

# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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## Cultural Ambassadors



Vincent Crotty and Kieran Jordan on the porch of their Savin Hill home. The paintings surrounding them are Crotty's depictions of rural scenes from Ireland. (Ed Forry photo)



Kieran Jordan has established herself internationally as a professional Irish dancer and choreographer in a niche that most would consider unlikely - most, that is, except her

husband, Vincent Crotty, an Irish native from the small Cork town of Kanturk, who chose an equally challenging but viable career as a visual artist. Together, these Dorchester-based

artists make a formidable team whose strength lies in their natural talent and their unflinching dedication to their creative visions. Susan Gedutis Lindsay writes, Page 13.

## History Unfolds

### New Deal for North Set for May 8; Fingers are Crossed



Ian Paisley, left, and Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams announcing agreement on March 26. (AP photo)

In the end, Ian Paisley surprised many by traveling to the Stormont parliament building in east Belfast on Monday, March 26, and agreeing to terms with Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams, a man he had never spoken to or shaken hands with, and a reviled figure for many unionists in the north. Paisley would have to do it on his terms, insisting on a six-week delay, but a new Northern Ireland government, it was agreed, would come into power on May 8, with the odd-couple pairing of Paisley and Martin McGuinness at the helm.

So now the focus turns to next month. Will this deal truly hold? Will Paisley and McGuinness link arms on that date and, in almost unthinkable fashion, become the co-leaders of a true government of reconciliation?

Or, as has happened so many times in the past, will a Northern Ireland agreement come undone, clouds sweeping in to obscure the dawn?

Robert Connolly writes, Page 4. See Joe Leary commentary, Page 5.

## Mrs. President



Boston City Council President Maureen Feeney learned early on to become involved in public affairs. Of her mother she says: "When we were kids, she would wake us early on vacation mornings to take us on walking history lessons of the city."

Profile, Page 9.

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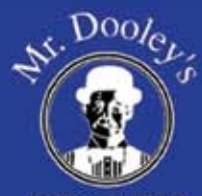
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## ON THE TOWN

### Two Patricks, Two Stories

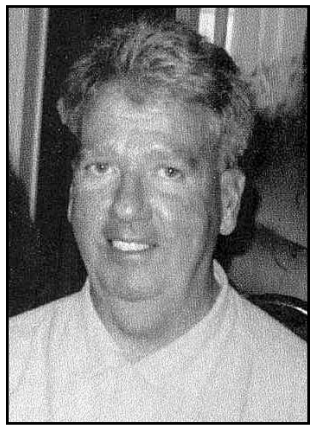
The month of March -- Patrick's month -- is just behind us, and over the saint's days we went on the look for some Boston Pats. Herewith stories about two of them:

Even though his father's Christian name is Michael, Stonehill College employee **Patrick Keaney** is actually named after his dad. As you might imagine, there is a switch, with Keaney senior being called Michael Patrick and Keaney junior being called Patrick Michael.



Patrick Keaney

the name with exile. Patrick ('Padraig' in Irish) was also my father's name. My parents were of the first generation to be taught English. Our grandparents spoke not a word of it. My people kept the old ways sean nos, treasuring our faith and culture.



Patrick J. Walsh

"Patrick is not an Irish name. It's of Latin origin meaning 'noble', says **Patrick J. Walsh** of Quincy, formerly of Dorchester. OI have always associated the name with exile. Patrick ('Padraig' in Irish) was also my father's name. My parents were of the first generation to be taught English. Our grandparents spoke not a word of it. My people kept the old ways sean nos, treasuring our faith and culture. "This prescription makes one an exile both in Ireland and America. Interestingly, St. Patrick found himself an exile till he heard a voice calling him beyond the dimension of time." Pat Walsh graduated from Boston College and Trinity College, Dublin. He served as Chief Secretary to **Ambassador Margaret M. Heckler** at the U.S. embassy.

Old friend **Terri Evans**, the longtime press aide at the British Consulate in Boston until her retirement last year, has moved into the private sector. Terri is now the communications manager for Shepley Bulfinch, the Boston architect firm located on Seaport Lane on the South Boston waterfront. ... Two officials of the Ireland West Airport at Knock spent St. Patrick's week in the states, raising the profile of the new biweekly Boston/Knock flights set to begin after Memorial Day. **Annette Kearney** and **Robert Grealis** were kept busy attending holiday week events, Grealis here in Boston and Kearney in New York City. The two connected for the ICCUSA luncheon at Doyle's in Jamaica Plain.

Ireland's Vice Consul **Marianne Bolger** returned to her post last month after maternity leave. Bolger and her husband, **Stephen McNally**, welcomed the birth of their first child, **Eabha Caitriona McNally**, last October. Mum, dad and baby are reported to be doing fine. ... Meanwhile in Washington, Irish Embassy Press Officer **Joe Hackett** has returned to Dublin to take on new duties in the Department of Foreign Affairs. Hackett began his government career as vice consul in Boston, and most recently has been spokesman for the Irish government's support of immigration reform legislation now being proposed in the Nation's Capitol. ... Kildare-born **Bob Newman** of Plymouth, the general manager of Boston's Doubletree Hotel downtown, has left the post to take a new position as GM of the Ocean Edge Resort in Brewster on Cape Cod. Both properties are divisions of the Corcoran Jennison companies.



Eabha Caitriona McNally

### Eire Society Selects Jean Kennedy Smith as its 2007 Gold Medal Recipient

The Eire Society of Boston will award its prestigious Gold Medal award to **Jean Kennedy Smith**, former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, at its annual dinner on May 3 at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston.

In announcing the award, the society, celebrating its 70th year as one of Boston's leading cultural groups, cited Kennedy Smith's central role in the peace efforts in Ireland during the 1990s and her humanitarian efforts in the United States.

Mrs. Smith was the ambassador for nearly five years during the Clinton Administration, continuing a legacy of Kennedy diplomacy begun by her father, who was ambassador to the Court of St. James's during the Roosevelt administration. She played a pivotal role in the peace process in



Jean Kennedy Smith

Northern Ireland that resulted in the historic Easter Agreement.

During her lifetime, Ambassador Kennedy Smith has devoted her time and resources to the welfare of children with disabilities. In 1974, she founded Very Special Arts, a nonprofit organization that promotes the artistic talents of mentally and physically challenged young girls and boys. She also sits on the board of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The cost of the Gold Medal Dinner, which begins at 6 p.m., and the award ceremony is \$100 per person, and is open to the public. Call toll free at 1-866-560-1050, or visit [eiresociety.org/goldmedal](http://eiresociety.org/goldmedal) for details.

The Eire Society's Gold Medal is awarded annually to a person of Irish heritage who has made significant contributions to society and to their chosen fields of expertise. Previous recipients include President John F. Kennedy, filmmakers John Ford and John Huston, Irish actress Siobhan McKenna, Seamus Heaney, long-time US Ambassador to Ireland William V. Shannon, and John W. McCormack, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

### Knock Flights to Boston, New York Are Filling Up

The first scheduled flights to New York and Boston from Ireland West Airport Knock are two months away, and the response has been strong, according to the Scottish low-cost airline flyglospan and Ireland West Airport. Since the announcement in January, 50 percent of all seats on the Boston route and 40 percent on the New York route to the end of October have been sold, the company says.

In two months, flyglospan will begin its transatlantic services to Boston and New York with three flights a week to New York's JFK Airport and two services a week to Boston. The inaugural flight to New York will take off on May 27 and the first flight to Boston will depart Ireland West Airport on May 30. Already, flights for the first month of operation are filling fast with New York flights already 77 percent full and the Boston flight 84 percent full.

Commenting on the phenomenal response and sales on the new transatlantic routes **Tom Dalrymple**, flyglospan chairman, said: "We have had a very encouraging response since our service was announced. With two months of selling time still available until they

take off, these routes are already showing signs of great success. I am delighted we can launch these services to Ireland West Airport Knock and give exciting travel opportunities at such fantastic prices."

Said **Liam Scollan**, managing director at Ire-

land West Airport Knock: "Flyglospan is the airline that responded to this airport and the people in the west of Ireland and east coast US by making the transatlantic dream happen and they deserve more and more support for their belief in the west of Ireland."



Annette Kearney and Robert Grealis, representing Ireland West Airport at Knock.

### Thomas Gilligan, Hibernian Leader, Dead at 59

The leadership and hospitality of former Ancient Order of Hibernians National President **Thomas Gilligan** was remembered by friends, family, and Hibernian leaders recently at a Mass celebrating his life held at St. Clement's Church in Ft. Lauderdale.

Former National Presidents George Clough, Ed Wallace, Tom McNabb, Nick Murphy, and Joe Roche, former LAOH National President Mary Paglione, and current National President Jack Meehan joined a delegation of Florida Hibernians who performed a

prayer service over the casket prior to the Mass. Mr. Gilligan, who was 59, served as National President from 1998-2002 and was one of the first Irish-American leaders to support the Belfast Agreement which brought a cessation of hostilities in Ireland. He met with Pope John Paul II in 2000 in Rome, the first Hibernian President to ever meet with a pope. He leaves his wife, Bridget (Halligan) Gilligan, and two sons, Patrick and Brian.

### Boston Irish Reporter's Calendar

If your club or organization has an item or event for the Boston Irish Reporter calendar, send the necessary details to [calendar@BostonIrish.com](mailto:calendar@BostonIrish.com) and please include a daytime contact name and telephone number.

#### Sunday, April 1

Friends of Irish Freedom annual memorial of the 1916 Easter Rising, 12 noon. Info: Al Madden. 617-288-4938, [al.madden@verizon.net](mailto:al.madden@verizon.net)

#### Wednesday, April 4

ICCUSA monthly Business After Hours series, guest speaker Niamh C. Lynch, Ph.D., director, Boston College Irish Institute. 6:30 p.m., Jurys Boston Hotel.

Spring Adult Education Tin Whistle classes begin, continue weekly thru May 23, Irish Cultural Centre, Canton MA. Info, 781-340-1080 or email [tinwhistle@irishculture.org](mailto:tinwhistle@irishculture.org).

#### Sunday, April 15

Boston Beara Society, annual dinner, Florian Hall, Dorchester, 2 p.m. Tickets \$50, call 617-328-6690 or 781-326-1977.

#### Sunday, April 29

Spring Fashion Show and Afternoon Tea, 2 p.m., Irish Cultural Centre, Canton MA Fashion by Applesseed's of Westwood. Tickets: 617-969-1992 or 781-413-5354.

#### Thursday, May 3

The Eire Society of Boston Gold Medal Dinner, honoring former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith, 6 p.m., Park Plaza Hotel, Boston. Tickets \$100 pp, 866-560-1050, [eiresociety.org/goldmedal](http://eiresociety.org/goldmedal)

#### Friday, May 18

Ireland's 32 Counties, reunion dance to benefit SMA Fathers, music by Andy Healy. 8 p.m., Irish Social Club, West Roxbury, set and ceili dancing 8-9 p.m., donation \$10 pp. Info: 781-329-0530, 617-323-2800

#### For The Record

**Correction:** A reference to Croagh Patrick in last month's issue erroneously noted that it was the second-highest mountain in Ireland. It is not. An ordnance survey done in 2002 by OSi, a geodetic services firm, lists the island's five highest peaks as follows:

(1) Carrauntuohill (3,414 feet) in the Macgillicuddy's Reeks, a range of glacier-carved sandstone mountains in County Kerry, in the southwest; (2) Beenkeragh (3,314 feet), MacGillicuddy Reeks; (3) Caher, (3,284 feet), MacGillicuddy Reeks; (4) Mount Brandon (3,120 feet), Kerry; (5) Lugnaquilla (3,031 feet), Wicklow. Croagh Patrick is well down the list, at 2,503 feet.

## Publisher's Notebook

## This Man Has One Goal – Beat Back Poverty Worldwide

By ED FORRY

"You're going to see over the coming days and months a slow burning genocide [in Darfur]. Three million lives could well be extinguished due to their leaders. Leaders of third world countries are endemicly corrupt; every one of them is worse than the next."



Those are the ominous words of John O'Shea, the head of GOAL, the international humanitarian agency that is trying to overcome the plague of poverty throughout the world.

"If a house was burning, we would send for the fire brigade to put out the fire," O'Shea said in Boston last month. "Why doesn't the world have a fire brigade when a country goes up in smoke?"

O'Shea is a self-described "sports journalist" from Ireland, a former Dublin athlete who made a chance visit to India in 1977 and has dedicated his life ever since to easing the plight of people living in poverty - or as he puts it, "alleviating the suffering of the poorest of the poor."

He was in town in March to help host and speak at his agency's first-ever fund-raising event, a black tie dinner at the Seaport Hotel. The event drew some 400 interested persons, and generated \$250,000 for the agency.

GOAL, based in Ireland, has been doing its work for three decades and it has been active in the United States for 20 years. During his visit, O'Shea said that he was seeking not just monetary contributions, but also volunteers to work as "GOAL-ies" around the world. "Our biggest need right now is we're looking for civil engineers, chartered accountants and nurse mid-wives" to work on the ground in needy places throughout the world. Currently, he says, the agency supports about 130 volunteers working alongside 200 locals worldwide.

He is highly critical of the role that governments play in helping to ease suffering: "Among world leaders, there isn't one statesman."

O'Shea said that GOAL will only work in countries where he can have its own workers on the ground; because of widespread corruption, he said, most donations channeled through governments never reach the people in need.

He is also skeptical of efforts to reduce or forgive debt in third world countries, believing that such debt is owed by countries, not people, and forgiveness simply enables corrupt leaders to instead spend funds on guns. "We should help people, not governments," he declares.

## Commentary

## Paisley Finally Gets to 'Yes'; Something Historic is at Hand

By ROBERT P. CONNOLLY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

In the end, the message of the electorate was unmistakable and the politicians of Northern Ireland understood that, at long last, it was time to make a deal.

After Northern Ireland voters went to the polls on March 7 to elect a new Assembly, the emphasis, of course, was on the winners: the Rev. Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Fein, led by Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness.



Robert P. Connolly

Both of those parties soared to new heights, with the DUP electing twice as many Assembly members as the once-dominant Ulster Unionist Party and Sinn Fein widening its margin over its nationalist-community rival, the Social Democratic and Labor

Party.

But equally important in the election results were the dismal performances of unionist and republican dissidents, candidates who were unalterably opposed to reinstating a power-sharing government in the North. Those hardliners did not win a single seat in the 108-member Assembly.

And, according to an exit poll conducted on election day, more than 80 percent of Northern Ireland's voters, Catholic and Protestant alike, believed that it was time to get past the slogans, delays and posturing of the past; time for the elected leaders to get to work.

Even though it was easy to see where the voters wanted to go, that didn't mean that it was a simple matter for all of the North's political leaders, and particularly for the one who mattered most, to jump on board.

For decades, Paisley, the hard-line unionist cum fundamentalist preacher, was the harshest critic of Sinn Fein and republicanism, and was able to methodically destroy moderate unionists whom he would be portray as unreliable defenders of the link with Britain and as soft on republican terror. For more than 40 years, Paisley was able to wring political success out of a single word, and that word, delivered with full-throated, Bible-pounding conviction, was: "No."

So, the thorniest political problem was: How could Paisley reverse a lifetime of habit and learn to say "Yes" by the March 26 deadline the British government had set for establishing a power-sharing government, a body to be jointly led by Paisley and McGuinness.

In the end, Paisley surprised many by traveling to the Stormont parliament building in east Belfast and agreeing to terms with Adams, a man he had never

spoken to or shaken hands with, and a reviled figure for many unionists. Of course, Paisley would have to do it on his terms, insisting on a six-week delay, but a new Northern Ireland government, it was agreed, would come into power on May 8, with the odd-couple pairing of Paisley and McGuinness at the helm.

Why Paisley did the deal is a question that many will ponder in the weeks ahead. It may be that at age 80, he did not want to miss the opportunity to cap off his career by holding the North's top governmental position. And certainly, many of the 36 DUP politicians elected to the Assembly last month did not want to find themselves without jobs, which would have been the case if the British had followed through with threats to dissolve the legislative body in the absence of an agreement.

It can also be argued that Paisley said "No" until he had something to say "Yes" to, and in this case the tempting proposition was the current reality of all parties agreeing that the North would remain British until the voters choose otherwise, the Irish Republican Army quieted and disarmed, and Sinn Fein endorsing the North's police force, and, in a larger sense, agreeing to work within the context of the partitioned Northern state.

In the run-up to the March 7 election, a nationalist officeholder predicted that the DUP would sweep to victory on the unionist side, as the party eventually did. "Paisley is going to be able to say, 'We've held out and look at how much we've gotten,'" the politician said.

That was the message, with the DUP drawing a sharp distinction between its policies and approaches versus the "push-over unionism" of David Trimble and the UUP.

So now the focus turns to May 8. Will this deal truly hold? Will Paisley and McGuinness link arms on that date and, in almost unthinkable fashion, become the co-leaders of a true government of reconciliation?

Or, as has happened so many times in the past, will a Northern Ireland agreement come undone, clouds sweeping in to obscure the dawn?

Already, the DUP is experiencing some defections, with several officeholders leaving the party to protest the idea of going into government with Sinn Fein, and particularly with McGuinness, a former top leader of the IRA.

If the deal does hold, as one would have to expect, the use of the word "historic," so widely invoked to describe the Paisley-Adams meeting and agreement, certainly will have been merited.

In truth, the Catholics and Protestants of the North, in dire conflict for centuries, may well have found their grand moment of reconciliation and accommodation. Something historic may be at hand.

## St. Patrick and the Immigration Debate

By SISTER LENA DEEVY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The Immigration raid in New Bedford last month left the immigrant community tainted with tragedy on St. Patrick's Day. The morning before I had joined thousands of Irish immigrants in Washington to advocate for compassionate immigration reform, mothers and minors were being shackled and shipped from Massachusetts to El Paso.

What would St. Patrick have made of it all? His is perhaps the oldest immigrant tale that we will ever hear. Born in Wales, sold into slavery to a Celtic chieftain, he escaped back to Britain only to return as an immigrant and serve the people who once enslaved him. We can never know, of course, but it is hard to imagine that he would have encouraged the tactics of Immigration and Customs Enforcement that morning last month.

Women were handcuffed at gunpoint, wives separated from husbands, and mothers from children. In an inexplicable rush to the airport the federal authorities ignored the pleas of state agencies and began flights to detention centers in Florida and Texas. Sixty women who could prove they were the sole carers for children were released - but with dates for deportation hearings. Those who couldn't, or were afraid that their children would be similarly mistreated, are still in custody. If the tale of misery that we have witnessed in New Bedford from March 6 until now had been beamed around the world on live television, it is doubtful that anyone would have believed they were watching a scene from the United States of America.

Our immigration system is badly broken and in critical need of reform. These families have been torn asunder for reasons no different than those that drew Irish immigrants to the U.S. for centuries: the hope of a better life and the opportunity to work hard and prosper. For so long the U.S.A. stood as a beacon of hope to the world.

Senator Kennedy has said that our current immigration laws would have prevented his ancestors from coming to this country. He is leading the charge to overhaul them in a fair and compassionate manner and Boston's Irish community is helping him. It was inspiring to see such great numbers of local Irish give of their time and their money to support the ILIR fund-

raiser and the trip to Washington DC last month.

The Irish community is united in common purpose and energized by the battle for legalization to a level I have not seen since the days of the IIRM in the late 1980s. But beyond that, the broader immigrant community is similarly so. The sense that we stand together or fall together is tangible. Some IIC volunteers gave

up their St. Patrick's Day afternoon to stand in the snow in support of the families of New Bedford. I thank you and I think the man whose name adorns the day would have been there with you.

*Sister Lena Deevy is the Executive Director of the Irish Immigration Center in Boston.*

## Overheard at the Blarney Stone

By JAMES W. DOLAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

"Pat, have you heard Tommy on WRKO?"

"Tommy who?"

"Finneran; he's got his new talk show in the morning called Finneran's Forum. It's pretty good."

"I'm glad to hear he got work after his spell of bad luck. Isn't that the same station with that guy Howie Carr? How'd the two of them get together? That's like a marriage between Donald Trump and Rosie O'Donnell."

"Well it's not like they're together; Finneran's on in the morning and Carr in the afternoon. That way they don't have to see each other. There's hardly a politician in the state that hasn't been nailed by Howie. He's about as subtle as a wrecking ball."

"Tommy's been taking some shots from some of the callers but he's kept his cool and handled them well. It can't be easy going from speaker to the Biotech Council and now to talk radio."

"When you're out, you're out. No matter how important or indispensable you may think you are, when you're gone, you're history. Life moves on. Whatever happened to Bobby Orr or Larry Bird? Did you see Doug Flutie in those diamond commercials? Sure, I bet he shops there for all his diamond needs. So do I, but my diamond needs ended 30 years ago when I got engaged."

"It says a lot about our world when some folks have continuing diamond needs."

"Yeah it's like having an appointment secretary. Did you see where the governor is hiring an appointment secretary for his wife at 72 grand a year? I had to let mine go last month so I could pay the mortgage."

"You'd think her secretary at the big law firm where she works would keep her schedule. The firm might have been happy to provide some extra help to the governor's wife so that she could keep track of her appointments."

"I admit my schedule's pretty bleak. Get up, go to work, go home and go to bed. Hell! If you threw a few more events in my day, I'd never be able to keep up without someone to manage my time."

"Excuse me, I've got to make a personal phone call; not in my capacity as a plumber. Like the governor, I don't want anyone to think I'm using the power of my office to pressure them. I'll be right back."

"Do you mind if I ask you a personal question Pat? Do you have weak stream?"

"What's that?"

"I can see you don't watch much TV. It's a prostate condition that reduces your flow, if you know what I mean."

"Well, Mike, to be honest, it's not as if I've had the opportunity to compare the force of my flow with anybody else. How would I know if I have weak stream?"

"Let me put it this way, if you crack the back of the urinal, you don't; but if you barely make it into the urinal, you do."

"To answer your question I'm neither a torrent nor a trickle; somewhere in between. What does that mean?"

"It probably means your Flomax needs are about the same as your diamond needs. You can get along quite nicely with neither, at least for now."

"Let's have another beer, then I've got to run; otherwise I'm going to hear from my appointment secretary."

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

## Off the Bench

## Commentary

# Ireland's Star Minister Visits Boston While Northern Ireland Begins to Heal

By JOE LEARY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Boston was blessed this St. Patrick's Day with a visit from one of Ireland's foremost political leaders, Minister of Education and Science Mary Hanafin, TD. Minister Hanafin was the honored guest at several happy Irish events during her five-day stay with us.



Joe Leary

Hanafin's messages of hope, prosperity, and welcome from the Republic of Ireland were reflected in Northern Ireland by a dramatic victory by the British and Irish governments in finally bringing Ian Paisley and Gerry Adams together to

form a shared government.

Mary, as she is known in her home constituency of Dun Laoghaire south of Dublin, has been an elected Fianna Fail member of the Dail (the Irish Parliament) since 1997; her family has been active in Irish politics for more than 50 years.

The minister in charge of Irish education has the responsibility for Ireland's most important future growth engine. When asked how Ireland is preparing for a possible downturn in the economy, Hanafin was unequivocal, "In addition to our normal teaching of the humanities we are placing a substantially increased emphasis on science education in order to prepare our young people for the challenges ahead."

During an interview with the BIR, the minister was also asked what she would say to Americans about change and the Ireland of today. Her smiling response was instant: "Ten years ago it was different, but as times have changed, we haven't lost the best of what is Ireland. We still value family and neighborliness and welcome all to our island. Yes, physically and economically the country has changed, but our ancient heritage has been preserved and the things we hold dear are still with us."

Hanafin stressed the unbroken ties that exist between Ireland and the United States, noting that many native-born Irish live in the Boston area and the family connections that remain over many generations are honored and preserved on both sides of the Atlantic. American companies are investing their resources and building their headquarters in Ireland and new Irish companies are coming to the United States.

When she spoke at The Irish American Partnership's annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast at the Boston Harbor Hotel, she inspired the large audience to deliver a prolonged standing ovation. Her remarks were joyous, strong, and thoughtful at the same time.

Another of Ireland's star ministers, Brian Cowan, addressed The Irish American Partnership's St. Patrick's Breakfast in Chicago and received a similar ovation from the attending guests. Two uplifting positive messages from Ireland's best.

Meanwhile, the ground was moving in Northern Ireland. Up until Sat., March 24, many in the largest political party -- Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) -- were still bitterly resisting joining a new devolved government with Sinn Fein, the second-largest party.

The British and Irish Governments were making an all-out, time-consuming and very expensive effort to bring the opposing factions together so that Northern Ireland could once again govern itself.

In order to refresh and invigorate the new Assembly, elections were held on March 7 to fill its 108 seats in a revitalized self-governing parliament. According to Tony Blair and Peter Hain, his Northern Ireland Secretary of State, the resulting reconstituted Assembly had to be accepted and entered into by March 26 or all funding for elected Assembly officials would stop and a new emphasis would be placed upon the six North/South cross-border organizations.

The loss of funding was a real threat since Assembly

members have been receiving most of their salaries, full expenses, and Stormont offices even though they have not met as a legislature for several years. None of them wanted to lose the money or the power. And the threat of increased cross-border activity was meant to scare and intimidate the Unionists. Most of them deeply fear a United Ireland.

In the earlier election, the popular vote separating the DUP Paisleyites and Gerry Adams's Sinn Fein was only 3.9 percent. In a 63 percent turnout, 207,000 Northern Irish voters voted for the DUP and 180,000 voted for Sinn Fein, electing 36 delegates representing the DUP and 28 delegates representing Sinn Fein. But the distrust between the parties remained overwhelming.

Sinn Fein was willing to participate in the Assembly as established by the Good Friday Agreement. They pledged to join the policing boards and support the police force that so many of their party members deeply resent. The Unionists, on the other hand, aggressively resisted, with their hardliners refusing any accommodation whatsoever.

The pressure applied upon DUP leadership by the British Government was interesting to watch. One moment, the stick, the next, the carrot.

Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern deserve great credit for the result.

In addition, a few months ago the British Government announced that the people of Northern Ireland will have to begin to pay for the water they use. Water has always been free, with the costs being paid by general taxes. The reaction was outrage. The new water bills were to be mailed March 27 if the Assembly was not up and running. Secretary of State Peter Hain said he was willing to withhold the bills if the newly elected Assembly wants to take responsibility.

And to sweeten the pot -- or give Unionists something to talk about with their constituents -- 36 billion British pounds -- equivalent to 70 billion American dollars -- was promised to Northern Ireland by the British Government if the Assembly went into business. As an indication of how much Tony Blair's Government wanted this to happen, during Paisley's last trip to London they gave him an extra \$2 billion to take home.

These deliberations were not about the real issues of self-government; they were about Protestant Unionist difficulty in accepting and recognizing the new power of the Catholic Sinn Fein and, as in politics everywhere, about the egos of the men and women involved. Few ever want to relinquish power, and relinquishing power to the hated Catholics is nearly impossible for Unionists to accept.

DUP leaders had to save face and twist and turn the outcome to be more palatable to their voters. On Sat., March 24, therefore, in an effort to delay the formation of the Assembly beyond the March 26 deadline, the 120 men and women of the Paisley-led DUP "executive" voted to defy the Government and refuse to enter the Assembly unless the British changed their minds and pushed back the deadline for six to eight more weeks.

On Sunday the 25th, in a brilliant exercise of British diplomacy and spin control in the face of the Unionist defiance in refusing to abide by the "immovable" deadline date of the 26th, Hain backtracked and declared a victory "of historic significance."

Despite this appearance of Machiavellian delusion, Hain's reaction may have been the perfect response. For now, after issuing their ultimatum, the Unionists have to join the Assembly or appear to be duplicitous opportunists. It also may be that we were witnessing a slow erosion of the 80-year-old Paisley's tight control over his party.

The backroom negotiations on Sunday must have been furious. Both prime ministers had to be careful that concessions to the DUP would not cause a negative reaction by Sinn Fein. And Scotland and Wales were also keeping a close eye on Northern Ireland concessions to make sure they are not missing out on anything.

But all was agreed by Sunday evening and on Monday at 11 a.m., Paisley and Adams led their senior lieutenants -- most of who have never spoken to each other -- into a meeting room at Stormont for press pictures. Victory was declared by all sides, and newspapers around the world reported "historic" success in finally solving Northern Ireland's conflict.

We have heard such words when the Good Friday Agreement was signed, every time a cease fire was declared, after decommissioning occurred and recently, when Sinn Fein endorsed the police force. When George Mitchell heard about the new Assembly agreement, he cautioned everyone that deep divisions in Northern Ireland society still exist and that despite the Paisley/Adams meeting, it will take many years for tensions to relax.

The fact remains that Unionist intransigence nearly prevented agreement. And don't look for much to change, since even if there is a new operating Assembly complete with DUP and Sinn Fein Ministers, the bickering and vying for power will continue to flourish.

What an enormous difference between the North and South of Ireland. One prosperous, free, and building; the other beset by long-remembered animosity. It has been unfortunate that all the people of this tiny, magnificent island can't live harmoniously together under one roof. Now, perhaps, there is hope for that to become reality.

## Commentary

# Of Strangled Laughter; Terry's New Chair; Tommy's New Mike

By JIM O'SULLIVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Three days earlier, on what had once been the high holiday of Boston -- and, thusly, Boston Irish politics -- in a setting that had once been celebrated by the high priest of that once-dominant denomination, the laughs were scarce. Bill Bulger's breakfast, once the domain of ostensibly welcome female pols dangling with high-heeled precariousness from the second-floor fire escape outside the Bayside Club on East 8th Street in South Boston, had fully evolved -- heavily produced for television, many of the laughs strangled by fiber optic cables and over-produced professionals overly reliant on props.

Therese Murray wasn't there, though her presence certainly was. Senate President Robert Travaglini, a week away from being an echo on Beacon Hill, was ribbed for Murray's proximity to his shoulder. The Plymouth Democrat, steeped in policy, was soon to be fully in control of what had once been a contest to succeed the East Boston Democrat, learned in people.

And by the time the Southie streets had been swept, mostly, of the clownish green hats and the red plastic cups, Terry Murray was where Bill Bulger had once been: in the chair of the Senate. Perhaps coincidentally, the same day Murray was coronated, Bulger's portrait was hung in the Senate Reading Room, the old lion's hands folded.

Across the Senate lobby, Murray was hitting the same themes that brung her to the dance: more funding for human services, a coastal legislator's attentiveness to the fishing industry, boosts in education spending. The product of Mission Hill and Dorchester (St. Mark's), a single mother of one daughter, took a wry shot at the media -- de rigeur for Senate chiefs -- and made more than a cursory mention of working with the new governor. Just the 16th woman ever elected to the state Senate, Murray became the first to helm the Upper Chamber. She is also the most recent in a seemingly unbroken string of local political firsts: legislative leaders Italian, councilors Latino and Asian, a sheriff black and female, a governor black and neophyte.

Outside, by the third-floor elevators, Senator Jack Hart, who had hosted the St. Patrick's Day breakfast three days before, smiled, "It's about time somebody Irish had some power around here."

.....  
Meanwhile, another old legislative leader, and war-horse of many a saint's day breakfast during the Bulger and then Lynch years, went downsize. Tom Finneran, in kelly-green sweater and swarmed by former aides moved on to points more lucrative, hosted his own St. Patrick's Day party at The Stadium, less than two miles away from the big show at the Convention Center. Call it Tom Finneran, Act IV. Pol, top pol, biotech tout under cloud of federal probe, talk show host. Finneran stood inside the sports bar in front of a WRKO banner, laughing the laugh that's been lampooned as piratical, tyrannical, and, depending on the lampooner, maniacal.

Finneran was sui generis in recent Massachusetts political history in his ability to draw ire from both the left and right. On his radio show, a four-hour affair during morning drive-time, he is endlessly mindful of this ideological dichotomy. His knack for reminding listeners that he has spent his whole life in the city and raised his family in a largely black neighborhood, Mattapan, is seemingly pathological. Less frequent, but still persistent, is his glee in reminding the uninformed listener just how much he was loathed by progressives when he was the not-widely-disputed king of the Hill. "I was," he told listeners in February's debut, "the most conservative Democrat ever."

"Finneran's Forum" is a hyperkinetic blend of foreign policy, on which the former speaker of the House is just as good as the guy on the stool next to you, meaningless (unfortunately large swaths of the first show were dedicated to Anna Nicole Smith), and state policy -- particularly the budget, on which Finneran was a hawk and about which his knowledge is not approached by, say, other radio talk show hosts.

Whether Finneran can flower into a policy force once more in state politics, and whether he wants to, is uncertain. Certainly, a captive, grumpy audience is ripe for a captivating and acerbic leader to give voice to its budget-cutting passions, and certainly the man has a flair for leading captive, complaisant audiences (see House, Massachusetts, 1996-2004).

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Reflections

# Showing the World that Jesus Christ 'Easters In Us'

By Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The poet Robert Frost was wrong. In "The Masque of Reason," he places words in God's mouth, words indicating that He (God) has at times difficulty in finding the right words of phrases. Actually, we might include among God's titles "The Inspirer of Words and Phrases." And, truthfully, there are words and phrases that are not only catchy but also profound.

These thoughts came to mind as I was re-reading Gerard Manley Hopkins's poem entitled "The Wreck of the Deutschland," an attempt to memorialize the five Franciscan nuns who drowned at the mouth of the Thames River in the

winter of 1875. It is a difficult poem. But one phrase made an indelible impression on me: "Let him easter in us." Hopkins uses the word "easter" as a verb. And his insight demands reflection. Precisely what does it mean to have Christ "easter in us"--- "...because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you" (John 14, 19-20).

Realizing that there is a dimension of faith which must be seen ("seeing their faith"), I would begin by posting the fact that we must be a people who project joy. In another age (the Baroque period) there was a part of the liturgy celebrated at Easter called the "risus Paschalis"-- the Easter Laughter. It was designed to remind the people of the happiness that should be ours as we recognize that Christ is truly risen from the dead. The reasons, however, for this joy are multiple.

Above all, Christ has conquered death. And in a very real way, we are called to Life. In his play "Lazarus Laughed," Eugene O'Neil has Lazarus shouting:

*Laugh with me!  
Death is dead!  
Fear is no more!  
There is only life!*

We must also be joy-filled because Christ, bursting the ordinary categories of space and time, is now available to each of us at any time. We can approach Him in prayer. We can invite Him into our lives and be certain He will attach Himself to us. (Inviting the Lord into our lives is important. It is only after the disciples on the road to Emmaus extended hospitality to the Lord that he revealed himself to them).

We should never forget that the Risen Christ is the same Jesus of Nazareth who died on the Cross so that our sins may be forgiven. To realistically recognize the personal dimension of this truth is again a cause of true joy.

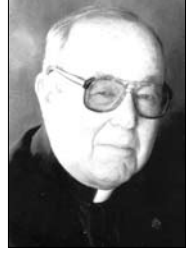
In Psalm 104, the author wrote of a God who gives us "bread to nourish the heart." Pursuing this insight in the light of the resurrection and the certainty of Christ's real presence in the eucharist, we realize that the mystical exchange at every Mass reminds us that we are ever-present in His heart and that he

is constantly praying for us individually before the Father's throne, as the Letter to the Hebrews notes. Because we are included personally in Christ's prayers, we must show our gratitude by realistically becoming a people who live joyfully the "good news."

But the above is not complete until we realize that by giving our hearts to Christ, we also share in the life-blood and pulse of His own heart. As we become more conscious of this truth, we are slowly transformed into individuals who are full of care and compassion. And moreover, we truly find joy and satisfaction in reaching out and helping others.

I would say that hope is interconnected with joy and thus would be a part of our showing forth to the world that Christ "easters in us." Our hope is not solely based on the fact of eternal life. We should pray for the grace to recognize that with the resurrection, Christ initiated a redemptive dynamic which will, despite seeming set-backs, lead to the establishment of His kingdom of justice, love, and peace in our world.

I remember once coming across the words of Martin Luther, which, as we approach Easter this year, seem so a propos: "Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in the springtime."



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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER'S HERE & THERE

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

**Open Skies Good News For Flyers** -- The 27-member European Union has voted unanimously for the Open Skies agreement between the EU and the United States. In its simplest terms it will mean more competition, cheaper flights, wider choice of airline and routes



**Bill O'Donnell**

for airline passengers, and a win-win situation for consumers traveling the north Atlantic route between the two continents.

For Ireland, the landmark agreement means that trans-Atlantic flights, which now carry nearly 50 million passengers yearly, could see a surge within five years to some 75 million passengers, many of them landing in or transiting Dublin or Shannon. The pact also allows Aer Lingus, which now flies into four American destinations, to expand its service up to 18 US cities. Aer Lingus is expected to immediately announce the addition of three new US routes -- to Washington, DC (Dulles), San Francisco, and Orlando. US-based airlines would also benefit from new increased access to Irish and European cities under the agreement.

The Shannon stopover, which mandates that half of US flights must land there, will be phased out by 2008. However, the Irish Minister of Labour Affairs said the approval of the Open Skies pact would help Shannon Airport "go from strength to strength," adding that "most US carriers recognize that there is business to the west of Ireland that they want a share of which they can only achieve by flying into Shannon." The change of status in 1994, which reduced mandated flights into Shannon from the US, has not devastated Shannon, as some predicted. The outlook, or at least the hope, of County Clare and Irish government officials following the pact's approval is that Shannon could serve as a potential hub, particularly to Eastern Europe.

Only time will tell how the Open Skies pact, the result of years of intense negotiations, will impact Ireland and the tourist business there. But when the pact is in full flight, those traveling between Ireland and the states will be entering a new era and the consumer's friend, competition, will be the name of the game.

**The Fudge Is Set In Concrete** -- The historic agreement by the big guy, **Ian Paisley**, and Sinn Fein's **Gerry Adams** to share power and restore local government on May 8 is a sweet victory for all the people of Ireland, but clearly leaving the DUP Leader Paisley to pick up most of the chips. Forcing the British to assent to the delay, despite their saying for weeks that the March deadline "can't be moved, won't be moved," allows Paisley to underline where the real political power resides, gives him additional time to hold up **Gordon Brown** and the British Exchequer for more cash and benefits, calms the serious threat by dissidents within his own party, and ultimately provides a stunning epitaph to a lengthy career that is drawing to a close. And all that without a handshake!

**Taoiseach Has His Say At White House** -- Prime Minister **Bertie Ahern**

had an important ally when it appeared that he was being shut out of a scheduled press conference at the White House during his March visit. The Irish Examiner reported that **President Bush** overruled his Secret Service detail which, because of a security alert, was trying to curtail Ahern's time with the Irish media. The president, who understands the crucial relationship between a politician and his home-town press, told the lead Secret Service agent to "make it happen." And happen it did.

**Surprise, Obama Is Irish** -- Timing is everything, they say, and U.S. Senator **Barack Obama** of Illinois marked St. Patrick's Day with an announcement by a genealogy service that the candidate has Irish roots, a great-great-great grandfather, **Falmouth Kearney**, likely from Mayo. The ancestor fled famine-ravaged Ireland and traveled to New York via Liverpool in 1850 and later settled in Ohio.

It is widely expected but not confirmed that Sen. Obama, like **Ronald Reagan** and other candidates before him, could make a "ancestral" visit to Ireland in the not too distant future.

The more relevant side to the Obama phenomenon is that within hours of the candidate's declaration of his candidacy for president, he issued a lengthy statement on Ireland. It is a strong and welcome statement and, like **Bill Clinton** in 1992, he clearly aims to be out there actively courting the Irish American vote. Obama stressed a continuing activist role in Ireland for the US, including the special envoy for Northern Ireland. On immigration, he advocated policies "that keep open the doors of opportunity in our own country." Displaying a comfortable grasp of Irish issues, Obama cited the strong economic ties going both ways between Ireland and the US, and praised Irish aid efforts from east Africa to east Asia "for working to lift up other lands." An impressive debut, it says here.

**An Internet Final Viewing** -- Word comes from the Unionist stronghold Newtownards in east Belfast that a long established undertaker, **Clarke & Sons**, has a business innovation that may be a worldwide first. The pioneering service brings the funeral via the internet directly to the home computers of those who cannot attend in person because of illness or distance, or whatever. The three-camera operation provides a professional, full-scale mourning "experience" that can be accessed from home and presumably takes care of problems like parking or nasty weather. Clarke first installed the technology in his nearby Bangor funeral home and its popularity convinced the 89-year old firm that it should try it in Belfast.

**Did You Know ...** that Dublin's cultural quarter, Temple Bar, on the south bank of the Liffey in centre city, has a history going back to 1673? Found in Temple Bar is Fishamble Street, the site of the first performance of **Handel's Messiah** in 1742. And the founding of the United Irishmen took place in 1791 on Eustace Street. Today, the popular quarter, a magnet for tourists, young people, and night life, is the location of numerous Irish cultural institutions such as the Irish Film Institute, the Gaiety School of Acting, the Irish Photography Centre, the Central Bank of Ireland, and the Irish Stock Exchange.

**Derry Airport & AI Team up On CIA Flights** -- Nothing has changed in recent weeks regarding the "extraordinary rendition" flights into Shannon by the CIA that I wrote about in last month's column. However, in the North, the publicly-owned City of Derry Airport is

working with Amnesty International to officially ban US flights into the airfield that carry terror suspects to interrogation centers in Europe and elsewhere. The ban, expected to be implemented within weeks, follows the European Commission report that charged permissive airports, including Shannon, with "turning a blind eye" to what it called "torture flights." The proposed Derry ban would be the first in Europe and Amnesty International hopes it will put pressure on other airports to consider banning such flights.

**O'Doherty Clan Records Suffer Loss** -- Fires by their very nature are tragic and the recent conflagration in Bunrana that consumed a large amount of **O'Doherty** clan records was particularly heartbreaking. Thousands of pages relating to the O'Dohertys (and related spellings) that constituted 40 years of work by retired professor **Pat O'Dougherty** were lost; early estimates suggest the destruction of as many as 400,000 records.

O'Dougherty is hopeful that many of the files are stored on computers that were in another section of the house that was undamaged. The mayor of Bunrana, himself a Doherty, stressed not only the sadness of the loss of clan files but also the historic loss to Bunrana and the Inishowen area.

The O'Doherty Centre was originally located in Inch House on Inch Island, 20 miles from Derry and a 15-minute drive from Bunrana. O'Dougherty sold the Inch Island property several years ago to **Tony Johnston**, a retired University of Ulster lecturer in Derry. A number of gatherings for O'Doherty clan members throughout the world have been held in recent years in Bunrana.

A hopeful epilogue to the devastating fire is that Professor O'Dougherty is planning to return to Inch House and establish the new base of the O'Doherty clan. Johnston, (an old friend of this writer) has invited O'Dougherty back to Inch and has set up an office and living quarters for him. And still to be determined is how much of the lost clan archives may be stored and safe on the O'Doherty Centre's computers. Stay tuned.

**Local Politics, Irish Style** -- Maybe we can characterize it as the "Unchained Melody" gone awry, but members of the Limerick County Council are hardly singing after a charity dinner at a local Lions Club. It seems that, following the usual custom, the Limerick Council chairman, wearing his chain of office, showed up at the Newcastle West Lions Club to attend an Alzheimer's fundraiser. The council had bought a table for \$1,200 to aid the cause. Early in the evening a prominent member of the Lions approached the council table and told the chairman that he couldn't wear his ceremonial chain of office. Council members at the table thought the man was joking, but finally, to avoid a scene, the chairman removed the chain. One of the Lions explained that the "only" chain of office that could be worn at the function was that worn by the president of the Newcastle West Lions. What's the old line about "no good deed..."

**Patrick, You're A Bad Boy** -- Amidst the ongoing travails of the wounded United States attorney general and the political re-shuffling of US attorneys, what name comes flashing up on the screen but U.S. Attorney for Illinois **Patrick J. Fitzgerald**. Fitzgerald, who was personally selected by former AG **John Ashcroft** to prosecute the recently concluded CIA leak case that resulted in **Scooter Libby's** perjury conviction, apparently can win big cases but not the

hearts and minds of the Department of Justice's "rating bureau." Fitzgerald, who won the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in 2002, has been called "probably the best prosecutor in the nation" and he is the man who drew up the federal indictment against Osama bin Laden. Yet, he was rated "not distinguished" -- the same rating received by two of the eight U.S. attorneys who were fired by the Justice Department at the likely behest of the Bush White House.

It's clear, at least to this observer, that **Attorney General Alberto Gonzales**, a frequent beneficiary of Bush elevations, has photographs!

**Slow restart On Immigration** -- There's not a huge amount happening early on the immigration front as the Democratic-led Congress has its hands full in trying to let some fresh air in after six long mushroom-like years when the Republicans heard no evil, saw no evil. In a recent development, the House came up with a new bill that calls for a pathway to citizenship for illegals. It's not a panacea, but **Ted Kennedy**, from the Senate side, is an early supporter. Sponsors of the House bill are Reps. **Luis Gutierrez**, Democrat of Illinois, and **Jeff Flake**, Republican of Arizona.

With regard to the McCain-Kennedy Senate bill, which didn't get much traction in the last session, there seems to be a lessening of passion by **John McCain** for his bi-partisan waltz with Teddy as he continues in hot pursuit of the Republican nomination for president. Maybe it's because he's busy on the hustings, or maybe he senses from the feedback of conservatives he has been wooing that his links with the liberal icon Kennedy, even on legislative matters, are not helping him with that constituency.

A sad note on the fallout on the immigration issue. The Anti-Defamation League and other rights groups cite a disappointing comeback by the Ku Klux Klan, which is exploiting the immigrant issue and the 12 million mostly Hispanic illegals in the US. One civil rights watchdog agency calls the increased Klan activity "a surprising and troubling resurgence."

**SHORT CUTS** -- Guinness Red is a new brew that eschews the traditional black. Trials are underway in selected British pubs and the brewery's Dublin headquarters awaits punters' reaction. ... **Ashford Castle** in Mayo, host to presidents and royalty, is accepting offers to purchase the elegant hotel. ... The North needs more hotels, tourist officials contend, citing the fact that there are more hotel rooms in Co. Donegal than in all the North. ... **Bishop Edward Daly**, famed for his heroics on Bloody Sunday, is celebrating 50 years as a priest. ... Golfers are appealing to Taoiseach Bertie Ahern not to schedule the national elections on May 17-20, the dates of the Irish Open. ... Troubling stat: the North has more than 32,000 people on house waiting lists; there are 38,000 vacant houses. ... If you live to be 100 in Ireland, that gets you a nice personal letter from **President Mary McAleese** and a check for \$3,300. ... End of an era: Irish post offices have stopped selling St. Patrick's Day cards. ... Ireland's famed Ardmore Film Studio, with losses in recent years, is battling to survive. ... For the second time in two months, **Ryanair** and **Aer Lingus** have raised baggage fees. ... Irish Peacekeepers in Lebanon were honored on St. Patrick's Day by the UN for their dedicated service. ... The justly celebrated **Crown Bar in Belfast** (across from the Hotel Europa) is to undergo a million-dollar restoration this summer.

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# BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett  
Exclusive photos of  
Boston Irish people & events

The Irish American Partnership held its traditional St. Patrick's luncheon March 16 at the Boston Harbor Hotel. Special guests included Ireland's Minister of Education, Mary Hanafin T.D., and British Parliament member David Hanson M.P., Minister of State for Northern Ireland.

Pictured are: 1. Ed Lonergan, breakfast chairman, with his guests; 2. Ed Forry, Arthur Donovan, Jim Brett, Dr. Larry Ronan, Dick Flavin, Dr. Walter O'Donnell; 3. Msgr. Tom McDonnell; 4. Minister Hanson; 5 Colleen Reilly, Bill Reilly, Michael Reilly, Dick Flavin, Andy Aloisi; 6. Ireland Consul General David Barry, Congressman Michael Capuano; 7. Phil Haughey Sr, Sue Ascii; 8. Kevin Leary, Minister Hanafin, State Senator Steve Tolman; 9. Minister David Hanson, John Cullinane; 10. Greg Timilty, Joe Timilty; 11. Partnership staff with Minister Hanafin: Brian Murray, LeeMarie Kennedy, Joe Leary.



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# City Council President Feeney Learned Early To Be Involved, Tough, Loyal, and a Risk-Taker

By GREG O'BRIEN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Boston City Council President Maureen Feeney — on a growing number of short lists of potential contenders to succeed Tom Menino one day as Boston mayor, and, if so, breaching two centuries of male dominion — will never forget her first brush with politics. She screamed!

When she was ten years old, her parents escorted her to James Michael Curley's public, open-casket wake at the State House Rotunda. "We filed passed the body three times!" Feeney says, from her fifth-floor City Hall office that overlooks Government Center. "I had no idea why."

Political allegiances die hard in Boston, and Feeney's parents, Joseph and Katherine (Kelly) Keaveny, were no exception. They were longtime Curley supporters, and Feeney's maternal grandfather, Robert Kelly, had been a close friend of Curley's and a loyal campaign volunteer. The elder Kelly, in fact, was buried with a personal note from Curley, thanking him for his years of service.

"Can I touch him?" Feeney recalls asking her mother, as she passed Curley's stiff corpse. No, her mother replied sternly. "You can't touch him!" On the third pass, the probing and persistent young Feeney reached out and poked at Curley. "I screamed," she says, noting that the shriek resonated throughout the hall. "His hand was freezing cold!"

The often-cold realities of politics and the gut instinct to engage when necessary have guided Feeney's political life. She became involved early on in Dorchester's spirited Cedar Grove Civic Association, established a meals program at the Long Island Shelter, organized annual blood drives and created coalitions to build new parks in her neighborhood. Then there was her dutiful staff work for former Boston City Councilor Jim Byrne, her election to the council in 1993, replacing the retiring Byrne in Dot's District 3, her landslide re-election margins, and, three months ago her ascension to the council presidency. In succeeding polarizing Councilor at Large Michael Flaherty, she became the first woman to lead the council since Louise Day Hicks in 1976. The January vote was seen as a "rise to power of the council's minority and those representing the city's most diverse neighborhoods," the Boston Globe reported.

Now 13 weeks later — after vetting a number of key public safety and education issues, after probing the future of guerrilla marketing in the aftermath of a disastrous Dr. Pepper promotion, and after digesting a critical 200-page report by The Boston Foundation that Boston is losing talent and businesses to other major cities who have far more flexibility to generate alternate sources of revenue that take pressure off residential and commercial property taxes — Feeney is ready to hit her stride with the gavel. That is, if she can stay on schedule.

She's running late again today, a brisk March morning when the bronze statue of Kevin White outside City Hall is as cold as Curley's hand. The delay is not of her doing. An earlier appointment was on "Irish time, shall we say." Says Feeney, who keeps a day planner that would choke a sturdy Irish Draught workhorse: "If I got up at 4 every morning, I'd still be behind schedule."



**The Feeney Team:** Larry, general counsel, State Department of Veteran Services; the president; Kaitlin, a sophomore at Boston College; and Matthew, assistant district attorney at Roxbury District Court.

The morning began over strong coffee with Sam Tyler, head of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, the methodical city government watchdog group celebrating its 75 anniversary this year. The two discussed the worrisome Boston Foundation report, which notes that almost 60 percent of Boston's revenue is gleaned from property taxes, compared with 25 percent in New York, 20 percent in Atlanta, and 10 percent in Denver. Next on the calendar is an animated contingent from Limerick — the mayor and 15 councilors, late on arrival after a night in Boston. This has thrown a tightly scripted schedule off kilter, and Feeney is in sprint mode. The group is seeking her views on Boston's prickly gang and drugs problems and public housing concerns. Feeney knows first-hand about such inner-city matters, particularly public housing issues. As a child and a young adult, she lived for 14 years in Dorchester's Franklin Field Housing Project with her parents and six brothers and sisters in units on Ames and Stratton Streets. The oldest of the siblings, she was beyond all doubts *primus inter pares*, particularly in her father's eyes.

"It was crazy growing up, but I mean that in a good way; it was one of the best times of my life," she says in a late morning interview. The Franklin Field Housing Project is a long way from City Hall, much further culturally than it is in miles. Feeney found her way with the directional help of archetypal street savvy, Dorchester political connections, and devoted parents who imbued her with toughness and compassion. She inherited the toughness from both her mother and father, and was blessed, she says, with her father's tender soul, one "that saw all the good that God has placed around us." A classic paradox, her father, tall and thin, was a pipe fitter in Local 537, a local featherweight boxing champion, and a self-taught artist, who drew impressive portraits with scraps of charcoal. Her mother instilled in Feeney

an abiding love of politics. Both parents are deceased.

To know Feeney, a second generation Irish American, is to know her parents; she is a composite of the two, and only seems comfortable talking about herself in terms of them.

Her mother Kate, a homemaker, was active in local civic and political causes and she passed down to her children (Robert and Kevin, pipe fitters like their dad; Thomas and Michael, both in computer-related professions; Katie, a nurse; and Teddy, who works in the state treasurer's office) an appreciation of Boston, its rich history, and the family's Irish roots. Feeney's paternal grandparents — Thomas and Elizabeth Keaveny — hailed from County Mayo. They married in Ireland, then came to Boston. Her maternal grandfather, Robert Kelly, was from County Kerry, and her maternal grandmother Mary (McCarthy), from County Cork. The couple met at the Hibernian Hall in Dudley Square, Roxbury.

"Mother was always rushing," Feeney says from a sofa chair in her office, surrounded by family photos and various political memorabilia. "That was her nature. When we were kids, she would wake us early on vacation mornings to take us on walking history lessons of the city. We did the Freedom Trail before it had been designated the Freedom Trail. I don't know how many times you can walk to Bunker Hill Monument or visit the USS Constitution or the Frog Pond, but we must have set a record for it. She always would tell us how lucky we were to be Irish Catholic, Democrats, and from Boston. That was something special. It was branded in us."

Feeney's mother would also tell her children stories about family ties to Mayor Curley, and how Curley would often send the Kelly family turkeys and food and fruit baskets in appreciation for their support. But there was a tough side to Kate Kelly Keaveny, who tossed compliments around like they were Jersey barriers — a reticence to encourage that shaped Feeney

in predictable ways.

"As a child, I had these skinny long arms and legs, and my mother always made me so self-conscious about it that I wore long-sleeve shirts in summer," Feeney recalls. "Whether it was clothes or something else, she would always say, 'That's not bad or that's fine.' She never said she liked anything."

To this day, the word "fine" is verboten in the Feeney house, a not-so-subtle decree to those she loves most — her husband, Larry, general counsel to the state Department of Veterans Services, and her two children, Kaitlin, a sophomore at Boston College, and Matthew, a 29-year-old assistant district attorney at Roxbury District Court. "My husband and my kids know never to use the 'f' word around me. They know to be more expressive."

In contrast, Feeney's father was munificent in his praise of his daughter. "My father saw something in me that I didn't see in myself," says Feeney. "He thought I was special and always demonstrated that to me. He never left the house without telling me that he loved me. It was reassuring, and has driven me to repeat the same to my family. So much of what I hold precious in life my father has given me. He molded me in so many ways, introducing me to the arts and music. He was my pal."

Beyond her father's gentle soul, what Feeney remembers most about him was his meticulous nature and his hands — "his large, rough hands," she says, glancing down at her own. "At night, he would take a wire brush to them, almost to the point of cutting his skin, just to make sure there was no grease or dirt on them at the end of a day's work. I always remember grabbing his hands. They were the hands of an artist — a pipe fitter and a boxer who loved to plant flowers."

At 48, Joseph Keaveny was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, formally known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and died shortly after his 50th

birthday. Feeney watched in horror as his body degenerated. "It was the saddest day of my life when he died," she says, pausing to regain composure. "I'm sorry; it's difficult to talk about this." Feeney stops to wipe her tears. "But from that day on, I've never been afraid of dying."

His death, she says, also gave her the confidence to live as her father had taught her, to follow through in life, to take the calculated risks. It hadn't always been that way. After attending grammar school in St. Matthew's parish and high school at Notre Dame Academy in Roxbury and then Hingham, Feeney attended Mass Bay Community College and UMass-Boston, leaving school before earning her degree. "I will tell you it was the biggest regret in my life," she says. "I wasn't mature enough to recognize the opportunity."

The irony is not lost on her friends and some critics — a city council president, possibly mayor someday, without a college degree. But there always seems to be an open door for Feeney. Maybe her parents have the key.

Before elective politics, Feeney was busy with the day-to-day of life. She labored in the insurance and banking business, got married, had children, then went to work for Byrne, who was impressed with Feeney's neighborhood work for the Cedar Grove Civic Association.

In 1993, when Byrne told his stunned faithful assistant that he wasn't seeking reelection, the door swung open again. "What are you crying for," he asked her. "I want bumper stickers made, and I want you up and running in ten days!" Her husband and children repeated the rallying call. In a notable first run, Feeney received more than 70 percent of the vote in the final election. Her constituents have not looked back since.

After 14 years on the council, Feeney is still looking ahead, but only to the next 24 hours. "I'm a person who lives the day. My life has been wonderful; opportunities have presented themselves that I could never have imagined. I'm blessed to have extraordinary family to support me at every turn. They have demonstrated a belief in me that I should keep moving and not settle."

So will she run in the future for mayor if her husband and children wave the checkered flag? "I think you always have to be open to life," she says, dodging the question, as she hands a visitor a recent photo of her with Kevin White next to his bronze sculpture outside City Hall. White has inscribed the photo, perhaps intuitively: "Congratulations! Best of luck in the future."

Pressed again on a mayoral run, Feeney replies, "Who knows? The Lord moves in strange ways." It's now time for her next appointment, an hour behind schedule. She finishes the interview with one last thought and a wry Irish grin: "There is one thing, however, that I covet. I'd like to be a grandmother some day!"

Greg O'Brien is a freelance writer and editor who contributes to various regional and national publications. His Boston Metro columns appear regularly in New York Metro and Philadelphia Metro, and he contributes to the Op-Ed pages of The Providence Journal.

## NOTES FROM THE IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTER



An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

59 Temple Place, Suite 1010, Boston, MA 02111

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

Website: [iicenter.org](http://iicenter.org) Email: [immigration@iicenter.org](mailto:immigration@iicenter.org)

**ILIR Day in D.C.** - Thank you to all BIR readers who contributed so magnificently to the campaign for comprehensive immigration reform by participating in or supporting the trip to Washington last month. And special thanks to the IIC volunteers who made the long journey and took our community's case to our lawmakers. This generation of Irish immigrants depends on our efforts. The ICE raid in New Bedford and the families still separated as a result of that operation provide stark evidence of how urgently our immigration system needs to be reformed.

**"Irish Helping Irish"** -- Anxiety - Depression - Loneliness - Stress -- See our Matters of Substance Q&A in this month's BIR. If you would find it helpful to chat about how you are feeling with a professional from home, we invite you to call us. Ask for Danielle (Ext. 14) or Aileen (Ext. 38).

**Legal Clinics in April** -- This is another busy month for our legal clinics around the neighborhoods. In April: Allston/Brighton - Monday the 9th at 7 p.m. in the Kells Bar and Restaurant, 161 Brighton

Ave, Allston. South Boston - 6:30 p.m. on the 25th at The South Boston Community Health Center, 409 West Broadway, South Boston. Downtown - Every Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. in our office at 59 Temple Place, Suite 1010. Get off at Park St. or Downtown Crossing Subway. Immigration Attorneys will be present at all clinics. IIC has been providing free immigration legal advice for 16 years.

**Irish Community Night Out** -- Thank you, Jimmy Tingle, for putting on the special night last month for the local Irish community -- Brendan Behan's "Confessions of an Irish Rebel." And thank you to all of the local Irish organizations who were represented. "It was a great night out," said Gobnait Conneely, the organizer of the evening. "We are delighted to be able to work with Jimmy in putting on these theater nights for local Irish groups. We hope that you enjoyed the last two and keep your eye on the BIR for the next one."

**New Citizenship Class** -- To help Irish immigrants become US Citizens before USCIS raises their fees this summer we start a new

and fun five-week citizenship class this month. Get help with your application and with the test by calling now to register. Call John Rattigan at 617-542-7654, Ext. 15. See related story this issue.

**An Irish Immigrant Speaks Up** -- "The Irish Immigration Center helped me get my green card and now are helping me with my US citizenship. You provide such an amazing service to the Irish community and always have." said one of the Irish clients at our Free Legal Clinics in the Kells last Monday. To preserve confidentiality we do not release the names of clients unless they beg us to...

Young Irish Arrive at IIC -- 21 young Irish and Northern Irish men and women arrived at IIC last month on our latest Wider Horizons Program. The group of young Unionists and Nationalists will be in Boston for six weeks undertaking internships in Customer Service positions and staying with local host families. Thank you for helping us find homes and jobs for these folks and if you would like to open your home or your workplace to our next

group please call Peggy at 617-542-1900, Ext. 14. You will enjoy the experience and leave an impact on the life of a young person.

**IIC in The News** -- Last month we were featured twice in the *Boston Herald*, the *Boston Phoenix*, the *Boston Metro*, the *Daily News Tribune*, the *MetroWest Daily News*, the *West Roxbury* and *Roslin-dale Transcript* and were interviewed on FM90.3 WZBC. Keeping the needs of the Irish community in the public debate and on the airwaves is a key part of our advocacy work. To help with our media campaign e-mail [tkeown@iicenter.org](mailto:tkeown@iicenter.org)

**Meetings of Substance** -- The IIC Substance Abuse Outreach Committee will meet Mon., April 9, at the center. Join us at 6:30 p.m. for coffee and chat and then for a 7 to 8:30 meeting. Anyone interested in supporting and promoting recovery within the Irish Community is warmly encouraged to come. Additionally, the Dorchester Substance Abuse Coalition meets each third Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Carney Hospital Cafeteria Conference/meeting room.

## IMMIGRATION Q & A

### Mother Comes to U.S., Gets Sick, Then Wants To Stay—What to Do?

**Q.** *I just became a US citizen after many years as a green card holder. Earlier this year, my elderly mother came to the US to visit our family for the birth of her great-granddaughter. She planned to stay for a month, but suffered a stroke shortly after arriving. Her health is improving, but she is afraid to return home to live on her own. She'd like to stay in the US and move in with my wife and me. Immigration gave her until April to stay in the US. What can we do to help her stay legally?*

**A.** First, congratulations on becoming a US citizen. One of the benefits of being a US citizen is that you can now sponsor your mother for a permanent residence (a "green card"). US citizens who are over 21 can petition for their parents to become lawful permanent residents. And, under immigration law, parents of US citizens over 21 are considered immediate relatives, so there would be no wait time other than processing time for your mother to receive her residence.

There are two main steps in the process of getting a relative permanent resident status: the petition by the US citizen family member and the application for residence by the foreign national relative. Because your mother is an immediate relative and is here in the US, you can file both parts -- the Form I-130 relative petition and Form I-485 residence application -- together to US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), along with all of the required supporting documentation. Current processing time in Boston for an application of this type is approximately 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 months.

As soon as she files the application, your mother may stay in the US with the consent of the government, even though her period of lawful stay will expire while the application is pending. (If she departs the US without prior permission from USCIS while the application is pending, however, the application will be considered abandoned.) Before beginning a process of this kind, it is a good idea to seek the advice of an attorney to ensure that the green card applicant has no ineligibility or inadmissibility issues (i.e., criminal history, past US immigration violations, etc.). If you would like assistance with the application, we at the IIC would be happy to help. Please contact us at the number below, or stop into one of our legal clinics.

If a reader is a US citizen over 21 and would like to sponsor his or her parent for a green card, but the parent is currently outside the US, the process for getting residence is different. The Form I-130 relative petition is filed to USCIS first. After approval, USCIS sends the case to the Department of State for further processing. The foreign relative then files for residence at his or her nearest US consulate. It is important to note that an intending immigrant, that is, someone who plans to come to the US, get residence, and stay, may not enter the US as a visitor. Visitors must have the intention to return home at the time of entry into the US. (Note that the mother in the question above did not intend to stay when she entered, but her situation changed while in the US.)

For a confidential consultation on this or any other issue, or for assistance with an immigration petition or application, you can call us at IIC (617-542-7654), or visit one of our many immigration legal clinics

*Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in specific cases. Areas of law are rapidly changing. US Citizenship and Immigration Services and the US Department of State regularly amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of an IIC immigration specialist or an immigration lawyer.*

## Matters Of Substance

### What's wrong with me? Am I depressed?

*I'm finding it much more difficult to get up in the morning and I'm not eating or sleeping well. It's hard to concentrate in work and I'm using more sick days than usual. I hardly see my friends anymore and usually just want to be left alone. I am finding it very difficult to tell anyone about how I am feeling because I don't think they understand, they would probably just tell me to snap out of it. I went to the doctor and he gave me tablets but they don't seem to be working at all. What's wrong with me?*

All of us have experienced times in our lives where we were feeling low, sad, lonely, or upset. Some people suffer from depression and, with medication and counseling, can sometimes feel better. For other people the depression they may be experiencing could be a symptom of a much larger problem that might need the help of a mental health professional. Depression is a complicated illness that we need help with. It doesn't always go away on its own.

If we are experiencing problems in any part of our lives it can sometimes be helpful to look at how much alcohol we are using. This may seem like a strange

thing to say. We all know that drinking alcohol can help us feel more relaxed and calm and seem to make difficulties disappear -- at least for a little while. So we might, when we are low, begin to use more alcohol, more often. But this could be making things worse.

When we drink more than usual, our sleep, appetite, concentration, and ability to get up for work are all affected. Drinking also stops any tablets we are given from working. Alcohol is a depressant. This means that it is hard to separate the depression from the alcohol or the alcohol from the depression. Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

For this lady, it would most likely be recommended that she either cut down or stop her use of alcohol to see if that helps alleviate any of the difficulties she is enduring. If she begins to feel better when she makes these changes, it might be more likely her problems are related to her use of alcohol.

Do you have similar questions about your own or another's depression or other emotional problems? Maybe you have some questions about your own alcohol or drug use. If you do, contact us here in the Substance Abuse Service in the IIC.

We can chat, in confidence, about these or other related issues, without fear of judgment or consequences (legal or otherwise). We invite anyone with questions about depression to attend our series of education groups and to call for information: Danielle at the Irish Immigration Center:

Phone: 617-542-7654, Ext. 14; Aileen, Ext. 38. Or e-mail to: [dbowles@iicenter.org](mailto:dbowles@iicenter.org). [awalsh@iicenter.org](mailto:awalsh@iicenter.org). Also available is the self-test, available on [adcare.com/hospital/selftest.html](http://adcare.com/hospital/selftest.html).

### Beat the Fees With Free IIC Citizenship Class

The Irish Immigration Center is helping local immigrants get in ahead of USCIS fee increases scheduled for later this year. The Center has created a free five-week citizenship course starting on April 10. And it promises to be fun, too. Beginning on the 10th, classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8.30 p.m. and will cover everything you need to know including: Preparation for your interview and test; valuable test-prep materials; lessons about U.S. history and government; tours of historic sites in Boston.

The IIC started its Citizenship Program more than 10 years ago and has helped

countless Irish immigrants navigate the paperwork and prepare for the test.

"If someone has lived in the U.S. for five years or more, we encourage them to complete their journey and apply for citizenship," said John Rattigan, IIC Citizenship services coordinator. "If you want to become a citizen and just haven't got around it to, it we would urge you to attend these classes and get your application in before the fees go up. There is no advantage to waiting."

Call the IIC at 617-542-7654 for more details or drop in to register. Spaces are limited.

**IMMIGRATION LAW**

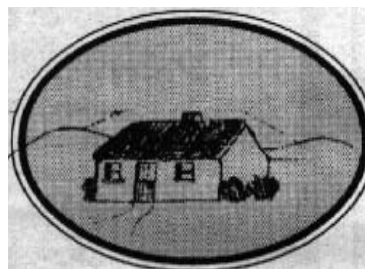
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## CHARITABLE IRISH SOCIETY

## 270th Charitable Irish Society Dinner Hears About Trial of Daley, Halligan

Boston's Charitable Irish Society hosted its 270th St. Patrick's Day dinner last month, continuing a tradition older than the nation's first St. Patrick's Day parade. This year's featured speaker, Judge W. Michael Ryan of Northampton, spoke directly to the society's legacy -- help the Irish, and those of Irish descent, who are in dire straits -- by recounting the tragic tale of Dominic Daley and James Halligan, two Irishmen who were falsely accused of murder in Northampton in 1806. Tried in outrageous fashion by a crowd that wanted only blood, the men were hanged for a crime they did not commit.

"As the oldest Irish organization in the Americas, the Charitable Irish Society has a long history of helping those in great need," said newly elected Society President C. Cantwell Dumbaugh. "In reflecting on our history, we sometimes lose sight of the people helped. Judge Ryan's presentation of the Daley and Halligan tragedy, and the Charitable Irish Society's role in helping their families, renews our commitment to service. Just as we were there in 1806, we are still here today -- helping resident Irish and people of Irish descent."

## IRISH PASTORAL CENTRE

## Much Ado! Mass, Coffee and Lobbying

Happy Easter to one and all. Easter was always my favorite time of the year back home and so it has remained since I came to the United States. My daffodils are making valiant efforts to peek through intermittent layers of ice and snow. It is a bit like a surge-and-treat mentality. Our senior program activities have that kind of a pattern, too, with big attendances on the clear days and more intimate gatherings on the blustery ones. With spring now well and truly upon us we have a very full calendar of activities planned for our actively retired community members and we look forward to seeing many new faces out and about in the next four weeks.

-- Cora Flood

Sun., the 1st -- First Sunday Mass and Traditional Irish Breakfast at the Irish Cultural Centre, Canton. Minibus transportation is available. Call ahead to book your spot (617-479-7404).

Thurs., the 5th -- The IPC launches its Senior Citizen Outreach Program with a special visit from Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Ireland, Seamus Brennan, TD.

Tues., the 24th -- From noon to 3 p.m. we make a return lunchtime visit to the Irish Cultural Centre for Mass with Father John followed by delicious homemade lunch, with music/entertainment to follow. Our minibus is available to pick up passengers.

Wednesday Coffee Mornings -- A new feature is a knitting/crochet circle. Coffee Mornings run from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. every week at the IPC, 953 Hancock St., Quincy. All are welcome to pop by, grab a cuppa, some fresh bread, and the local papers from home.

In other activities:

Irish Apostolate USA lobbies Congress -- Father McCarthy represented the IPC on March 6 as he met with colleagues from Apostolate Centers across the country, including Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco, and New York for a briefing and strategy meeting on ongoing immigration reform efforts. All were in town to participate in the March 7th Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform (ILIR) rally. Members of the Irish government were once again present for the event. Meetings were held with Congressional offices and we continue to be hopeful that reform will be passed.

A Push for an Increase in H1B visas -- At the moment only 65,000 H1B visas, which come on stream on Oct. 1, are available each year. They go so quickly each year that most attorneys file six months ahead of time, on April 1, to ensure their clients have a chance of getting one. Meantime US businesses continue to lobby Congress for more of these visas. Check out the ILIR site at [irishlobbyusa.org](http://irishlobbyusa.org) to see how you can support the campaign.

Immigration Legal Clinic -- Our next legal clinic will be in the Half Door on April 3 at 6:30 p.m.

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form on page 22.

## ICCNE NOTEBOOK



Scenes from Irish Connections Festivals past.

## Connections Festival Is Moving to August

First of all, thanks to all of the Irish Cultural Centre members and friends who joined us at the Centre in March for St. Patrick's Day activities. Special thanks to the students across New England who participated in this year's Student Fair, and to the many volunteers who ran events during the St. Patrick's Day season.

In the current issue of ICCNE's Signpost Newsletter, President Michael O'Connor announced that the Irish Connections Festival is moving from June to August this year. "Over the past two years particularly, the weather has had a decidedly negative impact and has created many financial challenges as a result," O'Connor wrote. "The rising cost of musical talent, changes in visa allocations for visiting musicians from Ireland, and various other factors led to a careful re-assessment of the event by the Board."

The festival will take place over the weekend of Aug. 10-12. You can get a full explanation of the Irish Connections Festival's move to August in the current issue of Signpost.

Tin Whistle Classes -- Spring Adult Education classes are underway, with the Tin Whistle classes due to begin this month with instructor Andrea Mori. Classes take

place on Wednesdays in the following categories: Adult Beginners (some experience) 5-6 p.m.; Adult Beginners (no experience) 6-7 p.m.; Advanced beginners, 7-8 p.m., and Intermediate (musicians looking for new tunes and techniques), 8-9 p.m. These ten-week courses run from Wed., April 4, to May 23.

The cost is \$140 for ICCNE members and \$160 for non-members. For more information and to register please contact Andrea at 781-340-1080 or at [tinwhistle@irishculture.org](mailto:tinwhistle@irishculture.org).

Irish Fashion Show in April -- The Ladies of the Irish Cultural Centre will present the Spring Fashion Show and Afternoon Tea on Sun., April 29, at 2 p.m. Fashion is by Appleseed's of Westwood. For tickets contact Emer Mezzetti at 617-969-1992 or Mary Reen at 781-413-5354. Wear your spring hat to the event, please!

Weekly Sessions -- The Friday night session with Aidan Maher on fiddle and the Saturday night session with singer/guitarist Sean Kane continue to be popular occasions for our members to congregate each week. The music goes from 8-11 p.m. and is free to the public.

For more information on the Irish Cultural Centre, please visit [IrishCulture.org](http://IrishCulture.org) or call 781-821-8291.

## U2's The Edge Donates Guitar to Auction to Replace Musical Instruments Lost in Katrina

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES -- The Edge is donating his favorite instrument to an auction benefiting Music Rising, a charity the U2 guitarist co-founded to replace musical equipment lost or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

He has logged thousands of hours of stage and studio time on the 1975 Gibson Les Paul and has used the guitar throughout his years with U2.

"I wanted to give something really significant that would really mean a lot for me to give. It deserved something that I would miss," The Edge, whose real name is David Evans, told The Associated Press by phone from France.

The Icons of Music auction, administered by Julien's Auctions, features 196 rock-related items, including a saxophone signed by former President Bill Clinton, a guitar that belonged to Jimi Hendrix, and an original Elvis Presley recording contract.

An exhibit of auction highlights will travel from Los Angeles to Dublin and London before the sale ends April 21 with an event at Manhattan's Hard Rock Cafe. Fans may bid online or in person.

The Edge's guitar was expected to fetch between \$60,000 (euro 45,000) to \$80,000 (euro 60,000), according to the auction Web site.

Bandmates Adam Clayton donated a bass guitar, Larry Mullen gave a pair of tom-tom drums, and Bono

donated a pair of Emporio Armani sunglasses.

"It's some great poetry to ask the people like myself, who've earned a good living from rock 'n' roll, to donate items to an auction that would help protect and stave off the decline of the music culture in the Gulf Coast," he said.

The Edge created Music Rising in 2005 with record producer Bob Ezrin and Gibson chairman Henry Juszkiewicz.

"One of the good things about globalization is it has created a single international music community, and I feel very much part of it," he said. "So this doesn't seem like it's someone else's problem. It's really our problem, too."

The Edge, who is 45, first discovered the New Orleans area's rich musical culture as a young member of U2. He was intoxicated by the city's jazz funerals, where scores of musicians parade down the street in colorful costumes covered with flowers and feathers.

"Jazz came out of New Orleans, and that was the forerunner of everything," he said. "You mix jazz with European rhythms, and that's rock 'n' roll really. You can make the argument that it all started on the streets of New Orleans with the jazz funerals."

**11C**  
Irish Immigration Center  
59 Temple Place, Room 1010, Boston MA 02111  
(Downtown Crossing or Park St on the T)  
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**Downtown 'Drop-In' Center:**  
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at our downtown office, 59 Temple Place, Room 1010

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**Community Legal Clinics:**  
Brighton • Dorchester • South Boston  
Check [www.iiicenter.org](http://www.iiicenter.org) or call 617-542-7654 for dates, times, & details.

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{ Attorneys will be present during drop-in hours and at all legal clinics.  
For appointments at other times, please call Caitlin on 617-542-7654 x12. }

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## BIR History

# A Different Sort Of Opening Day

## *Fenway Never Looked Greener Than on the Day in June 1919 When "Dev" Stepped onto the Field*

By PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

April means opening day for the Red Sox at Fenway Park, but in 1919, for hordes of the Boston Irish, the real opening day came some two months later, on June 29, as cheers erupted from 40,000-70,000 throats. They did not roar the name usually bursting from Fenway crowds – that of star left-handed pitcher and slugger Babe Ruth; instead, they shouted for a thin, bespectacled man who strode onto the diamond. The name on everyone's lips was "de Valera." The famed Irish rebel had come to plead his homeland's cause to the Irish of Boston.

Eamon de Valera, then 36, had stowed away to America to elude arrest by the British. A living symbol of the brutal Easter Rising of 1916, he brought his cause to such Irish American bastions as New York City and raised money to arm and support Michael Collins and the other rebels at home.

On June 26, 1919, when de Valera returned to his Waldorf-Astoria Hotel room in New York, which had been paid for by American supporters of Irish freedom, he was handed a telegram at the lobby desk. The letter, from Boston Mayor Andrew J. Peters, read: "On behalf of the citizens of Boston, I have the privilege of extending to you the greetings of a city whose citizens have such sympathy with the cause for which you are working. It will be a great pleasure to have you with us."

"Dev" had agreed to speak in Boston, and local politicians used their clout to reserve Fenway Park for the occasion.

On June 29, dozens of marching bands filed into

the 12-year-old ballpark, the Stars and Stripes and the orange, white, and green banner of the fledgling "Irish Republic" nodding above their heads in the warm summer air. A throng of Boston Irish men and women clotted the turnstiles and pushed their way to the stands. With room for only 33,000 or so in the seats, thousands streamed onto the field. Some sources estimated the crowd as high as 70,000. The façade of the ballpark, commented a local wag, had never looked so green as when Boston came to hear Dev.

Suddenly, all eyes turned to a hand and to a knot of dignitaries flanked by a phalanx of policemen who were clearing a narrow path through the crowd. Cheers rumbled from the stands and across the diamond as the people recognized Dev. As the group inched toward the podium at home plate, heads were bared as Old Glory passed and remained so until the Irish tri-color had gone on. The band blared patriotic tunes both American and Irish.

Reverend Philip J. O'Donnell, the rector of St. James Church, climbed onto the platform and stood behind the podium, which had several large megaphones attached. He signaled for quiet, and when he had some semblance of it from the boisterous crowd, he leaned toward the megaphone and, in his famous pulpit tones, offered de Valera "the best wishes and greeting of Cardinal O'Connell," who was unable to attend. Then, as the people bowed their heads, O'Donnell offered a prayer for Ireland.

The next order of business was the reading of a letter from Calvin Coolidge, the governor of



Eamon de Valera doffs his hat at South Station in 1919. Source: Library of Congress; BPL)

Massachusetts. "Silent Cal," out of the city to receive medical treatment, had written that America must support the concept "that all men should be free." With laconic understatement, Coolidge had surmised that "Mr. de Valera would find especially strong in Massachusetts the desire for freedom of his land." One look at the Fenway crowd attested to the truth of the governor's words.

Following Coolidge's message, Mayor Peters took the podium, turned to de Valera, and expressed "confidence that you will guide to a successful solution the difficult problem

of the Irish people."

Then, the moment Boston's Irish had awaited: Dev replaced the mayor at the podium, and a groundswell of cheers shook the field and the stands. Several times, this hero of the Rising -- one of the lucky ones, like Collins, to have escaped a British firing squad -- raised his hands for quiet. Finally, the din ebbed just enough for him to speak.

His voice did not carry well, and the crowd strained to hear him. His message, however, proved powerful as he blasted the League of Nations for its failure to uphold Ireland's "equality of rights among

nations, small no less than great."

Though his glasses and sober suit hinted at the mathematics professor he once been, de Valera's speech left little doubt as to the rebel he had become. "The men who established your republic sought the aid of France," he said. "I seek the aid of America." Once again an ovation burst across the ball park.

As he continued his address, the crowd on the field surged over closer to the podium and its platform and "carried press tables and all police arrangements with them." The platform trembled

"under the crush of the thousands" and "appeared at times in danger of collapse." Several women fainted in the mob.

De Valera went on: "We in Ireland clearly recognize that if the wrong turning be now taken, if violence be reestablished" by the British forces, Americans must bear much of the blame for failure to oversee a true League of Nations.

A reporter on the scene would write that de Valera's voice, "with a bit of a brogue, notwithstanding his birth in the country [the U.S.A.]," reminded the Boston Irish that they must never turn their hearts and minds from Ireland and allow it to sink back into "sullen despair." Another "rousing ovation" cascaded from the stands and the field as he stepped away from the podium.

When U.S. Senator David Walsh of Massachusetts addressed the crowd, he "asked Mr. de Valera to take back to Dublin the message that the Irish could 'depend upon it that Boston and the United States will never place an obstacle in the way of Irish independence.'"

Walsh whipped up the crowd's emotions to a near-frenzy when he shouted that "if England refuses [to free Ireland] and allows the mailed fist, Irish manhood under the leadership of de Valera will fight."

De Valera, Walsh cried, is "The Lincoln of Ireland" and "would take the shackles off Irishmen."

In the cradle of their new country's independence, Boston's Irish had heard the gaunt rebel rekindle their native land's struggle for freedom. Few in the throng at Fenway would forget the day de Valera came to town – and they would support his cause with their dollars and their hearts.

## GOAL Reaps Quarter Million Plus at Boston Fundraiser Last Month

The GOAL USA Boston Ball, held March 2 at the Seaport Hotel, raised over a quarter of a million dollars for the poorest of the poor in the developing world, organizers reported afterwards.

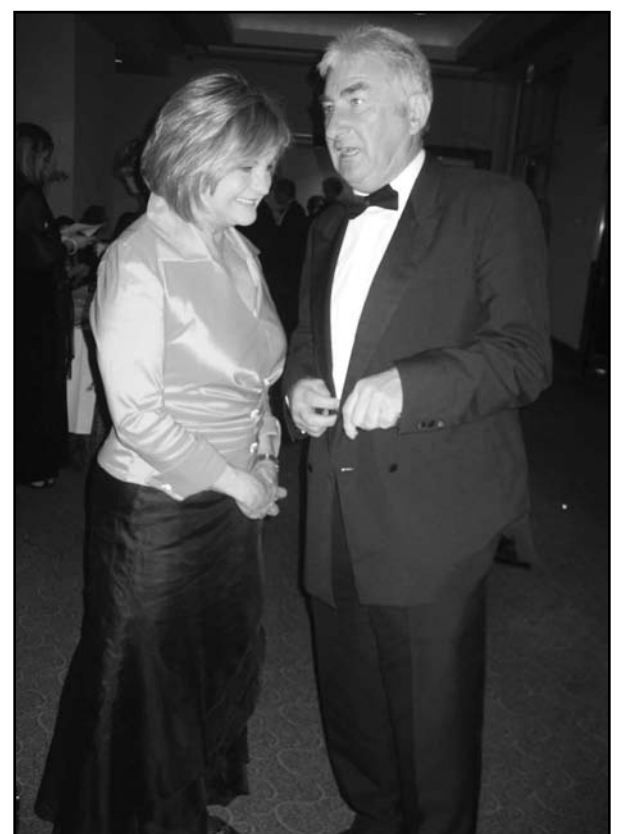
The black-tie event, held in Boston for the first time, was emceed by Mary Richardson, host of the award-winning nightly WCVB-TV program Chronicle, and featured GOAL founder and CEO John O'Shea as keynote speaker.

The funds raised will go towards GOAL's humanitarian work in Africa, Asia, and Central America, where the organization is currently operating in 13 countries.

Speaking after the event, O'Shea was enthused. "The Inaugural Boston GOAL Ball was an unqualified success. 400 guests attended and everyone had a memorable evening. Obviously we are delighted that such a huge amount of money was raised and we hope that this will become a popular annual event since it's clear that the people of Boston have a strong desire to show their support to the developing world."



Mary Richardson and Sr. Lena Deevy.



John O'Shea and Mary Richardson share some words.

# Jordan, Crotty Team Up Family Style to Make Art of Their Creative Visions

BY SUSAN GEDUTIS  
LINDSAY

## SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

It all started at the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day parade, 1979. That's the day Savin Hill resident Kieran Jordan, then just five years old, discovered Irish dance, and she's been dancing ever since.

Today, she has established herself internationally as a professional Irish dancer and choreographer in a niche that most would consider unlikely - most, that is, except her husband, Vincent Crotty, an Irish native who chose an equally challenging but viable career as a visual artist. They are remarkably humble about their talents, but don't be fooled. Together, these Dorchester-based artists make a formidable team whose strength lies in their natural talent and their unflinching dedication to their creative visions.

Needless to say, St. Patrick's Day season was a busy time for this couple.

Kieran performed three times on the 17th, at some of the most high-profile events in Boston. In the morning she was at the JFK Library in Dorchester, where she presented a free public performance with the Kieran Jordan Dancers and a new music and dance collaboration called Triptych, a trio that includes Laura Risk on fiddle, Paddy League on guitar, and Jordan's own feet as percussion. After that concert, she and Triptych headed off to Boston's Back Bay for matinee and evening performances of the St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn with Brian O'Donovan, who hosts a popular weekly Celtic music radio program on WGBH. They performed alongside Irish singer Sean Keane and guitar dynamo Tony McManus, as well as Beoga, a new, energetic traditional band from Northern Ireland.

Meanwhile, her husband was featured at two simultaneous art openings on March 16 (most artists are fortunate to get

just one). In Andover, his work is part of a group art exhibition of Irish landscape paintings titled, "A Shade Apart," at the Lorica Artworks, 90 Main Street. South of Boston, his work was shown in Hingham at the opening reception of "The Dark Light Show," in conjunction with the Hingham Symphony Orchestra and the North River Arts Association.

Crotty, 41, immigrated to Dorchester in 1990, from the small Cork town of Kanturk. Since then, he has continued his studies avidly, not in a school or university, but rather over long hours at the easel, painting figures and landscapes from life and in the studio. Given his immense talent and quiet focus, his career has grown steadily -- so much so that he is able to make his entire living as a professional artist. In addition to painting, he has recently expanded into teaching workshops and classes from his studio in Rockland. His work spans a wide range, from the back streets of his hometown in Ireland to the back porches of his Dorchester three-decker neighborhood. He is currently working on a series of paintings of rural people in Ireland, as well as a series of portraits of the parishioners at Dorchester's St. Mark's parish. This summer, he'll be teaching an urban landscape painting course at the Fort Point Studio School and serving on the faculty at the 2007 Catskills Irish Arts Week in upstate New York. (See related story in this issue.)

Crotty attends most of Jordan's performances and even occasionally joins her for a spin around the floor at a traditional ceili dance. That's just one reflection of the mutual support that makes it possible for the couple to remain self-employed creative artists in one of the most expensive cities in the US.

"The dancing, the choreography, and the painting is creative work -- but crafting the career is the creative act, too," Jordan said. "We don't have work colleagues to go to meetings with and have strategic planning sessions with, so we do that for each other, even though our actual fields are pretty



Vincent Crotty adding the final touches to a painting.

separate.

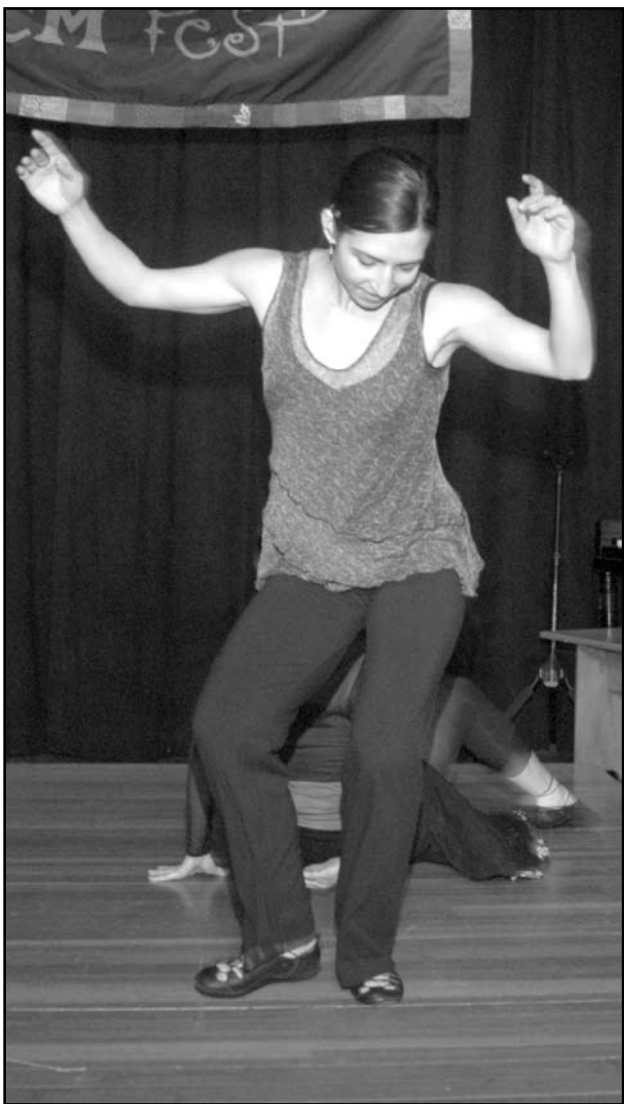
"If he's having an art show that he's producing himself, I'm very much involved in helping with the planning, advertising, getting a venue, and publicizing it. And if I'm working on a big project, he's cooking dinner for my dancers -- we're being the

staff assistant that the other person needs."

While most of their collaboration has been behind the scenes, they've talked about doing creative projects together. Perhaps Crotty will do set design for a theatrical dance project or perform music for her dancing.

"It hasn't happened yet, but I feel very much that it'll come," Jordan said. "Teamwork is critical to running this life as two artists."

(To see Vincent Crotty's work, visit his web site at [vincentcrotty.com](http://vincentcrotty.com). Kieran also has a web site, [kieranjordan.com](http://kieranjordan.com).)



Kieran Jordan strutting her stuff.

## Crotty to Teach at Irish Arts Week in the Catskills

Held in the unique Irish-American enclave of East Durham, N.Y., the Catskills Irish Arts Week -- July 15-July 21 -- offers excellent arts tuition in traditional Irish music, dance, and many other arts, including painting, Celtic jewelry making, stone carving, Celtic lettering and engraving, and more. Spend days painting landscape and figure paintings, and nights listening or dancing to Irish music from the best traditional musicians from Ireland and the US.

Vincent Crotty's workshop will guide novice as well as experienced artists

through the process of painting from life, which requires skill, efficiency, and even adrenaline to create a spontaneous "here-and-now" look on canvas. This course will strengthen students' understanding of design, color, and especially light, as they pertain to painting from life.

This course is best suited to adult and teen-age students, who must provide their own materials. More information is at [east-durham.org/iris-hartsweek](http://east-durham.org/iris-hartsweek).

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An evening of Irish music and dance was staged at Milton High School on March 10 to benefit the Jimmy Fund and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Pictured are (clockwise from upper left): Pauline Wells, with members of the Boston Police Gaelic Column pipe band; Richard Danforth and Kevin Doherty are joined by a young bodhran player; and musicians Gerry Murphy, Kevin Doherty, Aidan Maher, and Declan Houton.



A group of master chefs from Ireland spent a week in Boston for this year's St. Patrick celebrations. Pictured at opening day events at the Massachusetts State House March 12 are (clockwise from above left): Irish chefs Mark Donohue, Adare Manor and Ed Cooney, Merrion Hotel, Liam Scollan and Olivia Martin, Ireland West Airport at Knock, and chefs Patrick McLarnon, Brooks Hotel and Noel McMeel, Castle Leslie; Liam Scollan addressing the audience; and fiddler Seamus Connolly and Senator Jack Hart, with young Irish step-dancers. (Photos courtesy BITA.)

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The County Donegal Association of Greater Boston hosted its annual St. Patrick's event at Florian Hall, Dorchester on March 3. Pictured at right is Margaret Dalton, who with her band Erin's Melody provided the musical entertainment; and at left young men and women dancers from the Harney School of Irish Dance, who performed to the delight of the association members. The local Donegal group plans to observe its 100th anniversary in Boston next year.



The Irish Chamber of Commerce in the USA (ICCUSA) held its traditional St. Pat's luncheon March 18 at Doyle's in Jamaica Plain. Pictured are (clockwise, from left): British Parliament member David Hanson, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, with ICCUSA chairman Jim O'Brien; Ireland Consul David Barry and British Consul John Rankin; and Ireland's Minister of Education Mary Hanafin, T.D.



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If you missed it in Boston, see it in Providence, just 45 minutes away.

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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

**BOSTON IRISH ARTS,  
ENTERTAINMENT,  
TRAVEL & MORE**



Stage Door Canteen burning it up on stage at the Ramor Theater in Virginia, County Cavan. BIR music writer Susan Lindsay is pictured front left on the baritone—i.e., very big—saxophone.

## New McAuley CD Explores Tradition and its Outer Reaches

By **SUSAN GEDUTIS LINDSAY**  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

En route to a double header gig with Danú and Teada in New York, Danú fiddler Oisín McAuley spoke with the *Boston Irish Reporter* via cell phone about Irish traditional music, his new life in Boston, and his new recording, "Far From the Hills of Donegal."

Among Irish traditional musicians, few actions will raise more ire than using "pure" and "tradition" in the same sentence. In fact, if you were running for president of that very volatile and loosely organized state of musicians, you'd be best advised not to use those words at all. What is the tradition, what's the best way to maintain it, who's holding the torch and who's extinguishing it—and does it matter? These are risky questions to ask. McAuley's new recording answers them all in a most articulate way: musically.

Released in January on Compass Records, McAuley's recording is a fine example of the wide range of music that the Irish tradition encompasses. Among Irish traditional tunes creatively interpreted, his tracks also include music from Quebec and Brittany alongside new and old Irish jigs and reels, as well as vaudeville-era banjo and fiddle tunes. He also includes a couple of melodies that he embellishes with a good dollop of improvisation inspired by jazz heroes such as Stefan Grapelli and Charlie Parker. The straight "trad" selections demonstrate that he is a Donegal traditional fiddler of the finest order, but then he ventures unafraid to the borders of the tradition—following well-worn tracks that he maintains were first traversed decades ago by the heroes of Irish fiddling—including the hallowed Michael Coleman, Sean Maguire, and John Doherty. So what would he say if someone said that such ventures were watering down the tradition?

"I probably wouldn't accept that, because the 'tradition' itself is only a concept that's developed over the last 25 or 30 years," he said. "Any musician that you analyze from Michael Coleman to John Doherty—they didn't choose to just play a particular type of tune; they played what was there at the time around them. They reflected their surroundings, and that for me is what tradition is. I don't get too hung up on whether I'm playing John Doherty tunes from down the road or Bernard Simard from Canada. That's not the important part for me. The important part for me is playing music that reflects your surroundings and where you've come as a person. I don't think anyone could dispute that I can play traditional music from my surroundings as well



Oisín McAuley: explorer with a fiddle.

**Ceol Agus Craic / Susan Gedutis Lindsay**

## Cape Cod Jazz Band Brings Swing to Dublin

In February, fourteen Cape Codders, yours truly among them, checked their instrument cases at the Aer Lingus counter and settled into their seats. Under the name of Stage Door Canteen, we were traveling as a band on a mini-tour to perform in Dublin and Cavan where we hoped to reignite the love affair that Irish listeners once had with the big band music of America. Of course, that love affair has lain dormant since World War II. Would it be the same 60 years later? From my position on stage as the baritone sax player, I will say this: I'm not sure. But, we had a heck of time performing and the audiences loved it!

The question that burned in most people's minds was this: Why in the world would we travel all the way to Ireland to deliver the sounds of Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra, and even the Com-

mitments? It's a testament to the band's leader, Roger Gamache, that 14 struggling musicians were willing to pay their own ways for the simple fun of playing in Ireland. Except for Roger and me, no one in the band has any apparent interest in Irish music. I suppose it's not too far of a stretch, though, given that our home base is Liam Maguire's Irish Pub and Restaurant in Falmouth. Liam's is a well-run establishment known for hosting great Irish music, and Liam himself is a formidable but highly likeable former touring pub singer from Tyrone who still performs almost nightly. The food is always good and the music ideal for a great singalong.

So, good on ya, Roger. Of course, Roger's not exactly new at this. A graduate of Berklee College of Music back in the 1970s, when that part of Mass. Ave. was frequented as much by prostitutes and drug deal-

ers as it was by aspiring musicians, Roger today balances a maniacally busy music career with a day job at the Woods Hole Post Office. His musical activities includes his role as bandleader, lead alto sax player, and founder of Stage Door Canteen, as well as four years with the Navy Band, and sixteen years with the US 215th Army Band. His wife, Peig Donoghue, runs Kincora Productions, a Celtic music booking agency on Cape Cod. In 1998, Roger and Peig founded the Brian Boru Pipe Band, which performs Irish tunes in bright green kilts and oh-so-Clancy Aran Sweaters. In 2000, they brought the pipe band to Ireland to compete in the All-Ireland pipe band competition. That was the first time they'd been there, and they've been going back ever year since. In fact, they got married there in 2003.

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued on page 19)

## MUSIC PICKS

**Sunday, April 1, 4 and 8 p.m.** -- Lunasa, \$20. Blackstone River Theatre, 549 Broad St., Cumberland, RI. (401-725-9272), [riverfolk.org](http://riverfolk.org).

Lúnasa gathers top musical talents of Ireland: bassist Trevor Hutchinson was a key member of The Waterboys. Fiddler Sean Smyth is an All-Ireland champion who has played with Donal Lunny's Coolfin. Kevin Crawford, one of the finest flute players in the world, played with the acclaimed traditional group Moving Cloud and piper Cillian Vallely comes from the same talented musical family as brother Niall Vallely of Buille and

the Karan Casey Band. Newest member Paul Meehan on guitar and banjo has performed for years as a member of the Karan Casey Band.

**Thursday, April 4, 8 p.m.** -- Maeve Donnelly with Tony McManus, \$12. Blackstone River Theatre, 549 Broad St., Cumberland, RI. 401-725-9272, [riverfolk.org](http://riverfolk.org).

Irish fiddler Maeve Donnelly is an All-Ireland Fiddle champion widely recognized as one of the top female performers of her generation, having played as a leading member of groups such as Moving Cloud. In little  
(Continued on page 20)



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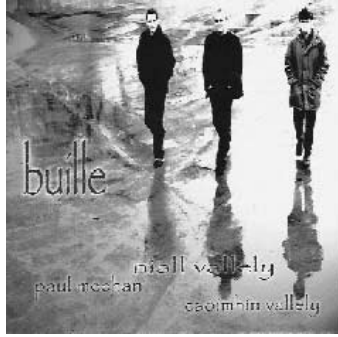
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## BIR Music

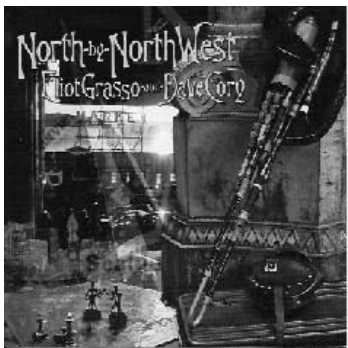
## CD ROUNDUP

Niall Vallely, Paul Meehan, Caoimhin Vallely • *Buille*

Every now and then an Irish recording comes along where the musician makes an attempt at improvisation. To someone used to the sophisticated precedent set by the jazz world, these attempts often sound clumsy, or at least musically “amateur.” But ahoy, there, mate—not these folks. There is definitely a traditional bent to this recording, but plenty of blues and jazzy influence sneak in, for a new fresh sound. The group features two musicians from that very music family of the North, Niall Vallely, best known for his concertina work from Nomos and Karan Casey, and his brother Caoimhin on piano, as well as Paul Meehan, who also performs with Lunasa and used to play with Karan Casey, on guitar. Brian Morrissey joins them on bodhran. It’s impressive work between the piano and guitar, which bands typically would not pair because they can get in each other’s way—but this is not the case with sensitive and aware musicians. Here, one plays percussive, bassy, or complementary parts while the other is playing chords, and the match, though a little unfamiliar, works well. Most of the tunes were written by Niall, whose concertina playing is nimble and at times downright powerful. He plays with traditional ornamentation and technique that anchor the band in the traditional world... but the anchor chain is very long, the boat is a league away, and the lads are playing away happily on deck not too concerned about what’s going on below. (Compass Records)



## North-by-Northwest • Eliot Grasso and Dave Cory

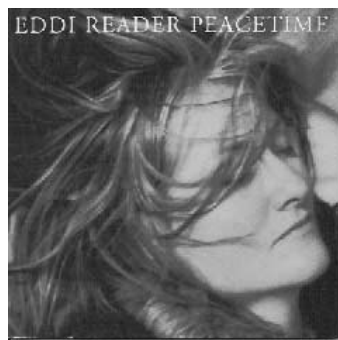


A few years ago, Dave Cory’s banjo sound was familiar in the Boston music scene—but he moved back to the Northwest, where he obviously has rejoined the traditional scene there with great success. Here, in duet with Eliot Grasso, the tunes just roll out naturally and without pretense. This release is a high-spirited collection of traditional tunes in highly skillful banjo/pipes duo in which they have the musical familiarity of family members. Behind is Cory’s subtle guitar-playing

added in studio, thanks to multi-tracking technology. Of note on this recording is Eliot Grasso’s original tunes, jigs and reels composed so melodically that many of them sound as if they’ve been around forever—and they may well have been. Grasso has a tune called “The Purse Rusted Shut,” composed, he said, for a select few who would rather pay to have their lawns mowed than for a proper music lesson. Folks, break out the WD-40, let the grass grow, and buy this recording. This is a CD worth many, many times its price. (Self-released. Buy it directly from the artists at [eliotgrasso.com](http://eliotgrasso.com).)

Eddi Reader • *Peacetime*

Scottish singer Eddi Reader combines the technique of a classical vocalist with the honesty of a folk singer. This is her sixth solo album that brings together some of the UK’s best musicians, including familiar names Alan Kelly, Michale McGoldrick, Donald Shaw, Phil Cunningham, and others. The album was produced by John McCusker, who also performs. (Compass Records)



## ALSO RECENT:

Various Artists • *Celtic Twilight 7*

A collection of sacred Celtic sounds from Anúna, Aíne Minogue, Cathie Ryan, Matthew Barley, Mark O’Connor, and the Appalachia Waltz Trio, the Cambridge Singers, and Stelamara. (Valley Entertainment, [valley-entertainment.com](http://valley-entertainment.com).)

**The Guiding Moon • West Ocean String Quartet with Matt Molloy.** Lush, classical-style arrangements with an Irish accent, performed by a string quartet and featuring the great Matt Molloy on flute. An altogether polished and soothing collection. (West Ocean Records)

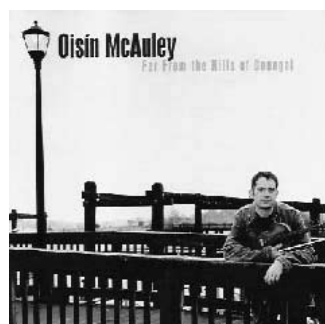
**The Prodigals • Momentum.** A studio album from New York Irish rock band. (self-released; [theprodigals.com](http://theprodigals.com))

**The Young Dubliners • With All Due Respect.** By fan request, they tell us, these rockers released this album in homage to the great songwriters of Ireland. (429 Records; [youngdubliners.com](http://youngdubliners.com))

**Hayley Westnra • Celtic Treasure.** You’ll recognize her name and voice from Celtic Woman, though this New Zealand native was a featured act in last year’s Cape Breton Celtic Colours festival.

**The Canniffe Family • Rise Again** (Self-released; [thecanniffe-family.com](http://thecanniffe-family.com))

**Rory McCarthy and the Preycawns • When is Daddy Coming Home?** (Crow Records, available through [ossianusa.com](http://ossianusa.com))



# Carmel Gunning, World-Class Irish Whistler, Tours Boston

## *Sincerity a Hallmark of Her Playing*



Carmel Gunning playing her a tin whistle at a workshop last month in Plymouth, MA.

BY SUSAN GEDUTIS LINDSAY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Sligo whistle and flute player Carmel Gunning is well-known in traditional music circles as a straight talker, and that same emotional honesty is the lifeblood of every note she plays. To spend a week with her in March was to attend a master class in passion for Irish music.

Gunning’s tour began with a workshop and concert in Plymouth on March 18, where nineteen aspiring whistle players met in the music hall of the historic Whitfield House for her technical and musical advice. Seven consecutive days of gigs followed, wowing audiences and earning standing ovations at Johnson Strings in Falmouth, the Skellig in Waltham, Mount Ida College, the Orleans Inn, the AOH Hall in Worcester, and the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton. Throughout, she was ably accompanied by pianist Helen Kisiel of Watertown and, as a special guest artist on several of those performances, the Sligo fiddler and composer Brendan Tonra, who has lived in Boston since the 1950s.

Gunning was raised in Gevagh in south Sligo and reared to the music, encouraged by her father, who taught her tunes by lilting or whistling them. She showed talent from the age of seven, and soon was playing music for dances and house parties. In the late ’70s and ’80s, you’d find her Tuesday nights at the famous Trades Club session in Sligo Town, but that was only the beginning; she recently celebrated 25 years of teaching music and song. Today she is director of the Queen Maeve International Summer School of Irish Music, Song, and Dance, and is a whistle and flute instructor for MA and BA students in Limerick University, home to a world-renowned Irish music program. Among her students have been June McCormack, Damien Stenson of Teada, and Liam Kelly of Dervish. She has written several books and recorded numerous CDs.

Gunning’s playing captures the very essence of the Sligo

tradition—adhering closely to traditional ornamentation and repertoire but infused with verve and lift that keeps it fresh—not to mention that she never plays a tune the same way twice. In traditional circles, Gunning is known for her creative variations on a tune’s basic melody. Dust off “Saddle the Pony” and “The Boys of Blue Hill,” lads. Carmel will show you how it’s done.

The tunes she chose to perform in the US concerts were mostly familiar ones—and the fluidity and originality with which she approached each proved that you don’t need to be “novel,” “different,” or “obscure” to be good; you just have to play with great sincerity. As she said, “The old tunes are the best. They will never die.” In addition to a solid rake of tunes, she also did a beautiful job of sean nós style singing on “The Hills of Knocknashee,” “Factory Girl,” and others.

One of Gunning’s strengths is her ability to spontaneously play creative variations on a tune’s basic melody. However, she advises students to play the tune simply first so the audience will recognize it, then, as her father used to say, “Throw it all into it.” And, she reminds students, no matter what technical gymnastics a musician can muster, it’s nothing if the music is not meaningful. “Music is very much about passion and feeling, not technical skill,” she said. “You can have good technique but you also need the heart—or it’s not music.”

Gunning’s approach is her own, yet also is exemplary of the Sligo style first popularized by early recordings of fiddle legend Michael Coleman. That regional style, also often referred to as a north Connaught style, is characterized by a continuous flow of notes, rather than a more choppy approach that other styles may have. According to Gunning, “The Sligo style has a smooth, legato flow and has great heart and lift and bounce.”

“I hear that it is not that well recognized over here,” she

said. “Each style is important in its own way and should get respected in the same light. And maybe it’s because the lecturers at the universities are from Clare or Galway, but we should be respecting all of the styles—and we must not forget that Michael Coleman was the man who set the ball rolling in terms of the Sligo style.”

Coleman came to the States in 1914 and settled in New York, followed not long after by James Morrison, Martin Wynne, Andy McGann, and in our own backyard, fiddler Brendan Tonra. Though Tonra celebrated his 70th birthday just a couple of years ago, he continues to compose tunes as a dizzying pace. They come from the same area at home, but Gunning only met him for the first time a couple of years ago at a session in Gurteen, Sligo. And it was only on this visit to Boston that she fully recognized his immense talent. “It’s uncanny how much he has the Coleman style,” she said, “But he’s old enough that he has his own style. He’s an important link to the Sligo tradition in Boston. He is a very important man, and more people in Boston should hear him play, especially the students of Irish music.”

Gunning is currently working on a tune collection for Ceolárus Coleman (the Michael Coleman Heritage Center in Sligo), called “The Mountain Top,” including session tunes popular in Sligo for the 30 or 40 years. Tunes are written exactly as players played them. They are notated on the staff and also written by letter names, traditional style, for those who can’t read music.

Gunning runs the Queen Maeve International Summer School of Irish music, which takes place Aug. 6-10 in Co. Sligo, at the Institute of Technology, Ballinode and the Sligo City Hotel. For more information, write to her at [carmelgunning@hotmail.com](mailto:carmelgunning@hotmail.com), visit [cygo.ie/tradmusic](http://cygo.ie/tradmusic), or call 011-353-87-6230454. Classes are offered in tin whistle, flute, set dancing, traditional singing, accordion, fiddle, and mixed instruments.

# Bringing Swing to Dublin

(Continued from page 17)

After a few years of cat herding in the Brian Boru Pipe Band—which still performs, marches, and competes under new direction—Roger decided it was time to focus on this other herd called Stage Door Canteen—a motley collection of jazz “cats,” many of whom are professional musicians and educators.

Stage Door Canteen had two performances in Ireland as the full band. One was at the Sugar Club, a well-known live music venue right near St. Stephen's Green in the heart of Dublin. The other was at the Ramor Theater in Virginia, Co. Cavan. The Ramor Theater is a former

church that was renovated into a fabulous performing space, and a few weeks earlier it had hosted singer Sean Keane. Both of the Stage Door Canteen shows were recorded, and the band plans to release a live recording sometime this summer. In addition to the full complement with five saxes, four trumpets, two trombones, and a rhythm section, the band also performs in a smaller configuration of sax, trumpet, vocals, and rhythm section. That smaller group had gigs at the Bleu Note and the Davenport Hotel, both in Dublin.

It is a long and winding road that got me from playing jazz saxophone in college to being a thirty-something Irish music writer—and let me tell you this: When I first took up the Irish flute some twelve years ago, the very last thing I ever expected to be doing someday was carrying my body bag of a sax case through customs in Shannon—let alone writing about it. But that's what happens when you open a new door; there are always a hundred other doors behind it, and no matter what door you go through, if it's an Irish one, there's always a cup of tea and a great story to go with it.

For more information on Stage Door Canteen and to hear the music, visit [stagedoorcanteen.net](http://stagedoorcanteen.net). Or, come see us live, most second Thursdays at Liam Maguire's, Main Street, Falmouth, Mass.



**BIR music writer Susan Lindsay with husband Stephen Lindsay and baby Annie outside the Riverfront Hotel in Virginia, Co. Cavan.**



# McCauley Explores Tradition's Reach

(Continued from page 17)

as anyone from where I come from. At the end of the day, it's a moot point for me."

His recording, indeed, is a reflection of all of his musical influences. Raised in a musical family, McCauley grew up in Carrick, an Irish-speaking area of Donegal. He later moved to Ballyshannon to attend a convent school where the nuns taught classical music. Still, he never left traditional music behind, and continued to attend Irish music festivals and competitions year-round. More often than not, this meant playing tunes late into the evening with other trad music-obsessed teens from around the country—including the musicians who were to become Danú.

He went on to study classical music at Queen's University in Belfast, then spent a year in Brittany, a Celtic region in the northwest of France. Then it was on to Dublin, where he played for some time with Hot Club of Dublin, a tribute to the late jazz fiddler Stefan Grapelli and guitarist Django Reinhardt's legendary Hot Club band. Still, he continued playing traditional music, including stints with both Cran and the early Irish trad/rock band Stockton's Wing, before joining Danú in 2001.

Far from the Hills of Donegal reflects McCauley's favorites from all of that experience. "The concept was pretty much to get a load of tunes that I've known over the years and have played with different friends of mine out on a recording," McCauley said. "It's like getting a lot of stuff off your chest."

What distinguishes this release most from other straight jig/reel/hornpipe traditional albums is its improvisational selections. Improvisation is a hallmark of great traditional playing, and the great traditional players put their mark on the tunes with variations that, although numerous, are generally very subtle. In contrast, McCauley's explorations venture quite far from the basic tune, such as on two of his originals, "Tune for Gillian" and "Mary's Waltz." "I'd always had a natural tendency to improvise. I'm probably a bit of a messer—I can't leave things alone," he said. "It's something that's part of what I do so I thought it should be on the album."

McCauley's ear remains remarkably open to outside sounds—and that itself ap-

pears to be a Carrick tradition. A major influence of his, the renowned Carrick native fiddler John Doherty, had a similar openness. "John used to play marches that he'd hear in the British military bands, just picking up the tunes that they were playing, off records." Traditional musicians have always borrowed, he maintains. "It's just that we've narrowed things down so much in the last twenty years to try and package it into a commercial bundle that we know as Irish traditional music."

It's clear that his dedication is not to the commercial, but rather to making music that reflects his soul, regardless of style. It wouldn't be a big leap, then, for such a musician to relocate to Boston, as he did just recently. He married his

wife Gillian—whom he met at a Worcester gig—last November. "It's not hard to imagine coming to a city like Boston. I'd always heard great things and every time we've been there we've always had a great time. There are so many Irish people and people with Irish connections, that it wasn't a difficult decision for me."

It has been a lesson for him, however, to experience a crowd of musicians here in Boston that are even more self-consciously "Irish" than the musicians were at home—something that new musicians to Boston have observed since at least the 1940s. "At a session in Boston, you basically just have Irish traditional music and sometimes a sound that is very reflective of a certain area in Ireland. The reason for that,

I would surmise, is that when people come here, they tend to stick together with the people they know. Culture seems to thrive in that instance, which is a great thing. At home, there's an awful lot of influences going around and people are not that worried about being 'Irish'—so you'll get all sorts of songs, and all different types of songs."

Indeed, that may be what has helped the Irish tradition to survive more or less intact over so many decades of mass emigration from Ireland. Those who have left have kept the tradition even more faithfully, and as a result, where the music may have evolved and changed at home, it remained "pure" in the various countries that musicians went to. That is not lost on McCauley. "When we're playing at home, we're playing more to entertain people, whereas sometimes in Boston I've found that people are playing to carry something on, to carry the torch."

After a March tour of the US with Danú, McCauley travels with the band back to Ireland to perform as a feature act in April for Gradam Ceol—the annual "Grammy" show of Irish traditional music. After that, he hopes to perform in support of the CD in Ireland, then return to Boston. Watch the BIR for local dates.

Far from the Hills of Donegal features guest performances from Shane McGowan (guitar), brother Angus McCauley (cello), Tony Byrne (guitar), Peter Browne (button accordion), and Peter Molloy (flute). Hear samples and get your own copy via the Compass Records Web site, [compassrecords.com](http://compassrecords.com).

## 'Doubt' on Tap in Providence

Cherry Jones and the cast of "Doubt" will appear at the Providence Performing Arts Center in a six-day (April 10-15) run of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play by John Patrick Shanley.

Jones will play Sister Aloysius, the role she originated in 2005. Along with the Tony Award, this role has earned her a Drama Desk Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award, the Lucille Lortel Award, and an Obie. Chris McGarry plays the priest-antagonist to Jones's nun.

Shanley received the 2005 Tony Award for best play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for "Doubt."

Peter F. Stevens of the BIR will moderate a talkback session following the matinee performance on Sat., April



**Cherry Jones And Chris McGarry square off.**

14. Performance times are as follows: Tuesday the 10th at 7 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

# Summer Means Festivals!

## June Marks Fifth Annual Cape Cod Celtic Event



The front porch outside Furlong's Pub in East Durham: Dancing on the table are Mick Mulkerrin and Mairead Casey to the music of fiddler Ronan O'Flaherty from Galway, Jackie Daly from Cork and David Munnely from Mayo at an early morning impromptu session. Photo credit: Tim Raab Northern Photo 2007

Organizers of this year's Cape Cod Celtic Festival are planning a well-rounded concert series for June 21-24. Four days of music and workshops will include Irish, Scottish, and Cape Breton musicians amid the dunes and scrub pines of the Cape, just as the hydrangea, tiger lilies, and cottage roses are about to burst into full bloom.

Featured acts will include Liz Carroll and John Doyle, Aiofe Clancy, Robbie O'Connell, Jerry Holland with Mac Morin, Eamonn Coyne and Patsy Whelan. Following each feature concert will be a nightly Cape Breton square dance at the West Dennis Graded School House. Also featured will be Cape Breton fiddlers Brenda Stubbert, Kimberly Fraser, and Brian Doyle.

The "kicker" concert will be a Fiddle Summit, to be held Saturday at 1 p.m. "It's going to feature the entire fiddle faculty accompanied by master guitarist John Doyle," festival organizer Lew Taylor said. Faculty will perform and discuss tunes that are common to the Cape Breton and Irish repertoire, and share what each does to "make the tune their own."

Daily workshops will provide tutelage on a variety of instruments, including Irish and Cape Breton fiddle, whistle/flute, step dance, harp, bodhran, guitar, Gaelic language, and singing. The weekend wraps up with a céilí at the Irish Village of West Yarmouth.

More information about the festival can be found at [capecelticfestival.com](http://capecelticfestival.com).

**Plan Ahead for the July Catskills Irish Arts Week** -- It takes place from July 15 to July 21 in East Durham, New York. If you're looking for accommodation, word on the street is that one of the big resorts—Fern Cliff House—will not open this year. However, the festival has acquired additional rooms at the Blackthorn Resort, Acra Manor, Lange's Motel, Lange's Motor Inn, and the Kilcar Motel. Still, space is at a premium. If you register by April, the good news is you also get a discount on events—the largest array of Irish arts offerings in North America. This year, Mick Mulcahy, Paddy Cronin, and James Keane will be special guests as Master Musicians.

For any serious lover of Irish music, this festival is one of

the must-go events in the year. According to those in the know, don't put off attending if you've been meaning to go for years: every year could be the festival's last. There's never a shortage of attendees, but the Catskills resort—a historic Irish American favorite—is slowly edging past its heyday and it gets a bit harder every year to accommodate the festival crowds. If you're interested in what it's like, check out this photo essay done on last year's festival by staff photographer Tim Raab: <http://www.timraabnorthern.com/ciaw06/>. Visit the Irish Arts Week website for a list of world-class artists offering workshops in music, dance, song, painting, Irish history—even Irish knitting! The address is east-durham.org/irishartsweek.

**August is the New Date for Irish Connections Festival 2007** -- The Irish Connections Festival, which veteran locals used to know as the "Stonehill Festival," is about to re-launch as a major summer event in Boston August 10-12 of this year, rather than the June dates, as it has been for years. This year, the festival's theme will be "crossover" music. According to Brian O'Donovan, festival organizer and host of the popular WGBH "Celtic Sojourn" radio program, "As always, the festival will feature the best of Irish traditional, contemporary, and crossover music, dance and arts. We are intent on emphasizing the traditional aspects of Irish music (and Celtic generally) and how it has crossed over, influenced and been influenced by in turn, country, bluegrass, rock, jazz, classical etc. It will be a lot more than just an Irish festival; it will be celebrating the 'connections.'"

That's not all that's new this year, however. The Irish Cultural Centre of New England has teamed up with Connections Ventures of Cambridge and a high-powered commercial concert promoter to bring a new look and feel to the festival. They say they'll retain the "non-profit and volunteer spirit" of the event, but hope that high-level ties to international entertainment, sponsorship, and event management will help to make the event a financial success.

The Irish Connections festival has been celebrated annually in various forms under the auspices of the ICCNE since 1990. In 2004, its location moved from Stonehill College to the ICC's campus in Canton. According to O'Donovan, the idea this year is "to create a truly compelling festival that celebrates Irish Connections in unexpected ways." Watch for a major announcement in late April.

**Traveling to Ireland in August?** -- The Annual Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann festival of traditional Irish music, song, and dance this year will be held in Tullamore, Co. Offaly from Aug. 19 to the 26th. This is the largest showcase of musicians and performers to take place in Ireland all year, and includes concerts, céilís, parades, and pageants, with over 10,000 performers expected to take part. Accommodation fills up very early, so if you're thinking of attending this year, reserve now. Visit [fleadh2007.com](http://fleadh2007.com) for more information.

-- SUSAN GEDUTIS LINDSAY

## MUSIC PICKS

(Continued from page 17)

over 10 years, Scottish guitarist Tony McManus has come to be recognized throughout the world as the leading guitarist in Celtic music.

**Saturday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.** -- The Trouz Bras 2nd Birthday Bash. Payson Park Church Hall, 365 Belmont St., Belmont.

Trouz Bras (pronounced "True Brazz") means "Big Noise" in the Celtic language of Brittany—a reference to the loud Breton bagpipes that fuel the band's driving sound. The band takes traditional Breton dance tunes into the 21st century, with bagpipes, fiddle, and a rocking rhythm section that features percussionist and drummer Mance Grady. The band is led by bagpiper and vocalist Ray Price.

**Friday-Saturday, Sunday, April 20-22** -- NEFFA Festival. Sponsored by the New England Folk Festival Association, this eclectic mix of folk music and dance from around the world is very much fun for the whole

family. Enormous crowds turn out for the music, dancing, international crafts, family craft activities, and an international food. There are several musical offerings in the Celtic vein, including guitarist/vocalist Sean Kane and fiddler Amy Basse, as well as a concert by Paul Mulvaney on flute with fiddler Amanda Cavanaugh and Stephen Lindsay of Dublin on guitar. It's in a new location this year, at the Mansfield Middle & High Schools, 240 & 250 East St., Mansfield, MA. 781-662-6710. A nice way to spend a spring weekend. More info at [neffa.org](http://neffa.org).

**Sunday, April 22, 2 p.m.** -- The Seisíúns w/Hanneke Cassel, Keith Murphy, Natalie Haas. \$22-\$30-Regent Theater, 7 Medford St, Arlington, MA. 781-646-4849, [regenttheatre.com](http://regenttheatre.com).

Amid a busy spring that includes dates all over the US, Boston-based fiddler Hanneke Cassel comes home to headline this event at the Arlington theater, a celebration of Scottish, Cape Breton, and Irish traditional music and dance. Also

featured are the Boston Kiltics, featuring Cape Breton-style players Doug Lamey, Christine Morrison, Pam Campbell, and Cliff McGann; Irish fiddler George Keith with Martin Langer, bouzouki; and Ryan Reid.

**Thursday, April 26, noon-1 p.m.** -- Boston College Arts Festival features performances by students and teachers of Irish music and dance. Boston College, O'Neill Plaza, 300 Hammond St, Chestnut Hill, bc.edu/centers/irish/studies/news/calendar.

**Friday, April 27, 8 p.m.** -- Blue Parrot. Java Room, 14 Littleton Rd, Chelmsford, MA, 01824. 978-256-0001. Blue Parrot performs a lively combination of Celtic, French and American music on banjo, guitar, mandolin, and flute. Featuring Bob Phillipps on guitar, Linda Abrams on banjo, and Rob Huffman on flute, whistle, and mandolin, the group plays a range of music, from O'Carolan harp tunes to French bourrées.

**Saturday, April 28, 8 p.m.** -- Emily Smith Band (from

Scotland) - A Music for Robin concert, First Baptist Church, 1580 Mass. Ave, Lexington. 781-862-7837, [music-for-robin.org](http://music-for-robin.org). Singer Emily Smith first made her mark on the Scottish music scene when she won the 2002 BBC Radio Scotland's Young Scottish Traditional Musician of the Year Award. With skills on piano and accordion and a unique singing style, she gives a contemporary edge to ancient songs. She's performing with fiddler Jamie McClellan, from New Zealand, and Boston's own Matt Heaton, on guitar. Also performing at the Blackstone River Theater on April 21 at 8 p.m. Also at 8 p.m. -- New Rigged Ship duo (Reinmar Seidler & Jacqueline Schwab). Homegrown Coffeehouse, Unitarian Church, 23 Dedham Ave, Needham. 781-444-7478, [uuneedham.org](http://uuneedham.org). Band features neotraditional tunes and tales from Scotland and the Shetland Islands, with cellist Renimar Seidler and Arlington-based pianist Jacqueline Schwab. Schwab is well known on the contra dance circuit locally, but also nationally for her work on

soundtracks of renowned filmmaker Ken Burns, including his Grammy-winning Civil War. [uuneedham.org/Coffeehouse](http://uuneedham.org/Coffeehouse).

### MAY

**Saturday, May 5, 8 p.m.** -- Liz Carroll & Trian Reunion with Billy Comiskey and Dáithí Sproule. National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd, Lexington.

**Friday, May 11, 8 p.m.** -- Back of the Moon (From Scotland, vocals, bodhran, border pipe chanter, flute, keyboard, whistle, fiddle) - A Music for Robin concert, Venue to be announced. 781-862-7837. [music-for-robin.org](http://music-for-robin.org). Back of the Moon is a traditional Scottish folk band, with both new and traditional tunes and songs cast in fresh modern sounding arrangements. Band includes Scottish border pipes and fiddle, low whistle and flute, a guitar/piano rhythm combo, occasional bodhran and Cape Breton stepdancing, and three-part vocal harmonies. Also at the Blackstone River Theater on Sat. May 12, at 8 p.m.

-- SUSAN GEDUTIS LINDSAY

# Louis the Second: More Jazz from the Irish Maestro

By THOMAS O'GRADY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

What a difference a day makes. Last month in this space, I remarked that many of the recordings featuring Dublin jazz guitarist Louis Stewart are hard to find—either released on small labels or out of print altogether. Well, even before that issue of the *Boston Irish Reporter* hit the newsstands, word came from Dublin that a number of CDs featuring Stewart's playing have just been reissued. These include *Out on His Own* (1977), an album showcasing Stewart on solo guitar; *Alone Together* (1979), a series of tunes recorded live at the Peacock Theatre with flautist Brian Dunning; *Acoustic Guitar Duets* (1985) with brilliant Scottish guitarist Martin Taylor; and two albums which feature Stewart as a versatile sideman—John Wadham's *Drums and Friends* (1978) and Jim Doherty's *Spondance* (1986). Next month I will focus on Stewart's early career as a jazz musician. This month, I want to give a context for these newly re-released recordings, locating them relative to Stewart's overall catalogue of LPs and CDs.

Interviewed for a feature in *The Irish Times* in 2001, Stewart recalled that after he had made the commitment to playing jazz, the manager of a showband that he had played with in the early 1960s "took me aside once and said, 'This jazz stuff is all very well in your own spare time, but you'll never make a living out of it'—and he was almost right." Indeed, on the most practical level, the guitarist found himself by the early 1970s literally between two worlds—London and Dublin—both professionally and personally. His studio sideman credits from this period including the original cast recording of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (1971) and Yvonne Elliman's follow-up solo album *I Don't Know How to Love Him* (1972), Stewart clearly had made inroads into the British music industry after relocating from Dublin several years earlier. But asked why he departed London after initially making "a great impression on the British jazz scene," he explained to interviewer Jeffery Pike: "It was nothing to do with music, just personal reasons. Like accommodation. When you're trying to find somewhere decent to live in London, and you're Irish and a musician, with a wife and two children . . . eventually I realized that if I went back to Dublin I could make as much money and buy a house and live comfortably." Engaged in a line of work subject to the vagaries of public taste and musical trends, Stewart cobbled together a living in Dublin, telling Pike: "Well, there's gigs, and there's some recording work and some TV. Most of the recording work is country music—Irish country music! But it's a way of subsidizing my jazz playing." His television work—"a bit of composing for . . . plays and documentaries"—included writing the soundtrack for Brian Mac Lochlainn and Caoimhin Ó Marcaigh's *A Week in the Life of Martin Cluxton*; broadcast on RTE in 1971, it won the RAI prize for best television drama in the Prix Italia competition in 1972.

In addition, even as he was flexing his jazz chops with preeminent British jazzman Ronnie Scott (more on that next month), Louis Stewart began to establish himself as a headlining musician in his own right, leading his own combos (including a trio called The Flat Earth Society) in diverse venues and also, starting in 1975, cutting his own albums in the recording studio. Despite having been "really recorded as a demo tape," his debut album, aptly titled *Louis the First*, not only introduced Stewart as a confident and articulate practitioner of his craft, a player capable of improvising for chorus after chorus with a storehouse of musical ideas still obviously in reserve, but also set the high standard to which he has measured up on recording after recording since then. Running through a varied set of tunes from the mainstream jazz repertoire—including "Body and Soul," "Here's That Rainy Day" and "Autumn Leaves"—Stewart performs at the same level on *Louis the First* that Milo Fine would praise in a review of a different recording a dozen years later: "A key to Stewart's artistry is the manner in which refined technical flourishes—grace notes, double time passages, etc.—are placed in the service of his muse. Ideas emanate from necessity, from the heart, with no hint of ostentation."

Before the end of the 1970s, Stewart would cut five more albums under his own name: *Baubles, Bangles And Beads* (1976), duets with bassist Peter Ind; *Milesian Source* (1977), a selection of four original compositions, two tunes with a Latin beat, and an arrangement of "Pavanne" by French classical composer Gabriel Fauré; the aforementioned re-releases *Out on His Own* (1977) and *Alone Together* (1979); and *I Thought About You* (1979), a quartet outing with piano, bass and drums. Reviewing *I Thought About You*, critic Mark Gardner, noting the presence of Sam Jones on bass and Billy Higgins on drums, declared: "There is no longer any onus on Louis Stewart to prove to us his stature as a jazz guitarist of the first rank. His albums from Wave, Hawk Jazz, Livia and Pye show his tremendous talent and rare creativity. But on *I Thought About You* he has the added benefit and impetus of two of the finest rhythm players on the modern American scene. Stewart, by his work here, clearly demonstrates he belongs in such company."

Reviews and notices of Stewart's performances offer further evidence of his stature in the British jazz world. Writing in *Melody Maker* in 1978, Ray Coleman can hardly contain his enthusiasm for the guitarist's playing with Ronnie Scott's quintet: "the dazzling Louis Stewart is playing so spectacularly, racing around his instrument so speedily and also inventively that it's difficult to absorb the brilliance of his achievements. Deceptively scholastic in appearance, Stewart plays jazz guitar demonically. His technique would be blinding if he had no ideas to dispense. But he flows beautifully with soaring runs on a variety of compositions, some his own, and he shines as the star of the Scott group." Another review of Stewart performing



Louis Stewart

live at Ronnie Scott's jazz club two years later likewise presents the guitarist in glowing terms; observing his "brilliant musicianship" and asserting that "he is playing with greater imagination and authority than ever," Mike Hennessey admires in particular his "breathtaking lines" and "flawless technique."

But a more revealing measure of Stewart's playing in the wake of his fine run of recordings in the late 1970s might be the review of his debut performance in New York City twenty years after his youthful immersion in the music of Stan Getz at Birdland. Catching the guitarist in the act at Bechet's jazz club on Third Avenue in April of 1981, jazz critic John S. Wilson—not known for being easily impressed—wrote in the *New York Times*: "Mr. Stewart, who has the staid and sober appearance of a prosperous greengrocer, seems to have his musical roots in be-bop. He leans toward material associated with Charlie Parker and he spins out single-note lines that flow with an unhurried grace, colored by sudden bright, lively chorded phrases. His up-tempo virtuosity is balanced by a laid-back approach to ballads, which catches the mood of the piece without sacrificing the rhythmic emphasis that keeps it moving." Surprisingly, after such an auspicious first appearance as a leader in an American venue, Louis Stewart has only rarely crossed the ocean to perform.

But he has clearly kept busy on the Irish side of the Atlantic, though he seems not to have visited the studio again as a frontline player until 1985, when he sat down with Martin Taylor to lay down the nine tracks of *Acoustic Guitar Duets*. The success of that collaboration triggered others: *String Time* (1990), with Norwegian bassist Terje Venaas; four albums with German guitarist Heiner Franz—*Winter Song* (1990), *In A Mellow Tone* (1992), *I Wished On The Moon* (1999), and *Street Of Dreams* (2002); *Louis Stewart Quartet Featuring Michael Moore* (1992), an outing with an American bassist well-known for his simpatico work with New York City guitarist Gene Bertoncini; and *Gift* (2000), with American pianist Bill Charlap. Backed

by bass and drums, Stewart and Franz also joined six-string forces with American Doug Raney, Frenchman Frédéric Sylvestre, and Maarten van der Grinten of the Netherlands to produce *The European Jazz Guitar Orchestra* (1993). Stewart also contributed substantially to Norwegian vocalist Laila Dalseth's album *Daydreams* (1984), to *Spondance* (1986), an album recorded in California by his old Dublin pianist, Jim Doherty, to *Len McCarthy and the Guinness All Stars* (1986), an album fronted by Irish reedman McCarthy, and to *Venous Lake* (1999), a CD headlined by Montreal-based trumpeter Kevin Dean.

In addition to all of those recordings, Stewart released three albums under his own exclusive leadership. Recorded in Oslo in 1986 with the all-Norwegian quartet "4sure" in support, *Good News*, a gathering of nine jazz standards, won considerable critical recognition for Stewart in the form of guitar historian Pete Welding heralding him in *Down Beat*, the preeminent international jazz magazine, as "one of the instrument's world-class players." Describing how "the Irish plectrist constructs, with apparent effortlessness, interesting, well-conceived, long-lined solos that are true thematic-based improvisations and not just loosely-knit successions of smaller phrase units," Welding concludes his five-star review of the album with a cadenza of praise: "The whole program . . . glows with uncloying, unclinchéd beauty, consummate artistry and utter integrity, qualities that always have informed Stewart's playing, but never more so than in this warm, serenely expansive recital. . . . These are performances that will deepen one's pleasure, and reveal ever more of their creator's rich resources of heart, mind, and imagination. They create their own world, and that's more than enough. Make no mistake, Stewart is a major talent, and this album reveals much of its compass. Good news indeed."

Declaring that "the Irishman is one of the world's top modern jazz guitarists," Bob Weir took a similar view of Stewart's *Overdrive*, recorded live at The Tron in Edinburgh in February of 1993. Acknowledging the increasing frequency of the guitar-bass-drums trio as a complete jazz combo, Weir asserted: "It is the quality of Louis's taste, feeling, virtuosity and sheer unrelenting inventiveness that raises the album well above most of the competition. An essential purchase, therefore, for jazz guitar buffs and a recommended contender as the Louis Stewart album without which no representative jazz record collection is complete." *Overdrive* is actually one of the few Louis Stewart albums to be consistently and widely available over the past decade or so. The long-overdue re-release of other recordings featuring his brilliant guitar work is thus to be loudly applauded. Perhaps someday his entire catalogue will be back on CD racks in music stores on both sides of the Atlantic.

Thomas O'Grady is Director of Irish Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

## Senior traffic safety police officer arrested in Irish crack-down on drunken-driving

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN — A senior police officer tasked with promoting road safety was arrested on suspicion of driving drunk on March 29 — the most high-profile arrest in a nationwide crackdown on the once-widespread practice in Ireland.

Police Superintendent Jim Fitzgerald, who oversees road safety in part of western Ireland, was arrested after a member of the public reported him driving erratically in Loughrea, County Galway.

The Garda Síochána, Ireland's national police force, confirmed the next day that detectives were sending a file on the case to state prosecutors in Dublin. An internal discipline file was also sent to the Garda commander.

In recent months Ireland has launched a crackdown on drunken-driving, deploying new resources and legal powers, particularly the ability to set up road

checkpoints and give drivers random breath tests.

Fitzgerald was one of five police superintendents appointed this month to enforce road safety, including anti-drunken-driving measures, in western Ireland. Police said that after receiving a telephoned tip, a patrol car followed Fitzgerald's unmarked police vehicle before pulling him over.

According to Ireland's national broadcaster RTE, Fitzgerald offered an initial breath sample but refused to provide a second as required. Under Ireland's recently toughened drunken-driving laws, such a refusal risks a maximum punishment of losing a driving license for three years.

The Garda Síochána said it arrested 444 people as suspected drunk drivers from March 19 to March 26, and 487 the previous week, which included St. Patrick's Day, an official holiday.

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# Paddy Cronin Gains Entrance to Gradam Ceoil Hall of Fame

Boston-based fiddler Paddy Cronin will soon be honored with the Gradam Saoil—an induction into the Irish music Hall of Fame. The honor is part of a prestigious annual award series called Gradam Ceoil, run by Irish language television station TG4. Widely recognized as the equivalent of the Grammy award in Irish traditional music, the presentation will be made at a televised Gala Awards Ceremony and Concert that will take place in the Cork Opera House on Easter Sunday, April 8. You can watch the program broadcast on TG4's Webcast on Mon., April 9, at 9: 30 p.m. (Irish time) on [www.tg4.tv](http://www.tg4.tv).

Paddy Cronin was born into a musical family in Ré Buí, near Gneeveguilla, Co. Kerry, in the 1920s. Like so many of his contemporaries in Sliabh Luachra, his strongest musical influence outside home was the master fiddler and teacher Pádraig O'Keeffe. Cronin went on to develop his own distinctive style of fiddle playing. According to TG4, "He is recognized by authorities in the world of music as a supreme craftsman."

In 1949, he cycled from his home to Macroom in Co. Cork to meet Séamus Ennis, who was recording for Radio Éireann at singer Bess Cronin's house.

He made his first recordings there, and later traveled to Dublin, where he recorded ten additional selections of tunes for the radio station.

Later that year, he emigrated to Boston, which became his home for more than 40 years. In the 1950s, he made a number of 78 rpm records for the pioneering Boston-based O'Byrne-De Witt Copley Music label, as well as a subsequent LP. In the past decade, he and his wife, Connie, have divided their time between Boston and Killarney.

While the awards go specifically to musicians in Ireland, this is not the first time that an Irish native living in the United States has won the award. In 2002, Sligo native fiddler Brendan Tonra, of Watertown, won the Composer of the Year and piper Paddy Keenan, who lives in New Hampshire, won Musician of the Year.

The winners will be joined by a host of special guests, including Liam O'Flynn, Sean Keane, Paddy Glackin, Arty McGlynn & Rod McVey, Paul Brady, Danú, The West Ocean String Quartet, Jim McGrath & Pat McManus, Jackie Daly & Donal O'Connor, Dara Bán Mac Donnchadha, Fiachna Ó Mongáin & family, and Kevin Corbett.



Paddy Cronin of Boston and Killarney: "called a supreme craftsman."

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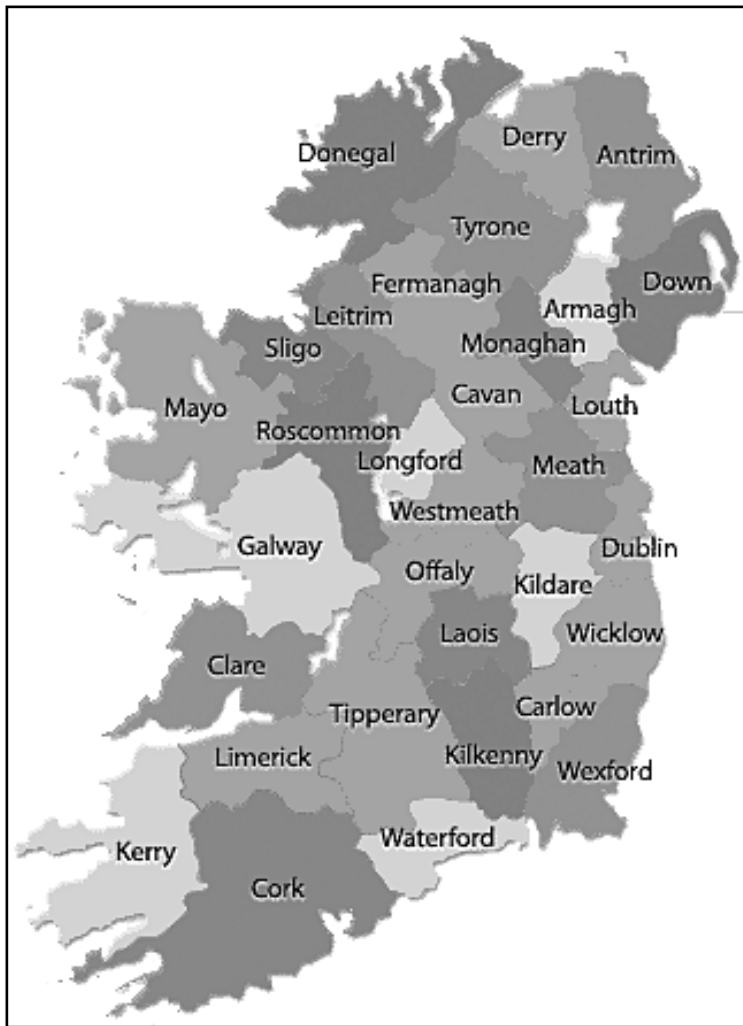
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# Thirty-Two Counties



**Antrim:** Hilden Mill just outside Lisburn, once a major center for the linen and thread industry, is to be transformed into a self-contained community village. A proposal would see the Mill itself, which officially closed last year after more than 200 years of continuous production, will be converted into apartments, while in the surrounding area houses, shops, a restaurant, a health club and a creche will be built. The five-year project, which will be overseen by conservation architects at Corsarc Design Group, will provide environmental, social, community-related, and economic benefits to the Lisburn area.

**Armagh:** The leaders of the two churches in Armagh came together to celebrate the feast of St. Patrick last month, with the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh, Alan Harper, undertaking his first public engagement since his enthronement. He was joined by Archbishop Seán Brady at a pageant in the city's Market Square, which depicted the story of St. Patrick in a production entitled "Patrick, In His Own Words." Later in the afternoon the two Primate's led a Christian celebration, "In the Spirit of Patrick," in both cathedrals.

**Carlow:** The selection of the Coolkeno Rose, which took place last month in the Ramada Hotel in Killerig, is the first step on the road to the annual Rose of Tralee competition in August. Sixteen girls, each with her own escort for the evening, were interviewed by Brendan Hennessy, and the overall winner was Ann-Marie Connolly from Tinahely. In addition to being crowned with a tiara, Ann-Marie also received a bouquet of flowers, a holiday voucher, and a L'Oreal gift hamper. Training to be a schoolteacher at St. Patrick's College in Dublin, Ann-Marie entertained the crowd on the night by playing the violin and singing.

**Cavan:** A Cavanman who has established a successful business in London has been presented with the Businessman of the Year award by the Irish World Newspaper. Sean Fitzpatrick, who is originally from Milltown near Belturbet, established his company, the VGC Group, in 1960 and since that time has provided high quality staff for the construction industry. He was presented with his award by Richard Sweeney from Setanta at a ceremony in Cricklewood. A former teacher who was educated at St. Patrick's College in Cavan, Sean and his wife Olivia, who have four daughters, visit their holiday home in Cavan on a regular basis.

**Clare:** For the third time in four years a team from Lahinch Golf Club has won the Irish final of the Royal and Ancient Rules of Golf Quiz, which was held in Co. Kildare last month. The team, comprising Kevin Glynn, Shane Duggan, Frank Keane, Phenie Murphy, Thomas Neenan, and Michael Vaughan, will travel to Scotland this month to take part in the Great Britain and Ireland final, which is being held at St. Andrews; three years ago the Lahinch team were winners of the Great Britain and Ireland finals. Beginning last May, the team members have been meeting once a week to work on the questions they are likely to face.

**Cork:** Lord Mayor of Cork Michael Ahern, who is himself the holder of a number of national medals for Irish dancing, has announced his decision to confer the Freedom of Cork on Michael Flatley for his contribu-

tion to creating a positive view of Ireland abroad. A ceremony is to take place in City Hall in May; it was decided to postpone the event until after Michael's wife, Niamh O'Brien, gives birth to their first baby. The Lord Mayor's proposal was welcomed unanimously by his fellow-councillors, and Michael Flatley himself professed himself very pleased to receive the honor.

**Derry:** John Crowe, who lectures at the North West Institute, was initially turned down when he applied to enter the recent Salon Culinnaire competition in Dublin, since the lists were full. However, undeterred, John travelled to the RDS, taking with him the ingredients for a lamb dish, his knives and other equipment. With ten minutes to spare before the start of the competition, he immediately approached an official to ask could he take part in the Senior Irish Lamb dish section and found that someone had dropped out. And so within an hour he had been awarded the gold medal by the Panel of Chefs of Ireland.

**Donegal:** Although their archives have been seriously damaged in a fire, members of the Doherty clan from all over the world will meet next year in Inishowen to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of Cahir Rua O'Dochartaigh, the last Irish chieftain. Last month a large section of the archive stored at the genealogy center in Buncrana, and compiled by retired professor Pat O'Dougherty over the past 40 years, was destroyed by fire. However he is confident that many of the records are also held on computer files. Buncrana will be the site for next year's gathering at the beginning of July.

**Down:** In the course of two weeks last month 16-year-old Matthew Toner from Attical, near Killeel, managed major wins in three different sports. Matthew, the son of former Down Celtic player Ned Toner, plays on Ballynahinch U-16 rugby team which has just won the Ulster title. Then in a boxing tournament he took the Ulster Youth title for 86kg in the first round of his fight, and after that his school football team, St. Columban's College, won the final of the Ulster Vocational Schools' Arthurs Cup. According to his father, the favorite sport at the moment is rugby, though Matthew's boxing coach, Paddy Quinn, says he is one of the best boxers he has ever coached.

**Dublin:** The top floor of one of the three remaining tower blocks in Ballymun is to become a temporary hotel room as part of an art project. The fifteenth floor of the Clarke Tower, due to be demolished soon after the installation is removed, has been recreated as Hotel Ballymun by Seamus Nolan, an eco-artist who has been commissioned by the Breaking Ground art scheme. The "hotel," which will remain open for a few weeks, has already attracted bookings from people from Dublin, Cork and Limerick. The Ballymun towers were built in the 1960s and named after the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation; only one, Plunkett, still has a small number of residents.

**Fermanagh:** A range of anniversary candles produced to mark the 150 years of Belleek Pottery will be made by a company in Enniskillen. The candles, which were launched last month, have been designed by Celebration Candles, a Ballinamallard-based company run by Harry Stuart and Doreen Buyers. They have been supplying Belleek with trademark candles

for the past eight years and the Celebration Candles will be on sale at the Visitor Centre. They are also supplying candles for delegates attending the Belleek Collectors International Society Convention this month.

**Galway:** Last month marathon runner Richard Donovan launched Oughterard AFC's development and fundraising initiative. Proceeds raised from the fundraising campaign will go towards the ongoing development of the Oughterard AFC grounds and facilities. Last year the club acquired a ten-acre site near the schools in New Village and, with some funding from The Sports Capital Grant scheme, work is to begin on developing the site this year. A raffle is now to be held, with prizes that include a 15,000-euro car, a 2,000-euro holiday voucher and a 1,500-euro laptop. It is hoped that two new pitches will be completed on the New Village site by the end of next year.

**Kerry:** A group of Kerry people have welcomed into the family a seriously ill American woman who was anxious to trace the family of her immigrant great-great-grandfather. After writing to The Kingdom newspaper Judy Sullivan-Bowers from Virginia was contacted by one of her cousins and has discovered that the house from which James Sullivan emigrated, at Loughfooder near Castleisland, is still lived in by a family member, and she has other cousins in Castleisland and Killarney. And to make the reunion really special, one of the cousins has sent Judy a round-trip ticket to Ireland and she will visit Kerry this month.

**Kildare:** The dilapidated building that was once the dance hall at Wheelam Cross in Milltown is being taken down prior to the site being developed. The building, where dances were held on a regular basis until the 1960s, was taken over by the local football club. Subsequently it was used by the club for meetings, and also by the ICA and the Milltown Youth Club. After refurbishment work in the 1980s it was leased to two local businessmen and then sold to a private developer who constructed a house on part of the site; now permission has been granted to develop the entire site.

**Kilkenny:** Santana Hernandez-Power from Thomastown has received two awards at the Young Irish Filmmaker of the Year presentations. Santana's film, "Abuelita," focused on her grandmother from El Salvador who recently made her first visit to Ireland. A pupil at the Kilkenny Schools Project National School, Santana received the Young Irish Film Maker of the Year award in the junior section, and was also presented with the Radharc Award for best documentary in the senior section. Two years ago, at the age of nine, she came second with her very first attempt at filmmaking.

**Laois:** John Delaney, from Ballinakil, has been preparing for the past three years for an attempt to become the first man from the county to reach the summit of Mount Everest. His training including scaling mountains in Argentina, Russia, Tibet, and Nepal and last year he climbed to seven thousand feet on Everest. John, the son of William and Marcella Delaney who is a past pupil of Heywood Community School, became interested in climbing after he started hillwalking with his wife Orla's family in County Kerry. He is due to set off for Nepal this month.

**Leitrim:** Minister Eamon Ó Cuiv was in Dromohair last month to perform the official opening of the second phase

of the Creevelea Abbey Walk, where he also planted a commemorative tree. This was followed by a second official opening, that of the new Arigna Leader offices in the Depot where the local supervisor is Margaret Sharkey. Speaking at the opening ceremony, chairperson Padraig McLoughlin thanked all of those who had worked on the various Leader projects in the local area, and the minister reiterated this in his own speech by emphasizing that projects such as those completed by Leader only work with local involvement.

**Limerick:** A park ranger working in the People's Park in Limerick city has been praised by his superiors for his prompt action when confronted with a potentially dangerous dog. At a time when there were some 70 people in the park, including a number of children, ranger Joe Power noticed a pitbull terrier jump the fence into the playground. Joe immediately began evacuating the playground and when all were safely removed he managed to encourage the dog, who was foaming at the mouth, to leave by the other gate. The county council, the gardai, and the local dog warden were all informed of the incident.

**Longford:** The motte in Granard, which has been put up for sale through a local estate agent by its owner, should be purchased by the State, according to Oliver Cassidy, chairman of Granard Area Action Group. Dating from the end of the twelfth century, the motte has the highest location of its type in the country and could become a major tourist attraction for the area. This, said Mr Cassidy, was particularly urgent since figures have shown Longford to be the county with the lowest number of tourists. Since the motte is a protected structure the purchaser will be able to use the surrounding land for grazing purposes only.

**Louth:** At the Burlington Hotel in Dublin last month a Drogheda-based hairdresser was named as Ireland's Hairdresser of the Year. For David Murray, who runs the Chameleon Salon on Fair Street in the town, it was his second time for gaining the title, having done so in 2004. The competition, run by the Irish Hairdressers' Federation, attracted some 400 competitors. David's win means that he will now be traveling to Chicago in March of next year for the world championships; following his previous win the championships were held in Moscow and he came home with the bronze.

**Mayo:** After a 22-year gap Penneys have once again opened a store in Ballina, and it had its

(Continued next page)

## IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MARCH 27, 2007

BY LIAM FERRIE

Latest Temperatures:

Day 12C (54 F)

Night 4C (39 F)

### Spring puts in an appearance

The cold of St. Patrick's weekend stayed with us until Wednesday although here in Galway we escaped the scattered wintry showers forecast for Monday. Although the day-time temperature remained at 6C or below until Wednesday evening, it was mostly quite pleasant in the bright sunshine. By Thursday it was springtime again with the sun shining and the temperature up to 12C. That set the scene for the rest of the week and for today.

Tomorrow it will turn cooler with some showers which will clear to make way for another frosty night. For the next two days it will remain cool with showers a possibility before conditions improve for the weekend.

# NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

**Minister for Justice Michael McDowell plans to push his Criminal Justice Bill 2007 through the Dail soon, a haste which has been criticized by the Opposition. Fine Gael will, however, support the legislation as it had already proposed some of the measures. Frustrated with the judiciary's insistence on finding "exceptional circumstances" to reduce the mandatory ten-year sentence on drug-dealers, the Minister is using the new Bill to limit the discretion of judges. They will not have the option of imposing a sentence of less than ten years when dealing with those convicted of possessing drugs worth more than 500,000 euro. Similarly someone convicted for a second time of possessing drugs worth in excess of 13,000 euro will also be jailed for at least ten years. The provision that most appeals to Fine Gael is one that requires the electronic tagging of those released on bail pending their trial for serious criminal offences. Sinn Fein is totally opposed to this measure. The Bill will also permit the creation of a DNA database; allow a refusal to answer questions to be an influencing factor in considering guilt or innocence; allow exponential sentences for repeat offenders in gangland crime; and give gardai power to question for seven days those suspected of gangland crime.**

McDowell will also introduce new legislation with regard to trespass which will potentially allow a greater degree of force to be used by a householder against an intruder than is the case at present. The Criminal Law (Defence of Life and Property) Bill 2007 received Government approval earlier this month. Fine Gael claims the Minister is again stealing its ideas while the Green Party and the Irish Council for Civil

Liberties are opposed to the changes.

**From April 1 anyone operating in the security industry must be licensed.** So far only 3,500 of the estimated 20,000 workers in the sector have submitted a license application to the recently established Private Security Authority. According to the Irish Times most applicants are from those working in retail stores and office foyers. A last minute influx of applications from "bouncers" at pubs and night clubs is anticipated for the remainder of the month.

**The Central Authority for Child Abduction** in the Department of Justice has issued figures which show an increase of almost 20 percent in child abductions over the past year. However it has been pointed out that 72 percent of new cases involve children being abducted into the country, often involving mothers bringing their children to Ireland when they come here to work, and then deciding to stay. Mary Banotti, chairwoman of the Irish Centre for Parentally Abducted Children, commented that the cases reflected the increasing multiculturalism of Ireland.

**Despite a denial last week by Minister for Justice McDowell** that the "revolving door" system was still operating in the State's prisons, the prison visiting committee of Cork Prison has reported that prisoners are being released before their due date in order to make way for newly-sentenced prisoners. Cork Prison, designed to accommodate 150 inmates, houses between 250 and 280 on a regular basis.

**Father Kieran Creagh, originally from north Belfast,** is recovering well in hospital after surgery to remove a bullet from his lung. Father Creagh, who works with

## Ireland Today Report Says Irish Children Are Happy Overall; Drinking Effects Cited

A report compiled by the Department of Health and Children has found that children in Ireland have high levels of physical activity and overall happiness. However, it also found that in a total of 17,500 names given to An Garda Síochána's juvenile diversion program, drinking offenses were behind one in five of the 7-to-17-year-olds referred. "The State of the Nation's Children" also revealed that in April of last year 1,700 children were on waiting lists for hospital treatment, three-quarters of them involving Dublin hospitals. A separate European report prompted political debate by claiming that Irish children were amongst those most likely to binge drink or experiment with drugs. In 2003 some 57 percent of Irish 15-year-olds claimed to have consumed five or more drinks in one session in the previous 30 days, and 40 percent claimed to have tried illegal drugs at least once.

AIDS victims in a township near Pretoria in South Africa, was shot and seriously injured when eight men broke into his apartment and stole money and a mobile phone.

**Speaking at his enthronement in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, last month,** the new Church of Ireland Primate, Archbishop Alan Harper, spoke of the need to "turn from truce to peace" and urged politicians to forge a new agreement by March 26. Among those attending the enthronement were President Mary McAleese and the Duke of Edinburgh, both of whom delivered readings, Catholic Primate Archbishop Sean Brady, and two Sinn Féin MLAs.

**Sanofi-Aventis Ireland plans to close its Waterford manufacturing unit** at the end of the year, making all 200 staff redundant. The company has been in the area for the past 40 years, producing a

range of products from capsules and gel stool ointments and creams, primarily for the export market. A company spokesman referred to excess global capacity and the company's ability to transfer production to other units with minimum investment. He added that the staff were being retained for the remainder of the year to give them more time to find alternative employment.

**The genealogy website Ancestry.co.uk claims** to have tracked down Irish roots for Barack Obama, the Illinois Senator whose ambition is to be the next president of the United States. The website's researchers are satisfied that Senator Obama is descended from an Irishman with the unlikely name of Falmouth Kearney. He sailed from Ireland to the US in 1850, settling first in Ohio before moving to Indiana. Senator Obama's mother is one of Falmouth

Kearney's descendants.

**The new Docklands Station opened in Dublin last month.** The station will allow commuters from the capital's western suburbs north of the Liffey to travel by rail to the International Financial Services Centre. A bus service will link the station to O'Connell Bridge, for those working in other parts of the city.

**Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Eamon O Cuiv** has announced that he is making 500,000 euro available to establish a night-time rural transport service on a 12-month pilot. At the same time the Minister hit out at those Dublin journalists who had referred to the scheme, which was first mooted some weeks ago, as "booze buses." O Cuiv argued that if people living in rural areas are to have active social lives then some form of late night public transport service is necessary. He envisages the buses, which will first operate in four or five test areas, being used to bring people to and from youth clubs, bingo, social gatherings and evening Mass as well as the pub.

**Dr. Muireann Ni Bhrolchain of the Save Tara campaign** has expressed concern at the dismantling and removal of a number of ancient sites on the route of the M3 at Tara. A number of underground tombs and their associated artefacts uncovered at Roestown north of Dunshaughlin have been dismantled and removed to make way for the motorway. National Roads Authority archaeologist Mary Deevy has said that the removal is standard archaeological practice for what are relatively common sites, and that three-dimensional laser images had been taken at the chambers before they were removed.

## THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

(Continued from page 20)

official opening last month on Pearse Street. Its arrival has seen the creation of a total of 81 new jobs for the town, with those recruited spending three weeks in training; they were supplemented for the opening day by experienced staff brought in on a temporary basis from Castlebar Sligo, Galway, and Dublin. The new store's manager is Belmullet man Rory Quinn, who has been working in a Dublin branch of the store for a number of years. After cutting the ribbon, director Breege O'Donoghue also announced that the Castlebar branch of the store is to be expanded in the near future.

**Meath:** Higginsbrook House in Trim has been used in the filming of "Becoming Jane," the story of the eighteenth century novelist Jane Austen. The owners of Higginsbrook, locals Christopher and Hanne Gray, had to move out of their home for two months while the film was being shot, although both of them, as well as their son Aidan, daughter Camilla and her husband Tim, were extras in the movie. Almost 160 of the locals also had their parts in the film as extras for a crowd scene. And Higginsbrook itself benefited from the venture as it was given a new conservatory as part of the film set.

**Monaghan:** The Northern Standard, Monaghan's local newspaper, now has a rival with the launch of a new newspaper, the first in the county in 160 years. The Monaghan Post published its first edition last month, with eighty pages and

an initial circulation of 20,000 copies. The paper will be based in the centre of Monaghan town and will also have a sub-office in Carrickmacross. Owned by River Newspaper Holdings, the Monaghan Post will be particularly aimed at the twenty-to-forty age group, according to director of the company Tim Collins.

**Offaly:** It was somehow fitting that the Offaly Person of the Year for 2006 should receive her award in Dublin since it was there she was born in 1923. Sister Oliver, a member of the Presentation order, was born Ita Brigid Wrafter in Dublin to Joseph Wrafter from Ballyduff and Brigit Cooke from Ballynagar. She joined the order in Rahan and there began her 44-year teaching career in both the primary and secondary schools. She was the initiator of the heritage centre in Rahan and co-ordinated the production of the book "Rahan Looks Back." Sister Ita also acted as sacristan in Killina Parish Church for more than 30 years.

**Roscommon:** Local people in Kiltewan are wondering if Hollywood actor Tom Cruise will make a bid for land believed to have been once owned by his ancestors. Thirty-three acres are for sale, along with old stone buildings and part of a ruined house, at Kiltewan and the house was once occupied by members of the Mapother family; Tom Cruise's real name is Tom Cruise Mapother IV. The Mapother family is believed to have settled in Killeenboy in the early seventeenth century and to have remained there until

the 1930s. The company dealing with the sale say they have notified the actor's agents but to date have not had a reply.

**Sligo:** For the first time in 14 years a circus visited Culfadda recently, and it was one that can trace its ancestry back some 500 years. According to Gladys McCormick of McCormick's Irish Circus, she and her husband represent the nineteenth generation of McCormicks to run the circus and two of the performers represent the next generation. They are Christopher and Brandon McCormick, aged 14 and 12, who claim to be the youngest circus performers in Europe. On the road for eleven months of each year, the circus previously performed at Riverstown, Drumkeeran, and Ballyfarnan.

**Tipperary:** A family in Nenagh is taking part in an energy saving program backed by the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. Aoife Gleeson and her six-year-old daughter Lily are one of eight families chosen to take part in the Power of One challenge, a bid to change aspects of lifestyle in order to conserve energy and improve the environment. The financial controller and her daughter live in a nineteenth century stone house in Summerhill and the project will see them aim to reduce their energy consumption by ten per cent through changes in their household and in car usage.

**Tyrone:** Kevin Timoney from Drumlegagh near Omagh had a lucky escape recently when he was power-paragliding north

of Beragh. During his descent Kevin became momentarily distracted when he saw two people on the ground he recognized, and the wing of his parachute caught onto electricity cables. However in doing so it brought two lines together, blowing the fuse and thus avoiding a much worse accident. Kevin sustained injuries to his back, his right foot and his left ankle, and is making a slow recovery after a ten-hour operation in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital.

**Waterford:** An Bord Pleanála has upheld the refusal of planning permission for a development on Doyle Street in Waterford, originally handed down by the county council. The development would have involved the demolition of two one-hundred-year-old buildings, which each have two stories and are in the middle of a row of single-story cottages. Developer Patrick Winters was hoping to replace the houses with a three-story building divided into six apartments, but the project received objections from a number of quarters including the adjoining Sunshine Bread & Confectionary company and the Residents of Doyle Street group.

**Westmeath:** A hospitality management student at Athlone Institute of Technology was called on unexpectedly recently to take part in a television series featuring celebrity chefs. RTE's "The Restaurant" was recently filmed on location at the Wineport Lodge in Glasson and at the last minute the Maitre d', John Healy, had to pull out. With a shuffling of the remaining staff a vacancy was left for a waiter

and Vivian Reynolds from Drum was called in by Ray Byrne, since he already works there on a part-time basis. Vivian, who has also had work experience in the New York Fitzpatrick's Hotel, will feature in the three final episodes of the program.

**Wexford:** When the Gorey St. Patrick's Day Parade was launched last month in McGovern's, the sash of the Parade Grand Marshall was presented to 98-year-old George Godkin, who led the parade from the Monument down Main Street and Esmonde Street. Kilnahue man George was accompanied by his wife Joy and several of their ten children, and Sean Halford spoke of his involvement in the local community, with Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann and the Gorey Over 55s Club. For the first time, members of the Polish community in the town took their place in this year's parade.

**Wicklow:** With Seamus and Florence Grace deciding to call it a day, the Teach de Gras pub in Dunlavin has closed for the last time. The pub was bought by Seamus' parents, Thomas and Sheila Grace, who handed the running of it over to him in the early 1960s. Until ten years ago the premises also contained a grocery outlet but Seamus replaced this with an off-licence. One of four pubs in the village, Teach de Gras is noted for the quality of traditional music sessions held there on a regular basis. With their children all now reared the couple have decided there are other things they would like to be doing.



## Traveling People

## You Can Check It Out: Ireland is One Big Garden

By JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

In Ireland these days, there are gardens, gardens, gardens, and more gardens.

There have always been wonderful gardens that welcomed visitors everywhere in the Republic and Northern Ireland. But, now the native Irish have taken an interest in backyard gardening with the result that centers are cropping up all over and you'll find gardening magazines on the newsstands that feature water gardens, exotic plantings, organic gardens and varieties of trees and shrubs that attract birds, bees, and other wildlife. We bought "The Irish Garden" last spring – a 4.50 euro (nearly \$6) magazine – and it's filled with information about fairs, plant sales, garden club meetings and events, societies (Irish Dahlia Society, St. Brigid's Horticultural Society and Alpine Garden Society to name a few) and ads for garden designers, greenhouse suppliers, composting supplies, horticultural courses, Irish-made teak outdoor furniture and more.

#### BOTANIC GARDENS

If you enjoy gardens and you're in the Dublin area, be sure to visit the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin where gardening history has been made over two centuries. The Gardens, on 48-acre tract along the Tolka River, contain more than 20,000 different plant species and cultivars. While originally created in 1795 as a private collection for members of the Royal Dublin Society, the Gardens opened to the public in 1805.

In a book, published by Duchas, The Heritage Service, in 2000, former Gardens' director Donal Synnott writes: "Many thousands of species of plants from a wide range of habitats and climatic regions are grown in addition to artificial hybrids and garden varieties. The purpose of the plant collections has always been to stimulate an interest in the plant kingdom as well as to provide materials for demonstration, study, and research in botany and horticulture. In addition to these traditional roles, the Gardens are working actively for conservation by growing, propagating, and distributing plants that are rare or threatened with extinction."

In the 1840s, orchids were first grown from seed to flower by the curator Dr. David Moore, whose son, Sir Frederick Moore, succeeded his father when he was only 22 years old. Frederick continued his father's interest, assembling an outstanding collection of species orchids, some of which you can view today in the Orchid House.

On Aug. 20, 1845, Dr. Moore, while working at the Botanic Gardens, first noted potato blight and predicted that the impact on the potato crop would lead to famine. He had correctly identified the blight as a fungus but he

narrowly missed finding a cure.

Dr. Moore encouraged Irish estate and large garden owners to take an interest in rare plants and expanded trial grounds for some of those plants that were not expected to thrive at Glasnevin. Attesting to this now are collections at Kilmacurragh in Kilbride, Co. Wicklow (the arboretum at Kilmacurragh has been managed by the National Botanic Gardens since 1996), Anne's Grove, a 30-acre garden overlooking the River Awbeg, and Fota Gardens and Arboretum in Co. Cork, the site of one of the best collections of rare and tender trees and shrubs grown outdoors in Ireland or Britain.

The glass houses at the Botanic Gardens are truly spectacular and were featured for many years on Irish stamps. The Curvilinear Range of glasshouses was built by Dublin ironmaster Richard Turner and his son, William, in the mid-1800s. The Great Palm House is also gorgeous and was restored and reopened several years ago.

The gardens are open Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free guided tours are available.

#### BRIGIT'S GARDEN

If you're not on the east coast but rather on the other side of the country, take a look at Brigit's Garden in Pollagh, Roscahill, Co. Galway between Moycullen and Oughterard. It's about 20 minutes from Galway City and well signposted from the N59.

The garden was the brainchild of Barna resident Jenny Beale who said, "I've always been passionate about nature, and I was inspired by the Celtic spiritual tradition. I see the garden as providing environmental education for young people and a place of peace and calm for all. Most of all, I hope visitors will just enjoy being in a beautiful place."

Jenny and her husband, Dr. Colin Brown, bought 11 acres of farmland that included woodlands and a fairy fort dating from early medieval times. Jenny planned gardens and wildflower meadows with advice from the noted landscape architect Mary Reynolds, who designed four themed gardens to reflect the cycles of life from conception to death. She complemented them with nature and discovery trails, a wind chamber, a sunken garden, and a thatched roundhouse.

There's a garden café open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. if you want to sit and enjoy a cup of tea and a pastry. The gardens are wheelchair accessible, with a special wheelchair path that leads to a small lake, and handicapped bathrooms are available.

Brigit's Garden is a not-for-profit organization and a registered charity, "offering the gardens and nature trail as a facility for the community, providing creative environmental education and initiating nature conservation projects. Thousands of native



Brigit's Garden in Pollagh, Roscahill, Co. Galway, is about a mile from the main road (the N59) between Moycullen and Oughterard and about a 20-minute drive from Galway City. The garden is signposted from the main road and is well worth a visit. (Judy Enright photo)

trees have been planted throughout the site to complement the existing old woodland. Wildlife gardens reflect the biodiversity of the West of Ireland and encourage birds and butterflies in abundance," the brochure says.

The gardens are open from mid-April to the end of October from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday and from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. It's such an interesting and pleasant place. For more information, go to their website - [galwaygarden.com](http://galwaygarden.com) - for more information.

#### GARDEN TOURS

Going back across the country again to the east coast, the Wicklow Garden Festival celebrates its 18th year in 2007 and runs from May 1 to August 14 in beautiful County Wicklow, "The Garden of Ireland." In addition to a wonderful coastline, mountains, and lakes, Wicklow's temperate climate is perfect for unique flowers and plants. More than 40 gardens will be open for the festival including ornamental, cottage, Robinsonian (wild), Victorian, formal and more. The website -- [gardensireland.com/wicklow-gardens.html](http://gardensireland.com/wicklow-gardens.html) -- says, "Each year new gardens join the Festival adding extra interest for the annual enthusiast. Offering an unrivalled variety of gardens, with unique flowers and plants due to its temperate climate, Wicklow is aptly known as 'The Garden of Ireland.' The Festival allows visitors a special opportunity to view private gardens, which open exclusively for this event, and garden lovers can converse with the owners, who delight in sharing their expertise."

"The festival also offers a great opportunity to visit some of Ireland's finest Historic Houses and Gardens, including Killrudey House and Gardens, Powerscourt House and Gardens, Russborough House, Mount Usher Gardens, Avondale House, and Forest Park. Private gardens open at different times during the Festival." You can download a

brochure at their website, [visitwicklow.ie](http://visitwicklow.ie) or, for more information, e-mail [info@wicklowct.ie](mailto:info@wicklowct.ie).

There are also garden tours in County Carlow ([carlowtourism.com](http://carlowtourism.com)) and in West Cork ([westcorkgardentrail.com](http://westcorkgardentrail.com)), Southeast Ireland ([southeastireland.com](http://southeastireland.com)), on the east coast and Midlands ([ecoast-midlands.travel.ie](http://ecoast-midlands.travel.ie)) and in many other parts of Ireland ([castlesgardensireland.com](http://castlesgardensireland.com).) There are also many magnificent estates and beautiful gardens in Northern Ireland ([ulstergardensscheme.org.uk](http://ulstergardensscheme.org.uk).) You can get a free map and guide of National Trust properties in the North at their website: [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk).

You can learn more, too, at [visitireland.com/](http://visitireland.com/)

[attractions/gardens.asp](http://attractions/gardens.asp) and [discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com) and at many other sites on the internet.

#### PORRIDGE

Do you love Irish oatmeal – or porridge as it's called there? Did you know that at least one authentic Irish oatmeal is available here in major supermarkets? The brand I buy is McCann's Quick Cooking Irish Oatmeal and it's so simple to prepare. It's just a cup of cold water and half a cup of McCann's. Boil and stir for three to five minutes (it never takes that long.) You can read more about it and where it's sold at their website [mccanns.ie](http://mccanns.ie).

We usually use Demerara sugar in Ireland and, guess what? You can find that here too – made by Domino's. The website

[dominosugar.com](http://dominosugar.com) - says, "Demerara Washed Raw Cane Sugar has a light golden color from the natural molasses left behind after minimal processing. Demerara Washed Raw is a slightly larger crystal than granulated sugar and with a delicate crunchy texture." Try it on your porridge. It's great!

#### TRAVELING

Planning a trip to Ireland? Be sure to visit your favorite travel agent as well as the airline websites – Aer Lingus ([aerlingus.com](http://aerlingus.com)), US Airways ([usairways.com](http://usairways.com)), Delta ([delta.com](http://delta.com)), and Continental ([continental.com](http://continental.com)), which flies via Newark, NJ – for great fares and packages, and visit Tourism Ireland on the internet at [tourismireland.com](http://tourismireland.com) to find out what's going on in Ireland while you are visiting.



by Vincent Crotty

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## The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Now that you know the numbers we can tell time – **an t-am** /uh tahn/. The basic word for “time” is **am**; when preceded by the word for “the,” **an**, Irish inserts a **t-** to keep the words from running together.

This is similar to the requirement that an **h** is prefixed to a word beginning with a vowel when there is an **a** preceding it: **aon**, the number “one” but **a haon** “one,” **a hocht** “eight.” This requirement that something separate two similar sounds is the same reason that English speakers say, “a boy” but “**an** onion.” In the case of English we add **-n**. In some dialects of English there is an unwritten /r/-like sound between two vowels.

Let us look at some Irish words that deal with “time” – some you already had and a few new ones:

**dó** /doh/ “two” when counting time.

**uair** /oor/ “hour”

**nóiméad** /NOH-med/ “minute”

**leath** /leh/ “half”

**ceathrú** “KAHT-roo/ “quarter”

**a chlog** /uh klohk/ “o’clock”

**maidin** /MAH-jin/ “morning”

**mhean lae** /vown ley/ “middle day – noon”

**tráthnóna** /TRAHT-noh-nuh/ “afternoon”

**oiche** /EE-kuh/ “night”

**tar eis** /TAHR-esh/ “after”

**chun** /hoon/ “before”

**go dtí** /goh dee/ “before”

Suppose you see some one wearing a “watch” – **uairedóire** /OOR-doh-ruh/ - and you want to ask him the time. You can either say ...

**Cén t-am é?** /KEN tahn eh/ “What time is it?”

**Cén t-am atá agat?** /KEN tahn uh-TAH AH-kuht/ “What time do you have?”

Remember the little rule that says if **tá** is not the first word in the sentence, Irish prefixes an **a** to it – **atá**.

He or she can then respond in a variety of ways depending on the real time.

**Ta sé \_\_\_\_\_ a chlog.** “It’s \_\_\_\_\_ o’clock.”

**Ta sé a hocht a chlog ar maidin.** “It’s eight o’clock in the morning.”

**Ta sé iná mheán lae.** “It’s noon / mid-day.”

**Ta sé a trí a chlog um thráthnóna.** “It’s three in the afternoon.”

**Ta sé iná mheán oiche.** “It’s mid-night.”

**Ta sé leathuair tar eis a dó.** “It’s half past two.”

Literally, “It’s half hour past two. Notice that **leathuair** is written as all one word.

**Ta sé caethrú chun a seacht.** “It’s a quarter to seven.”

The preposition **iná** and **um** are combinations of **i** “in the” and should be simply memorized here as “set phrases.”

Now see if you can say these in Irish: 1.) “It’s quarter past eight.” 2.) “It’s five in the morning.” 3.) “Half past nine.” 4.) “It’s noon.” 5.) “It’s half past ten.” 6.) “It’s half past six in the evening.” 7.) “It’s a quarter to ten.” 8.) “It’s one in the morning.” 9.) “It’s half past two.” 10.) “It’s a quarter past four in the afternoon.” 11.) “It’s a quarter to five.” 12.) “It’s mid-night.”

Now for the minutes. Recall that when you have to separate something like “fifteen” that the formula is **cuig X déag**. The “X” in this case will be “minutes,” **nóiméad**, and is always in the **singular** no matter how many there really are. Of course, the person can leave off the **Tá sé** and the **a chlog** just as they might conversationally in English – “It’s five minutes after two o’clock” **Tá sé cuig nóiméad tar eis a dó** or simply, “Five after two” **Cuig tar eis a dó**.

To ask, “At what time?” something happens, “the football game starts,” “Liam is coming” or “the train leaves” you will ask **Cá uair?** “At what hour?” never “What time is it?” The answer will be “At X o’clock,” **Ar a X (a chlog)**. The **a chlog** is optional.

To tell time to the minute you must say, “X minute before/past Y” – **Trí nóiméad go dtí/tar eis a cuig**, “Three minutes to/after five.”

Try to say these times in Irish. 13.) “8:20 a.m.” 14.) “8:25 p.m.” 15.) “7:35” 16.) “6:40” 17.) “5:15 a.m.” 18.) “9:25” 19.) “3:24” 20.) “11:10” 21.) “Ten minutes to eleven.”

Answers: 1.) **Tá sé caethrú tar eis a hocht.** 2.) **Tá sé cuig ar a maidin.** 3.) **Leathuair tar eis a naoi.** 4.) **Tá sé iná mheán lae.** 5.) **Tá sé leathuair tar eis a deich.** 6.) **Tá sé leathuair tar eis a sé um thráthnóna.** 7.) **Tá sé caethrú chun a deich.** 8.) **Tá sé a haon ar maidin.** 9.) **Tá sé leathuair tar eis a dó.** 10.) **Tá sé caethrú tar eis a ceathair um thráthnóna.** 11.) **Tá sé caethrú chun a cuig.** 12.) **Tá sé iná mheán oiche.** 13.) **Fiche nóiméad tar eis a hocht ar maidin.** 14.) **Fiche ‘s cuig nóiméad tar eis a hocht.** 15.) **Fiche ‘s cuig nóiméad déag tar eis a seacht or Tríocha ‘s cuig nóiméad tar eis a seacht.** 16.) **Dhá fhiche nóiméad tar eis a sé or Daichead nóiméad tar eis a sé.** 17.) **Cuig nóiméad déag tar eis a cuig ar a maidin.** 18.) **Fiche ‘s cuig nóiméad tar eis a naoi.** 19.) **Fiche ‘s ceathair nóiméad tar eis a trí.** 20.) **Deich nóiméad tar eis a haon déag.** 21.) **Deich nóiméad go dtí a haon déag.**

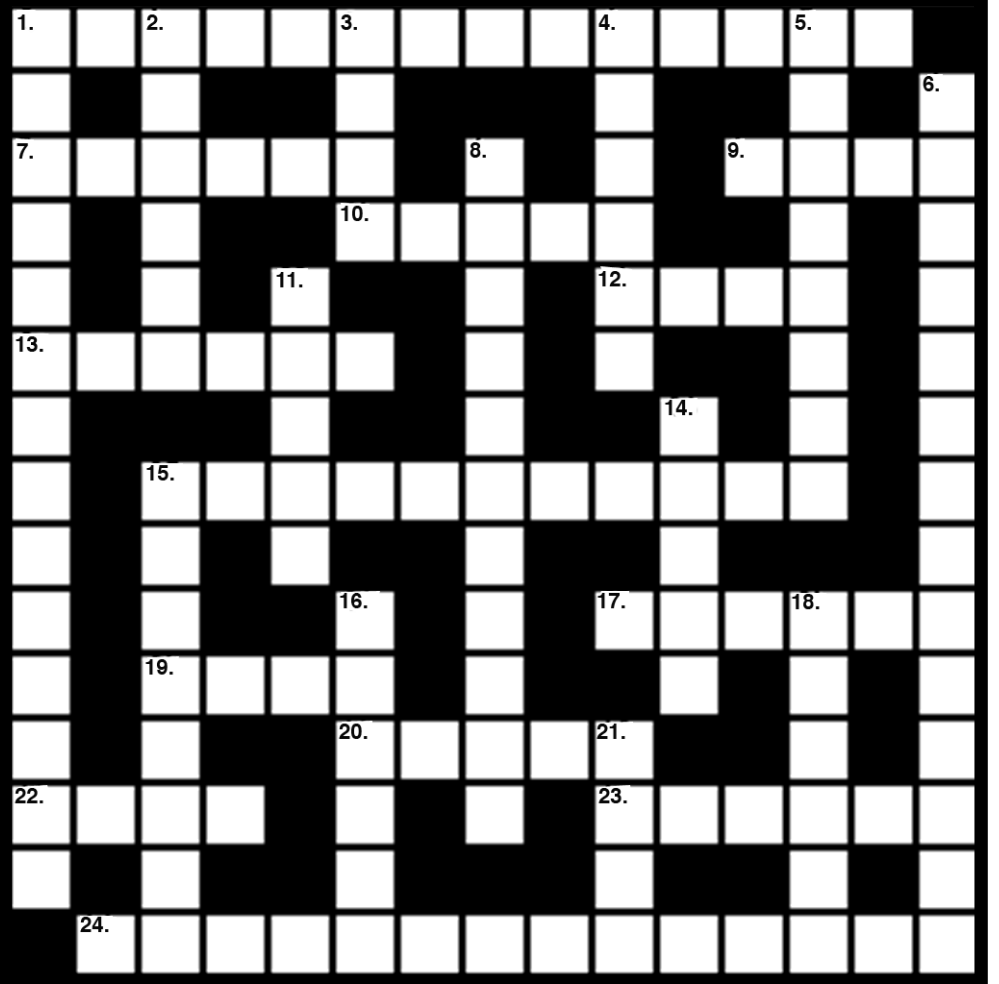
## CELTIC CROSS WORDS

The Irish crosswords are a service of an Ireland-based website which provides Irish Family Coats of Arms by email. You are invited

to visit

www.

[bigwood.com/heraldry](http://bigwood.com/heraldry)



## IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

### ACROSS

- Iran non-art shop over in Clare’s gateway to Ireland, which has its ups and downs. (7,7)
- Are set in order at this rising time of the year in Ireland. (6)
- Hit hard when good person goes to the United Nations. (4)
- “The whole worl’s in a — o’ chassis.” Seán O’Casey. (5)
- “Too — for a statesman, too proud for a wit.” Goldsmith (of Edmund Burke) (4)
- His run up leads to a sudden incursion (in Co. Dublin, near to Lusk?). (6)
- Huge land log chopped up in Wicklow holy site where Saint Kevin built a hermitage. (11)
- Desert rat gets rib and leg broken. (6)
- Nore in turmoil over Nevada city of speedy unplicing. (4)
- Tiler in retreat having fired again. (5)
- Dublin ullage has invalid content. (4)
- We’re disturbed about six, to pass comment on the book. (6)
- Selling, ask Bill about Kerry Irish speaking seaside village near Waterville. (14)

### DOWN

- Lined stack risk. (anag.) In Strangford Lough, County Down, where there is a Norman castle ruin. (8,6)
- “Gladstone tried to guess the — to the Irish Question, but whenever he got warm, the Irish secretly changed the Question.” W.C. Sellar (6)
- Rowing boat propellers seen in Sligo arsenal. (4)
- It was not long ago that the centre was rebuilt. (6)
- Cut back spending, but dig a hole again. (8)
- We lack monk’s nod up in the Tipperary mountains above the Abbey of Mount Melleray. (14)
- Rails a plank. (anag.) Kerry estate and hotel on the shore of the Kenmare River near Sneem. (11)
- Panes get smashed by quivering tree. (4)
- Naturists seen in the shifting dunes? (5)
- Irregular soldier could lure Gail over. (8)

- First notes taken in Gweedore mishap. (2,2,2)
- Little to wear on the Pacific atoll of big bangs. (6)
- “I shall be like that —, I shall die at the top.” Swift. (4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 27

## Irish Sayings

Blind should be the eyes in the abode of another. A man with loud talk makes truth itself seem folly. The lake is not encumbered by the swan; nor the steed by the bridle; nor the sheep by the wool; nor the man by the soul that is in him. If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will take you there. When the apple is ripe it will fall. Give your love to your wife and your secret to your mother. In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king. Many an irish property was increased by the lace of a daughters petticoat. The best way to keep loyalty in a man’s heart is to keep money in his purse. A narrow neck keeps the bottle from being emptied in one swig. Show the fatted calf but not the thing that fattened him. Marry a woman from the mountain, and you’ll marry the mountain. It’s better to solve the problem than to improve the law. The thing that is closest to the heart, is closest to the mouth. Don’t bring your troubles to the person who hasn’t got sympathy for your case. A scholar’s ink lasts longer than a martyrs blood. Take gifts with a sigh, most men give to be paid. A country without a language is a country without a soul. The person that isn’t strong, has to be clever.

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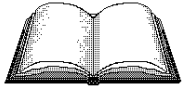
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## Boston Irish Reporter Book Review

# A Ground-level, Gut-wrenching Look at the Great Famine

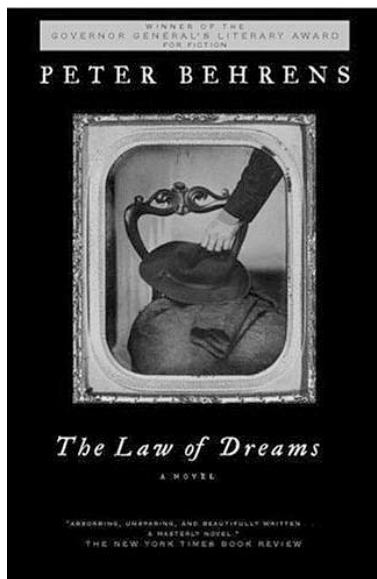
### Novelist Peter Behrens Renders an Unforgettable Portrait of the Great Hunger and Its Awesome Emotional and Physical Toll

BY PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

Reams of material on the Great Famine (*An Gorta Mor*) continue to appear, as scholars still grapple with the far-ranging impact of the catastrophe. Sometimes, novelists, freed from the constraints of academia, can cut to the emotional nub of the Famine's human toll in a more personal manner than scholars can. In *The Law of Dreams*, novelist Peter Behrens crafts a mesmerizing look at the Famine through the eyes of fictional protagonist Fergus O'Brien. The story unfolds during the year known chillingly in lore and history as "Black '47."

As Fergus's tortuous journey leads across stricken Ireland to Britain and eventually the horrifying Atlantic crossing to "the Boston states," he encounters violence and sorrow at nearly every turn, as well as his own sexual awakening as his path leads to a number of "charming, willful girls." He struggles to navigate his way through rampant starvation disease and omnipresent danger in a memorable fight for mere survival in hopes of carving out a new life across the threshold of the "Golden Door," America.

A gifted writer whose short stories and essays have run in *The Atlantic Monthly* and many other publications and whose work has been anthologized in *Best Canadian Stories* and *Best Canadian Essays*, he is the also the author of *Night Driving* (Macmillan). Behrens, who was born in Montral and lives in Maine, was a Fellow of the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and



tenant farmer, ends up in a Dickensian workhouse following the murder of his parents, a crime beyond horrific. When the family's landlord starts tumbling cottages and evicting tenants, the O'Briens refuse to budge. Ten weeks into the stand-off, hunger has weakened the family to the point that they can barely stir inside their cottage. The landlord and his minions set the house ablaze, but only Fergus crawls out of the inferno alive.

Tossed into the workhouse, he is stripped, shaved, and doused from head to toe with acid to kill lice. He gazes at fellow "paupers [who] lay about the yard, soft as gutted trout."

Soon after he is hauled there – "an act of charity" -- he lights out and takes up with a band of robbers.

won a prestigious Wallace Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University.

In *The Law of Dreams*, Behrens's masterful command of pace, dialogue, and narrative drive the reader through the horrific landscape of the Famine and the memorable internal landscape of Fergus O'Brien. As the gelatinous, ruined potato crop fills the air with a reek that is matched by the stench of rotting victims in 1847, the teen-aged Fergus, son of a

He enacts a bit of revenge during a raid on the farm of his family's landlord.

Drifting across the country, encountering hordes of desperate men, women, and children dying by the roadsides or amid the tumbled ruins of tenant farmers' hovels, he eventually materializes in Dublin and then Liverpool. As is the case with so many other displaced Irish boys and girls, he is "groomed" as a "pearl boy" by predators offering teens some semblance of protection and a full belly, both powerful lures to the hard-pressed youngsters.

Searching internally for some answers or even rationalizations for the stark, brutal existence he lives in, Fergus posits: "Awareness pierces the chest like a spike being driven in. The world doesn't belong to you. Perhaps you belong to the world, but that's another matter."

Fergus, deciding he has little stomach for the "flesh trade," runs away again, this time turning up in Wales. He finds work with the railroad and falls for a married woman named Red Molly. They not only become lovers, but also decide to run off to America, his dream to settle with Molly and earn a living as a horse trader. How that dream turns out is nothing short of riveting.

In prose that is at times stark, at times soaring, and at nearly all times eloquent, Behrens brings the reader onto the literal ground of the Famine and to the places it drove the Irish. He has achieved what fine historical novels do – beckon, even dare, readers to step back in time and immerse themselves in a world teeming with both horror and unexpected humanity, all against the backdrop of an event whose very name conjures cataclysm. *The Law of Dreams* is a novel well crafted and well worth the reading.

*The Law of Dreams*, by Peter Behrens, Steerforth, hardcover, ISBN 1586421174, 408 pages, \$24.95.

## Boston Irish Reporter Author Interview

### Listening To The "Verbal Music" In *Winterwood*, Irish Novelist Patrick McCabe Captures the Rugged Music of 'Shape-Shifting' Rural Ireland

BY PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

When it comes to the dark side of humankind, Patrick McCabe's prose takes a backseat to no other novelist. Black-tinged humor permeates his prose even as characters descend into emotional places that readers might not want to visit, but cannot resist as McCabe beckons. He is, in short, one of Ireland's finest literary craftsmen.

In his latest novel, *Winterwood*, McCabe unwinds the story of freelance writer Redmond Hatch, a man 18 years older than his ex-wife Catherine, who was 22 when they took their vows. Again, McCabe sets his tale in rural Ireland; the setting is one where locals strain to preserve their traditions amid the encroachment of a changing, economically muscular Ireland.

In the area of Slievenageeha Mountain, Hatch delves into the old ways and is drawn to a "mountain man" who sports the apt moniker of Ned Strange." Strange, McCabe writes, is "the happy-go-lucky fellow with the freckles who was forever singing" as his very way of life erodes from the onslaught of modernism.

The evolving relationship between the writer and the mountain man reveals how Hatch's life descended soon after he, Catherine, and their infant daughter, Imogen, moved to rural *Winterwood*. Hatch is a man on the skids, careening toward personal catastrophe.

Ned Strange, a storyteller and fiddler, unleashes all the personal skeletons in the writer's emotional closet. Riveting and unsettling, McCabe's story casts a spell as it weaves through the Imogen's murky disappearance, a marriage rife with problems, and a childhood tinged with similar turbulence. Through the tortured journalist and the rustic – who is far more than what he initially seems – McCabe has delivered yet another dark, lyrical, and powerful novel.

Born in Ireland in 1955, Patrick McCabe has written an array of acclaimed novels such as *The Butcher Boy*, which won the Irish Times/Aer Lingus Literature Prize and was shortlisted for the 1992 Booker Prize. Later, director Neil Jordan turned the novel into a film. His novel *Breakfast On Pluto* (1998) was also shortlisted for the Booker Prize. *Emerald Germs* earned McCabe more plaudits for his skills and depth as a novelist. With his wife and two daughters, McCabe lives and writes in Sligo.

McCabe describes *Winterwood* as a narrative that's

traditional at its core, pointing out the adage that in fiction, "novel" is a misnomer, as everything has literally been on the printed page before. However, the writer's individual take on a story – his or her voice – is what fuels a novel.

McCabe says, "My style, I think, is social fantastic – highly stylized but still linked with reality. It's not plot-driven in the strictest sense."

The character of fiddler Ned Strange fits well with the way in which McCabe views the connection between music and prose. "When you think of James Joyce," McCabe relates, "you should think of the music of his language. I believe that music drives the work of many writers. You stitch musical rhythms into your words. If you're trying to capture loneliness, what better way than to think of Sinatra's song 'Where Are You?' – sheer emotional desolation in that one."

Such is the desolation that threatens to engulf Redmond Hatch in *Winterwood*, and the literary "triggerman" to that desolation is a fiddler.

Throughout his career, McCabe has found a rapt and sizeable readership on both sides of the Atlantic. He says: "In Ireland, [readers] are incredibly loyal. They understand the distinctly Irish voice in my work. They come to the readings. In the States, I'm surprised and thrilled by how many people also get it, given the many Irish influences in it. Still, I sometimes worry that anyone who's not Irish might not get it, yet all over the world, people have become more aware of the Irish and our manner of speaking and writing."

McCabe is well versed in American literature and has often been compared by reviewers to Southern icons Faulkner and McCullers. He states, "William Faulkner and Carson McCullers capture the verbal music of small Southern towns in a way that's so distinct, so similar to Irish writers who also come from small towns."

McCabe's "small-town" view of Western Ireland is not one of misty green memories of the land; instead, his characters are infused with ulterior motives and the capacity for murder. In introducing the people of *Winterwood*, he captures the verbal music of literal and literal turf he knows from every conceivable vantage point. The novel is vintage McCabe – a fine vintage indeed.

*Winterwood*, by Patrick McCabe, Bloomsbury USA, hardcover, ISBN 1596911638, 240 pages, \$23.95.



Patrick McCabe: "Music drives the work of many writers."

## New U.S. Book Releases

*A sampling of new and recently released  
books of interest to Boston Irish Americans*

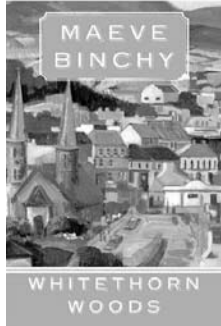
### Whitethorn Woods A Novel

By Maeve Binchy

Maeve Binchy's latest novel, *Whitethorn Woods*, begins when a new highway threatens to bypass the town of Rossmore and cut through Whitethorn Woods. The locals have passionate opinions about whether the town will benefit or suffer, but young Father Flynn is most concerned with the fate of St. Ann's Well, which is set at the edge of the woods and slated for destruction.

People have been coming to St. Ann's for generations to share their dreams and fears, and speak their prayers. Some believe it to be a place of true spiritual power, demanding protection; others think it's a mere magnet for superstitions, easily sacrificed. Not knowing which faction to favor, Father Flynn listens to all those caught up in the conflict, and these are the voices we hear in the stories of *Whitethorn Woods*—men and women deciding between the traditions of the past and the promises of the future, ordinary people brought vividly to life by Binchy's generosity and empathy, and in the vivacity and surprise of her storytelling.

Maeve Binchy is the author of numerous best-selling books, including *Nights of Rain and Stars*, *Quintins*, *Scarlet Feather*, *Circle of Friends*, and *Tara Road*, which was an Oprah's Book Club selection. She has written for *Gourmet*, *O*, *The Oprah Magazine*, *Modern Maturity*, and *Good Housekeeping*, among other publications. She and her husband live in Dalkey, Ireland, and London. Knopf, hardcover, ISBN 0307265781, 352 pages, \$25.95.



of going home for the first time in years and putting her fledging detective agency on firm financial ground, Molly throws caution to the wind and climbs aboard the White Star Liner *Majestic* with hopes of sneaking on and off the isle without raising a peep.

Even before Molly lands on the other side of the Atlantic, Broadway's leading actress, Oona Sheehan, has gone missing from the ship, and her maid is found dead in her cabin.

Full of rich historic detail and enchanting turn-of-the-century personalities, Molly's return home, *In Dublin's Fair City*, is the sixth thrilling installment in Rhys Bowen's award-winning Molly Murphy series.

Rhys Bowen's novels have received a remarkable number of awards and accolades, including the Anthony and Agatha Awards for mystery as well as the Herodotus Award and the Bruce Alexander Historical Award. Rhys is also the author of the Edgar Award nominated Evan Evans series. Born in England, she now lives in San Rafael, California.

St. Martin's Minotaur, hardcover, ISBN 0312328192, 288 pages, \$23.95.

### Pint-Sized Ireland In Search Of The Perfect Guinness

By Evan McHugh

Evan McHugh, an Australian, was not impressed with his first taste of Guinness on his ferry crossing to Ireland. In fact, he found the black stuff to be "ubervile." Turns out Guinness doesn't travel well, or so he's told, but when in Ireland, well, you drink Guinness. Soon Evan is enamored with the stuff and downing pints of "mother's milk" on an epic quest through the Irish countryside to find the pint o' the black brew.

McHugh documents his long and arduous (and not to mention hilarious) journey to find the end of his rainbow in *Pint-Sized Ireland*. Fortunately for Evan, he is not alone on his quest. He is accompanied by new friends of many nationalities. His most constant companion is his countrywoman Michelle, "the-woman-I-didn't-know-I-would-one-day-marry (or Twidkiwodm for short)."

Together, they experience many a misadventure from rowing with a German bagpiper in full Scottish regalia on the Lakes of Killarney to hitchhiking in the rain in the West country, all in pursuit of the ultimate pint. Still, no matter where they are – Dublin or Dingle – they are told that the best Guinness is to be found somewhere else. So where is the best place in all of Ireland?

Join McHugh and Michelle in their search high and low for just that. The book is sure to please anyone with a thirst for travel, or just with a thirst for a nice frothy pint.

Evan McHugh's previous books include travel guides to Sydney and Australia, *The Rot Stuff*. He writes the weekly column "Dry Rot" in the *Sunday Telegraph* and *Sunday Mail* and has written for television and radio. He is now married to Michelle and lives in Sydney.

Thomas Dunne Books, hardcover, ISBN 0312363664, 288 pages, \$23.95.



had no wealth or property so she gave him her time, attention, and love. There is no greater gift." Thus begins *Irish Tales: A Collection of Irish Folklore*, from Mary Dunne Ware of Fitchburg, Massachusetts.



For nearly one hundred years, Nana Ware's positive outlook, soaring imagination, and storytelling gifts entertained everyone she knew. This book captures her humor and wisdom. These are stories by Irish immigrant Mary Dunne Ware (1860-1956) to her grandson, Ed McManus, during the 1940s and now retold in this new book. Representing Irish oral tradition, *Irish Tales* is a treasure trove of Irish culture, history, and

the Irish-American experience during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

"Nana Ware always told stories," McManus said. "She told of her girlhood in Ireland and of her adventures in America between 1860 and 1956. These were stories of banshees and leprechauns on one hand, and stories of the first electric light and working in the fine houses of Boston on the other. Nana was blind and confined to her chair, but her ability and desire to tell these stories never waned. Her tales were entertaining, amusing, and made a gentle point."

Ed McManus, a retired businessman, publishes *The Jokesmith*, a comedy newsletter for business & professional speakers. A freelance writer, McManus resides in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

(Rooftop Publishing)

### Island of the Setting Sun In Search of Ireland's Ancient Astronomers Anthony Murphy & Richard Moore

Around 6,000 years ago a sophisticated and enigmatic community of people began to arise on the island of Ireland. They were the megalithic builders of the Stone Age, cunning engineers, and master astronomers who systematically assembled a vast calendrical and astronomical scheme which would stand intact over five millennia.

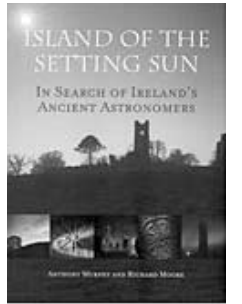
Archaeologists have been probing the sites of their ruins over the last 50 years, and have been revealing intriguing information, carvings, artifacts, and dating material. Some of the ancient stone sites continue to function more than five millennia after they were constructed, with famous examples, such as Newgrange and Dowth, featuring alignments to the Winter Solstice sun.

*Island of the Setting Sun* tells the story of people who tracked time, vast periods of time, and brought the sky down onto the ground in a grand astronomical scheme. The authors' exploration of the sky-ground system is taken from an array of perspectives, most notably through the ancient stories about these places – some of which may be as ancient as the sites themselves.

Within the complex layers of myth, folklore, and place-name stories, lies a concealed astronomical language. Interpreting these coded cosmological messages, the authors have found that together the landscape, the astronomy, and the myth reveal the true intent of the megalithic master builder of a time when giants were said to rule the land.

In this lavishly illustrated book many disparate things are explored, including the invasion myths of Ireland, the link between the ancient astronomers and St. Patrick, the "pleasant plain" among the stars, the true inspiration behind Newgrange's white quartz façade, the migratory patterns of Whooper Swans, the female reproductive system and its importance to the mound-builders, the eight-year Moon-Venus cycle, and a plethora of stories about such things as underwater spears, giant hounds, tragic drownings, cruel murders, vast battles, strange animals and the Irish Cyclops. In short, *Island of the Setting Sun* provides a revision of how we look at prehistory in Ireland.

Dufour Editions, hardcover, ISBN 9781905785056, 336 pages, \$42.95.

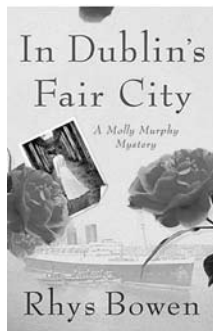


### In Dublin's Fair City A Novel

By Rhys Bowen

Molly Murphy, Rhys Bowen's plucky P.I. in 1903 New York, sails back to her native Ireland on a case searching for the sister of an Irish-American impresario. As the story opens, Molly Murphy's beau, Captain Daniel Sullivan, may be out of jail on bail, but he's still a ways from clearing his name, and his foul mood has Molly in search of a little breathing room when providence steps in the form of a proposition from New York City's renowned theatrical impresario, Tommy Burke.

America has been very good to Tommy, and now that he's getting on in years, he'd like to pass some of that good fortune on to his family back in Ireland. That's, of course, if Molly can find the long-lost baby sister his family left in the care of a parish priest when they fled the famine and avoid the warrant out for her arrest that forced Molly to flee herself. Tempted by the prospect



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### Irish Tales A Collection of Irish Folklore, Collected from Mary Dunne Ware and edited by Ed McManus

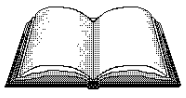
"These are little stories, told to a little boy, by a loving old grandmother who

## BIR BOOKNOTES

The cover of "Cool Waters, Emerald Seas: Diving Temperate Waters" by John Collins has won the Best Cover Design at the CLE Irish Book Industry Awards. The cover is designed by John Foley, founder and creative director of Cork-based design studio Bite! and the photograph was taken by Collins. ... Publishers

Seven Towers is presenting a series of Reading and Open Mic nights at a number of different venues around the country that began at February's end and will continue into July. The events will also include electronic exhibitions by new and emerging artists. For full details of the schedule see [seventowers.ie](http://seventowers.ie).

... Derry-based Guildhall Press, which has focused to date on local history, social history, folklore and photographic collections, is expanding into the fiction market and is calling on writers to submit their work for consideration. For full submission details see [ghpress.com](http://ghpress.com).



# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER BOOK BRIEFS

REVIEWS OF BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN IRELAND, EDITED BY PAULINE FERRIE

## Back From the Brink

By Paul McGrath with Vincent Hogan

The final chapter of Paul McGrath's very honest autobiography would seem to give the lie to the title, for it appears that he is still living on the edge, still as he puts it "slipping in and out of sobriety." In this account of his life he does not try to lay the blame anywhere for his alcoholism, apart from putting forward suggestions from his fractured childhood, and makes no attempt to excuse any of his behavior. What does emerge from the book is the genius of McGrath as a footballer, and the way in which he could outperform most of his peers even when he arrived on the pitch the worse for wear. It was this fact that prompted the almost incredible loyalty that McGrath experienced throughout his career, from his first wife Claire and their three sons, from the managers who had to deal with him, from his fellow-players, and, particularly, from the two physios, Jim Walker and Mick Byrne. There is little doubt that his low self-esteem, his constant feeling that he had no right to be playing Premiership football, stemmed from a childhood during which he felt abandoned by his mother, who placed him in foster care at the age of six

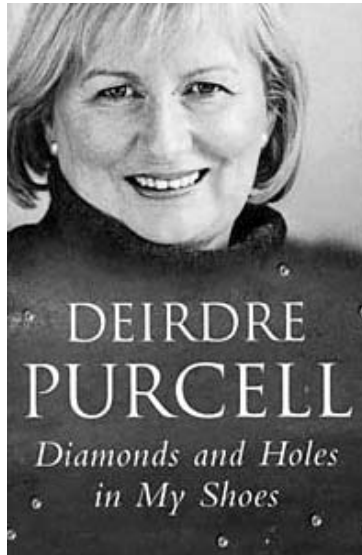
months, and the subsequent lifestyle of the children's homes in which he spent the years until he was sixteen. The lack of confidence is exemplified in his refusal to present medals to a group of primary school boys, an ordeal he felt unable to face, and one which was far more of a threat than walking out onto a football pitch in front of thousands. Two things militated against McGrath's success on the field, damage to his knees and alcoholism, and both were dealt with as best they could by the officials of Manchester United and Aston Villa, as well as by Jack Charlton and Mick McCarthy. For McGrath was very much a part of the Ireland side in the 1990 World Cup when, in his own words, "We took the story of Ireland and its people somewhere it had never been before." McGrath's career was sprinkled with breakdowns and hangovers, all classed as injuries for the press, and it is a tribute to the man and to the profession that his misbehavior was kept from the media. However his increasing "disappearances" culminated in his seeing a photograph of himself on a billboard in Cork over the banner, "Have you seen this man?" His flights from his responsibilities, from his problems, and ultimately from himself descended into both tragedy and bathos and he spares neither himself nor the reader the truth about the many blackouts, the suicide attempts, and the hurt to his family. It is an extraordinary account that leaves the reader with an enormous fund of sympathy for the man and, a though it doesn't have a happy ending, there is a feeling of hope in the way in which McGrath has recognized his demons and is doing his best to deal with them.

*Century, ISBN 1-846-05076-6, 372 pages.*

## Diamonds and Holes in My Shoes

By Deirdre Purcell

Deirdre Purcell's autobiogra-



phy reminds us that she has had a number of high-profile careers in her life including those of actor, journalist, broadcaster, and writer. It also describes the springboard from which she entered the world of work, a springboard that included a secure family background, a particularly vicious teacher, and an idyllic period at boarding school. At Gortnor Abbey in Mayo the young Deirdre excelled at her studies, as well as playing in the school orchestra, but disappointed all but herself with her Leaving Certificate results. An interest in a religious vocation was brought to an abrupt end when she acquired a Civil Service job, a prized possession in 1960s Ireland. However, the glamor of Aer Lingus proved too strong a draw and the young Purcell moved on to become a reservations clerk. And it was here that she embarked on the dramatic life; accompanying a colleague to an audition for the Abbey Theatre, it was she rather than he who was offered the place and so began a career that took her to Chicago and to her first husband.

In addition to chronicling her varied careers, the author has drawn profiles of the characters who were most important in her life even if, as she says, the relationships were complex. These included her indomitable mother Maureen and father Bill, who became a fixture in the Spanish town of Sitges which they visited 64 times and where each was honored by having a hotel room named after them. Deirdre's Aunt Nellie also played a pivotal part in her young life; she describes their relationship thus: "So if every child needs someone to spoil them rotten, Nellie was that someone for me." The author seems to have suffered from a lack of confidence at many different stages of her life, a trait she attributes to the prevailing belief in her childhood that to praise a child would give her a swelled head. Among those who caused this lack, according to the narrative, were her national schoolteacher and the Abbey director, Frank Dermody. The acting, television, and writing careers form perhaps the outer parts of the author's career sandwich, the important filling being her journalistic career with the *Sunday Tribune*, the highlight of which was her reporting on the famine in Ethiopia and the floods in Bangladesh. Here we have Deirdre Purcell at her best, humbled by the reality of extreme poverty and hunger; it comes as little surprise that she received the inaugural ESB Woman Journalist of the Year award and was also Journalist of the Year for 1986.

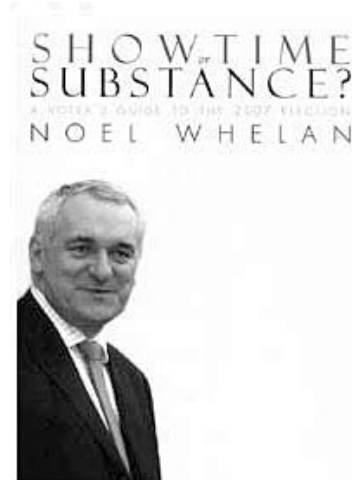
Her ghosting of Gay Byrne's autobiography was the stepping stone to her own career as an author, and she has had the satisfaction of seeing the filming of one of her books bring employment to the area in West Cork in which she and her second husband have a home. After a wildly varied life, which is described warts and all but which also reveals a person with both talent and drive, Deirdre Purcell's latest (though we'd be hesitant to say final) career seems to have been both successful and fulfilling. In the pages of "Diamonds and Holes in My Shoes" she has revealed her highs and her lows, the latter including the excruciating embarrassment of her pursuit of her first love, Edward. This is an honest account of a very full life in a format the author prefers to call a memoir rather than an autobiography, and is a celebration of the first 60 years of that life.

*Hodder Headline, ISBN 0-340-89790-2, 377 pages.*

## Showtime or Substance?

By Noel Whelan

Former Fianna Fail Dail candidate Noel Whelan has set out in "Showtime or Substance" the main issues concerning Irish people today in the run-up to a general election, and those issues that are most likely to be aired on the doorsteps with canvassing politicians. The book is structured in a reader-friendly fashion with the introduction presenting the topics to be covered and each then warranting a substantial chapter. Foremost on the list is, of course, the health service, and other



subjects covered include crime, the economy, immigration, and childcare. Whelan concludes with an overview of the six parties and their leaders, and predicts that both credibility and competence will be key pointers to the forming of the next government. This is an extremely useful volume for those who have neither the time nor the inclination to wade through reams of newspaper articles or manifestos, and will give the individual voter an informed view on which to base his or her political choice.

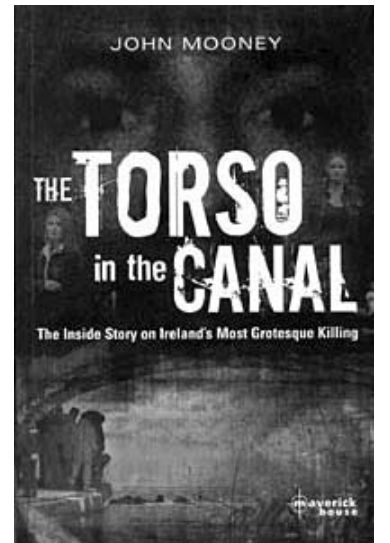
*New Island, ISBN 978-1-905494-48-4, 291 pages.*

## The Torso in the Canal

By John Mooney

The subtitle of John Mooney's book is "The Inside Story on Ireland's Most Grotesque Killing" and there is little doubt that this is an accurate descrip-

tion of the events that took place in Richmond Cottages in north Dublin in March 2005. Although the newspapers gave extensive coverage to the murder, the investigation, and the trial of sisters Linda and Charlotte Mulhall, this book sheds further light on the events, the characters, and the victim. A strong stomach is required to read the account of the murder and, more particularly, the dismemberment of Kenyan immigrant Farah Swaleh Noor before his body parts were severally dumped in the canal. The



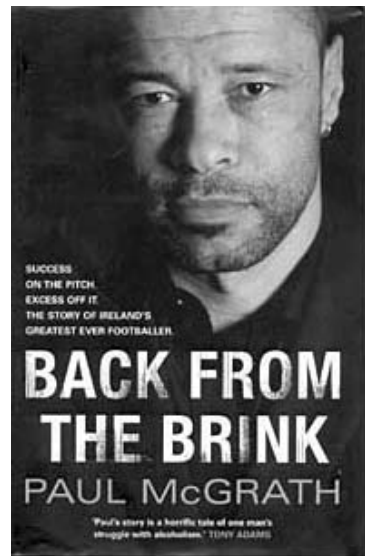
description of the disposal of the victim's head is especially macabre, although it has to be said there is a kind of dark and inappropriate humor about the discovery of the head by a retired army private who, to use the author's own words, "tried to dig it out of the ground with the toe of his boot." The man's daughter refused to accompany him to the spot and eventually the head was removed by Linda Mulhall and buried in a field; it has never been recovered.

Much of the focus of this account is on the painstaking work of the investigative inquiry team led by Detective Inspector Christy Mangan, and it is through his eyes that we see the two Mulhall sisters, particularly Linda, and receive a different view of the crime. For although there is no attempt to lessen the horror of what the publicly-dubbed "Scissor Sisters" had done, there is a palpable degree of sympathy for the wasted lives of two young women, both of them mothers. Their victim had a history of extreme physical and sexual violence against women, and had also been a suspect in the murder of Raonaid Murray, the teenager killed in Dun Laoghaire in 1999. The parents of Linda and Charlotte provide two contrasting views of parenthood. John Mulhall, who had left the family home when his wife Kathleen took up with Farah, attempted to protect his two daughters and, such was his distress at what had happened, he took his own life. Kathleen, on the other hand, abandoned her children when they most needed her, disappeared to England and has not been heard of since.

There is no doubt of the guilt of the Mulhall sisters; fueled though it was by fear, drink, and drugs, the murder and dismemberment of Farah Swaleh Noor was a most beyond belief, with many more victims than simply the Kenyan immigrant at the centre of the crime.

*Maverick House, ISBN 978-1-905379-38-5, 248 pages.*

(Continued on next page)



## Bestsellers in Ireland

### Paperback Fiction

1. Anybody Out There? Marian Keyes – Poolbeg.
2. Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, John Boyne - Black Swan.
3. Suite Francaise, Irene Nemirovsky – Vintage.
4. The Interpretation of Murder, Jed Rubinfeld – Headline.
5. Closer to Home, Erin Kaye – Poolbeg.

### Paperback Non-fiction

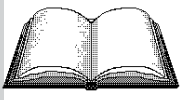
1. Torso in the Canal, John Mooney – Maverick.
2. I'll Stop Tomorrow, Paul Campbell – Mercier.
3. Overheard in Dublin, Sinead Kelly and Gerard Kelly - Gill & Macmillan.
4. The God Delusion, Richard Dawkins – Bantam.
5. The Untouchables, Paul Williams – Merlin.

### Hardback Fiction

1. Shopaholic and Baby, Sophie Kinsella – Bantam.
2. Step on a Crack, Michael Ledwidge and James Patterson - Headline.
3. The Book Thief, Markus Zusak – Doubleday.
4. Whitethorn Woods, Maeve Binchy – Orion.
5. Should Have Got Off at Sydney Parade, Ross O'Carroll Kelly - Penguin Ireland.

### Hardback Non-fiction

1. Back from the Brink: The Autobiography, Paul McGrath – Century.
2. Rachel's Favourite Food at Home, Rachel Allen – Collins.
3. The Goddess Guide, Gisele Scanlon - Harper Collins.
4. Cook with Jamie, Jamie Oliver - Michael Joseph.
5. Speeches that Changed the World, Simon Sebag Montefiore - Quercus.



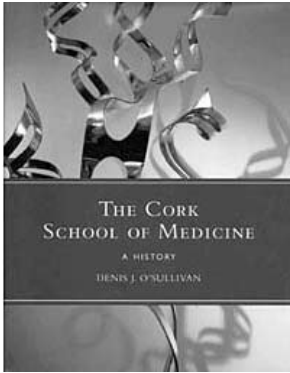
# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER BOOK BRIEFS

REVIEWS OF BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN IRELAND, EDITED BY PAULINE FERRIE

## The Cork School of Medicine

By Denis J. O'Sullivan

Professor of Medicine at University College Cork for almost 30 years, Denis J. O'Sullivan is eminently qualified to pen a history of the medical school from its foundation in 1849 to the present day. Writing with admiration and affection for the school's teachers and graduates, the author notes that five medical schools existed in

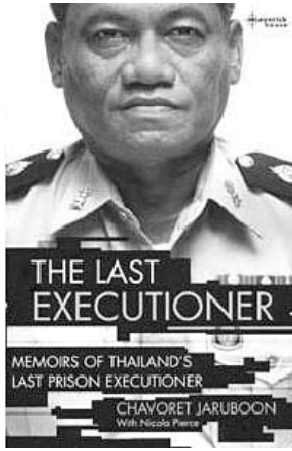


Cork prior to the opening of the university, and suggests that the ready availability of paupers for the study of anatomy and pathology was a contributory factor. He also touches on a problem extant in the nineteenth century which continues

to this day: "It would appear that then, as so often afterwards, the perceived needs of senior administration took precedence over the real needs of the new college."

For much of the period covered, the number of medical students in the university represented a major part of the student body, though numbers fluctuated during the 20th century, reaching lows in both 1932 and 1962; in the 1960s numbers gradually increased to their present level. O'Sullivan pays tribute to a number of former college presidents, including Professor Windle at the beginning of the last century and recent incumbent Professor Gerry Wrixon, and also gives an account of the different hospitals in the city associated with the university. In praising both the teachers and the graduates he refutes the verdict of Professor John Murphy in his "The College," in which medical students were described as having "a swaggering self confidence based on a cocky view of their own importance." For the author the medical school is judged on its graduates, and to them he has dedicated his book, "with affection and pride."

University College Cork, ISBN 978-0-9552229-4-8, 125 pages.



## The Last Executioner

By Chavoret Jaruboon with Nicola Pierce

Maverick House seems to be dwelling on the darker side of life this month, with another book entitled "The Last Executioner," a personal account of his career as a prison officer and executioner by Chavoret Jaruboon, the last executioner in Thailand before the introduction of the lethal injection. It is an extraordinarily matter-of-fact account of the musician turned prison warden rising through the ranks from escort of the condemned to preparation of the gun through to the task of firing the lethal round himself. In it he displays an empathy with his victims but also a great pragmatism; he had three children to whom he wished to give the best education and the extra pay made this possible. It also, however, caused his children problems at their superior schools when they were asked what their

father did. He also states that it was against his religion (Buddhism) to kill anything, never mind another human being. After a lifetime in the prison service Chavoret Jaruboon has an insight into both the criminal and the responsibilities of prison officers. He gives his views on the three types of prisoners, the "born-to-be," the "easily influenced," and the "mentally challenged," as well as writing rather scathingly of the present intake of graduate officers.

Maverick House, ISBN 1-905379-26-9, 296 pages.

## Nora, A Memoir

By Nora Szechy

This book is part of an increasingly popular genre, that of describing childhood in Ireland in the early to middle years of the last century. Nora Wright came from a typically large Dublin family and suffered the usual difficulties of a relatively impoverished childhood, the inferior First Communion and Confirmation outfits, the over-crowding, and the acceptable level of corporal punishment. As Nora explains it, "Everyone was in the same boat, large families, little

the different family members, and the neighbors. It is also an account of a girl with ambition whose parents encouraged her but were also on hand to look out for her welfare.

During the course of her teens and early twenties Nora held down a number of jobs, emigrated for a short while to America (and the reason for her going is an interesting sidelight on life in Ireland at the time), and spent some time in London before returning to Dublin and then joining friends in Toronto. This was where she met her future husband, Frank Szechy and, as her final sentence proclaims, "The best was yet to come." Nora Szechy writes with both affection for her family and insight into their dynamic. She seems to have accepted her parents' interference in her long-term relationship with David, an English Protestant whom they thought totally unsuited to their daughter. While the detail does at times become laborious, it nonetheless contributes to an interesting portrait of one Dublin family, and the life of "An Ordinary Girl from Inchicore."

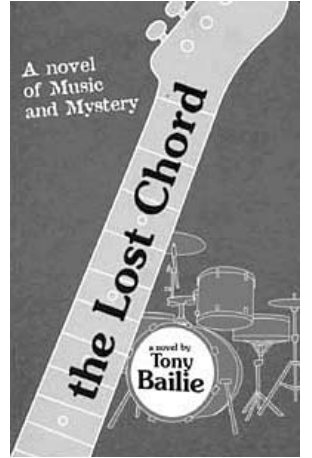
iUniverse, ISBN 0-595-39178-8, 222 pages.

## The Lost Chord

By Tony Bailie

The frenetic world of rock music is combined with the tranquility of the Irish countryside to produce a remarkable debut novel by Tony Bailie. Told through the eyes of Manus Brennan, who is plucked from obscurity to join a leading Irish rock band, the narrative looks back to the heyday of the band, Duil, and the aftermath of the disappearance of its charismatic lead singer, Gino Morgan. The subtitle, "A Novel of Music and Mystery" aptly sums up the content of the narrative; Manus's gradual assimilation into the group, his grasp of musical technique, and his embracing of the drug culture so associated with the rock scene are counterbalanced by the mystery of Gino's disappearance after a concert in Munich. The truths and pretences of the

rock scene are revealed, the mimed appearances, the distorted stories released to the press, the ready availability of both drugs and groupies to the band members, and the power wrought by the manager, in this case the redoubtable Phil. But it is in the characterization that Bailie triumphs: Gino himself, the mainstay of Duil, who has purposely cultivated an air of mystery about his origins; the often taciturn Finn, who has to take



over as Gino's decline deepens; Aaron, son of a Northern preacher whose family has disowned him for abandoning his religion and his country; and Justin, the classically trained musician whose music, while faultless, lacks the passion engendered by his fellow musicians. All of these are portrayed through the eyes of the initially naive and awestruck Manus, who moves from an injured and penniless busker, through the height of rock stardom to finish as a self-styled "penniless drunk." It is through his eyes that we try to unravel the mystery of Gino's disappearance, following the trail of a group of German monks, and the denouement in a Dublin hotel, where the extent of the musicians' betrayal by their manager reaches its climax.

"The Lost Chord" is a well-written and seemingly authentic take on the roller-coaster life of the rock musician interspersed with a tale of mystery that adds a new dimension to a well-worn theme.

Lagan Press, ISBN 1-904652 34 4, 206 pages.

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## Carty on Sports

## Heartache for Irish Rugby

## O'Sullivan's Troops Hammer Italy but Lose Six Nations Title

BY KEN CARTY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Oh, to have those two lousy minutes back. Back in February, when Ireland suffered a late 20-17 defeat to comeback kings France, a mesmerized Croke Park crowd sat stunned and collectively thought: "We hope this one won't cost us."

Sadly, despite all the novenas and prayers, the loss to the French did indeed matter. Coach Eddie O'Sullivan's side did their part on the final day of the Six Nations season, scoring eight tries to thump helpless Italy, 51-24. Two hours after Ireland's win in Rome, however, an injury-time try from Elvis Vermeulen helped France to a 46-19 victory over Scotland. The result was that the Irish -- for the second year in a row -- lost the championship on point difference -- France with a plus 69 to Ireland's plus 65.

"That was a tough day," the understated O'Sullivan told the press afterward. "We entered the match knowing we had to win and hopefully by enough to win the championship. We just kept kicking and putting up as many points on the board as we could, but that's the way the cookie crumbles."

Ireland's Denis Hickie didn't necessarily like running the score up on the poor Italians but he and his mates knew it was their only way they could capture the title. "It was a strange feeling in the dressing room after we came off. We scored as many points as we could, and we won the match, but we still came off feeling that it might not be enough," he said.

Ireland's thumping of Italy might not have been enough to see them lift the Six Nations trophy, but it did earn them a No. 4 spot on the IRB world rankings behind New Zealand, France, and Australia.

**Opening Day for eir-com League** -- The **eir-com League** kicked off its season last month, and once again the compelling stories were off the field as Shelbourne FC, the

league's reigning champions, nearly folded due to financial difficulties. The Drumcondra club, which has won four of the last six league titles, had its premier division license revoked because of financial irregularities, including owing more than \$300,000 in back pay to players. As a result, most of the team's starters were released from their contractual obligations and allowed to sign with other clubs. Even manager Pat Fenlon flew the Reds' coop. Derry City and Drogheda United were the primary beneficiaries as each squad picked up key performers. In addition, the Shels were thrown out of the lucrative UEFA Champions League and the Setanta Sports Cup competition. Derry was then awarded the country's Champions League berth while St. Patrick's Athletic received the Setanta berth.

Shelbourne did receive a first-division license and the club reluctantly accepted its demotion. Former Shels coach Dermot Keely was hired to pick up the pieces, and within four days of his appointment, he had cobbled together a roster of 16 through loan signings and promoting players from the club's under-20 roster.

On the field, St. Pats has raced out to an early lead, sitting atop the table with a 2-0-0 mark. The Pats are also a surprising 2-0-1 in the Setanta Cup.

There is good news for Irish soccer fans as RTE



Ireland fans celebrate after beating England in the six nations rugby Union Match at Croke Park on Feb. 24. (AP Photo).

Television is doubling its live coverage of league matches this year so it will broadcast 13 matches, including FAI Cup competitions. RTE's coverage will be live on [rte.ie/sport](http://rte.ie/sport) for users around the world.

**Wolfhounds ready for season** -- The **Boston Irish Wolfhounds** are set for three home games this month at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton. The 'Hounds, in their first year in the USA Rugby Super League, will take on the visiting Santa Monica Rugby Club on Sun., April 1, before hosting the Chicago Griffins on Sat., April 14. Two weeks later, on April 28, the Dallas Harlequins visit the ICC. For starting times and admission

prices, visit [biwrfc.com](http://biwrfc.com). The Rugby Super League is made up of 18 teams, who are divided into three conferences of six each. Following the regular season, the top two teams in each conference qualify for the playoffs, along with the top two third-place finishers.

**Duddy boxes to 19-0 mark** -- Not all of the Irish are feeling bad in the United States these days -- Derry native **John Duddy**, in fact, is having the time of his life. The 27-year-old Duddy won

a unanimous decision on St. Patrick's Day after his fight with **Anthony Bonsante** was stopped in the ninth round due to a gash on the American's forehead. The cut, which was bleeding profusely, was caused by an accidental clash in the second round. With the win, Duddy improved to 19-0 lifetime and now wants a showdown with WBC World middleweight champion **Jermain Taylor**. "John is huge here in New York and everyone loves him because he's got

an exciting style and he's a good looking guy who can really fight," manager **Eddie McLaughlin** told the press.

**The Notebook:** In the Scottish Premier League, **Glasgow Celtic** are closing in on their 41st league title with an impressive 23-5-3 record. With seven weeks remaining in the season, the Bhoys hold a telling 13-point lead over second-place **Rangers**. Celtic are also in the running for the Scottish Cup as they take on first-division side **St. Johnstone** in the semifinals on April 14. Two young Irishmen -- midfielder **Aidan McGeady** and defender **Darren O'Dea** -- have signed long-term contracts with the club.

... **Steve Staunton's Ireland squad** is scheduled to take on Bolivia on Sat., May 26, as part of a soccer doubleheader at Gillette Stadium. The day's other match has the **New England Revolution** of Major League Soccer (MLS) hosting the **Kansas City Wizards**. Starting times have yet to be announced. Ireland will open its brief visit to the East Coast with a May 23 match against Ecuador at Giants Stadium. For tickets, visit [revolutionsoccer.net](http://revolutionsoccer.net) or call 1-877-GetRevs.

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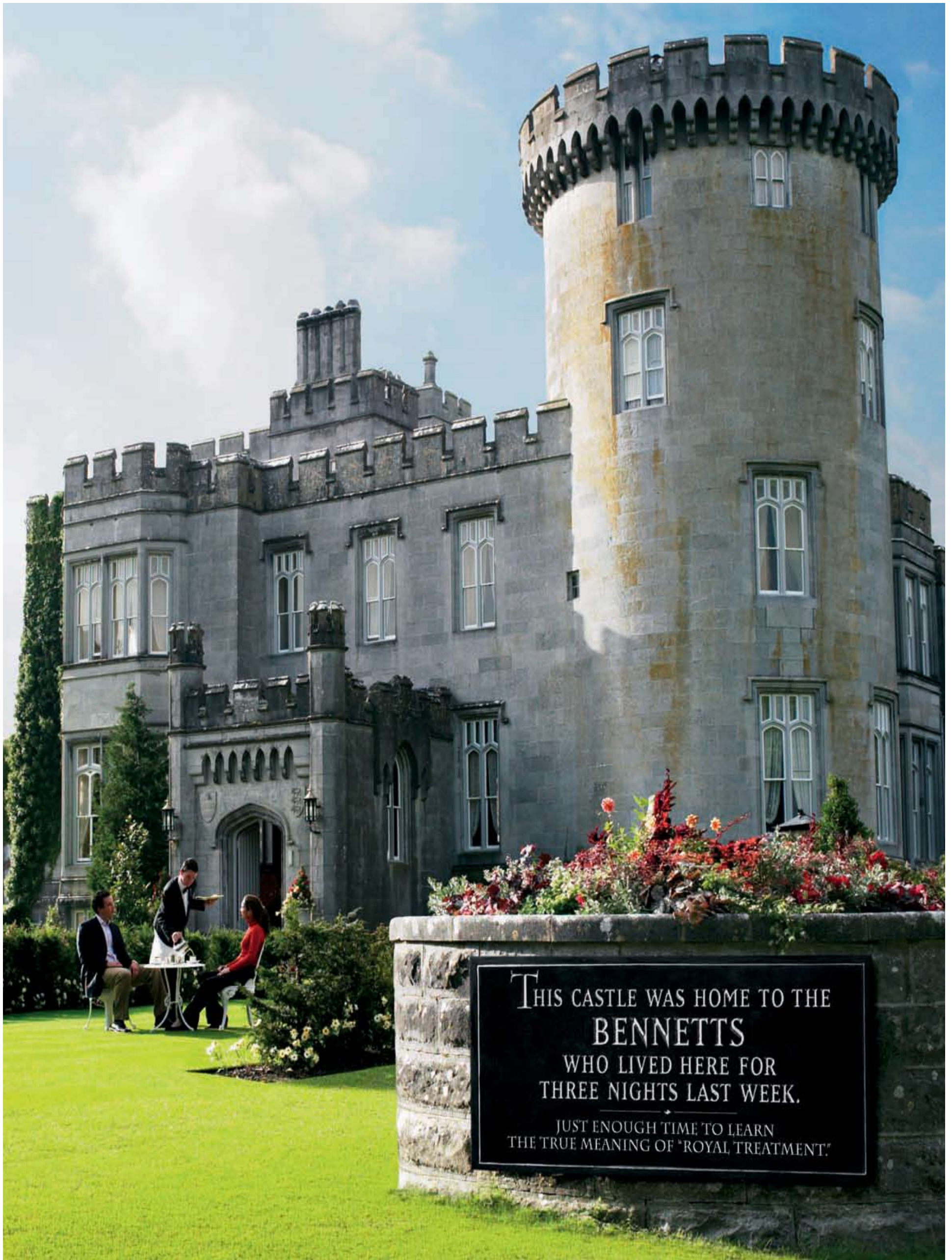
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