a winter scene in a forest. A river flows through the center, with several ducks swimming in it. The banks are covered in snow, and the trees are heavily laden with snow. A small bridge is visible in the background, crossing the river. The overall atmosphere is serene and cold.

Kickoff time for 'Gathering Ireland 2013'

Over 70 million people worldwide claim Irish ancestry. The Gathering Ireland 2013 provides an opportunity to current residents to reach out to those who have moved away, their relatives, friends and descendants, and invite them home.

- **Gatherings** – These are being hosted by the people of Ireland. A gathering can be as little as an invitation to an old school friend to visit Ireland in 2013, or the local GAA club asking a Boston GAA team to come over for a match.

Typical of the efforts being developed in Ireland is the recently released 2013 calendar being sold by the County of Mayo on Ireland's West Coast. The website mayo.ie sponsored a competition for photos from around the Mayo. The winning images and a selection of other photos were compiled into a 2013 calendar, along with listings of some of the county's Gathering 2013 events and snippets of information on historical dates of significance to those with a Mayo connection. The calendars are available for sale online at mayobooks.ie.

“Take a look at TheGatheringIreland.com and see if any gatherings or festivals match your interests. Like soul music? Time your visit to coincide with Dublin City Soul Festival. Love running? Why not take part in the Great Ireland Run? It's totally up to you!

Families and clans are meeting all over the country and Ireland's favorite festivals have developed exciting new programs to help visitors truly be part of it. If you're planning an event for 2013, plan on having it in Ireland.

www.mayo.ie


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FESTIVALS AND EVENTS 2013

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Event / Festival	From	To	Website
JANUARY			
Annual RNLI New Year's Day Swim	01/01/2013	01/01/2013	www.visitachill.com
New Year walking festival, Westport 2013	04/01/2013	06/01/2013	www.mayo.ie
FEBRUARY			
Cumann Merriman Winter School, Westport	01/02/2013	03/02/2013	www.mayo.ie
Annual University Chicago Folk Festival	06/02/2013	10/02/2013	uofcfolk@gmail.com
Kiltimagh Choral Festival	22/02/2013	23/02/2013	www.kiltimagh.ie/choral_festival.html
MARCH			
Seachtain Na Gaelige Festival	05/03/2013	17/03/2013	www.ennisbeo.ie
Claremorris Drama Festival	06/03/2013	18/03/2013	www.claremorrisdramafestival.com
Manchester Irish Festival	06/03/2013	18/03/2013	info@manchesteririshfestival.co.uk
Seachtain na Gaelige in Áras Inis Ghuair	12/03/2013	17/03/2013	www.ennisbeo.ie
St Patrick Matchmaking Weekend Festival	15/03/2013	17/03/2013	www.ennisbeo.ie
Kiltimagh St. Patrick's Week Festival	15/03/2013	21/03/2013	www.facebook.com/pages/Kiltimagh-St-Patricks-Week-Festival
Easter Sunday at Westport House		31/03/2013	www.westporthouse.ie/easter-at-westport-house
APRIL			
The Quiet Man Festival	01/04/2013		www.thegatheringireland.com
The Last Light in Ennis-D Day	13/04/2013		www.ennisbeo.ie
Féile na bPáistí	26/04/2013	29/04/2013	www.ennisbeo.ie
MAY			
Féile Chiois Cuain Louisburgh	03/05/2013	06/05/2013	www.felechoiscuain.com
Achill Walking Festival	03/05/2013	06/05/2013	www.achilltourism.com
Tagged in Westport	10/05/2013	11/05/2013	www.taggedinwestport.ie
Fleadh Cheoil Mhaigh Eo	10/05/2013	12/05/2013	www.thegatheringireland.com
The Irish Post Gathering	11/05/2013		www.thegatheringireland.com
Mayo International Choral Festival Gathering	23/05/2013	26/05/2013	www.thegatheringireland.com
JUNE			
Burrishoole Walking Festival	01/06/2013	03/06/2013	www.burrishoolewalkfest.net
The Legend of Grainne Mhaol Summer Show	03/06/2012	29/09/2012	www.grainnemhaol.com
Give It A Go Weekend	07/06/2013	09/06/2013	www.visitachill.com
Boston Irish Festival	07/06/2013	09/06/2013	www.irishculture.org/events
Westport Folk & Bluegrass Festival	14/06/2013	16/06/2013	www.westportfolkandbluegrass.com
Ennis Beo Festival	18/06/2013	23/06/2013	www.ennisbeo.ie
Westport International Sea Angling Festival - Boat Competition	19/06/2013	23/06/2013	www.westportseaanglingfestival.eu
Cochmarna Moran Reunion	25/06/2013		www.thegatheringireland.com
Westport Festival of Music and Food	29/06/2013	30/06/2013	www.thegatheringireland.com
Westport Festival of Music and Performing Arts 29/06/2013	29/06/2013	30/06/2013	www.westportfestival.com
JULY			
Ellis Island -Walk in your Ancestors Footsteps	Jul-2013		www.ennisbeo.ie
Castlebar International Four Days Walking Festival	04/07/2013	07/07/2013	www.castlebar4dayswalks.com
The Mythical Island Workshop	05/07/2013	13/07/2013	www.thegatheringireland.com
Ballina Salmon Festival	07/07/2013	14/07/2013	www.ballinasalmonfestival.ie
Westport Music Festival	13/07/2013	15/07/2013	www.westportmusicfestival.com
Féile Bia na Mara - Achill Seafood Festival	16/07/2013	21/07/2013	www.felebianamara.ie
Crossmolina Community Festival	19/07/2013	28/07/2013	www.crossmolina.ie
Muiranny Mediterranean Heather Festival	20/07/2013	28/07/2013	www.facebook.com/pages/Muiranny-Mediterranean-Heather-Festival
Ennis Agricultural Show	21/07/2013		www.ennisbeo.ie
Scoil Acla -Scoil Samhradh	27/07/2013	03/08/2013	www.scoilacta.com
AUGUST			
Manchester Mayo Gathering	01/08/2013	09/08/2013	www.thegatheringireland.com
Altymass Gathering 2013	01/08/2013		www.thegatheringireland.com
The Foxford Gathering	02/08/2013		www.thegatheringireland.com
Ballycroy Festival	02/08/2013	10/08/2013	www.ennisbeo.ie
Inishbiggle Festival	03/08/2013	05/08/2013	
Bonniconlon Agricultural show	05/08/2013		www.bonniconlonshow.ie
Bellacragher Bay Sailing Camp	06/08/2013	09/08/2013	www.bellacragherboatclub.jimdo.com
Claremorris Agricultural Show			