

# the celtic connection

ISSUE 23 VOLUME 6

*Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991*

JULY/AUGUST 2014



## ABOUT OUR COVER ARTIST



**UZANNE** Gyseman creates images inspired by the realms of angels, faeries, myth, folklore and dreams.

She also finds inspiration in the life forms of the natural world, and approaches her work with a vision of the inter-relatedness of life, extending this beyond the physical dimension.

Suzanne grew up in a small seaside village on the south coast of Wales, UK – a magical landscape where she loved to wander as a child along the coastline and through the woods daydreaming about elves and mermaids, finding among the gnarled tree roots hidden doorways into otherworldly dwellings of gnomes and faeries.

As she grew older, these imaginings stayed with her and she still looks for, and finds, such places where she now lives in the Highlands of Scotland.



**SUZANNE GYSEMAN**

a landscape Suzanne senses spirit energies in the plants, trees, rocks and water. An avid reader since childhood, Suzanne's other sources of inspiration are fairytales, myths and folklore.

After graduating with a BSc in Botany in 1980 she originally intended to work for nature conservation. She has worked in a variety of jobs including nature conservation, botanist, gardener, map analysis, computer control clerk and mother, but continued to draw and write faerie stories in her free time.

Living in a rural area of woods and farm fields edged by mossy dry-stone walls, she finds lots of inspiration for faerie paintings – a short walk down the lane, a river runs between wooded banks under an old arched stone bridge; and not far away, turrets of castles peer from ancient forests with a backdrop of mountains receding into a blue haze of distance.

When walking or cycling through such

Her paintings are included in private collections worldwide and her work is appearing increasingly in publication as book covers, illustrations, in calendars and with over 50 images licensed to date as greetings cards and prints. Her short fiction has appeared in *West Coast Magazine* and *Visionary Tongue*.

[For more about Suzanne Gyseman, visit her website at: [www.suzannegyseman.co.uk](http://www.suzannegyseman.co.uk).]

## Inside This Issue



**IRELAND'S** first female ambassador to the United States, Anne Anderson, was given a rousing warm welcome on her first visit to Seattle last month. She is pictured above with Ireland's Consul General in San Francisco, Philip Grant (L), and John Keane (R) the Irish Honorary Consul in Seattle. [For the full story and more photos, see pages 12, 13, 20, 21]

## THE BREHON LAWS: Women's equality under Ireland's ancient justice system

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## Stones Mark the Place and Space of Lughnasadh

By Cynthia Wallentine - PAGE 24

## Save These Dates!

Sunday, September 14

**The Celtic Connection golf tournament**  
Mylora Golf Course, Richmond, B.C. [See page 3]

Saturday, July 19

**ISSC Annual Race Night Fundraiser**  
Croatian Cultural Centre, Vancouver, B.C. [See page 2]

August 2-3

**11<sup>th</sup> Western Canada GAA Championships**  
Capilano Rugby Club, North Vancouver, B.C.

October 18

**ISSC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary GAA-LA Event**  
UBC Golf Course, Vancouver, B.C. [See page 3]

## WIN FREE TICKETS

Win a pair (2 tickets) to a **Taste of the Highlands** at the **Canmore Highland Games** in Canmore, Alberta on August 30, **plus** a pair (2 tickets) to the **Canmore Highland Games** (Ceilidh not included), on August 31 (see page 5 for more details). Entry by August 8. Mark your entry: Canmore Highland Games.

Entries by e-mail only. Mark the name of the event on your entry, including your name and daytime telephone number. (*Only one entry per person.*) Send to: [cbutler@telus.net](mailto:cbutler@telus.net).

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#### Irish Club Entertainment Listing

July 19 – Amie Weymes  
August 2 – Brian Maxwell  
August 11 – Ryan Kelly & Neil Byrne (from the cast of Celtic Thunder)  
in concert @ 7:30 pm – Tickets on line  
Irish Club Sports Day and BBQ – Members only – at  
Coronation Park Westmount Site 1 – from 1 pm – 5 pm  
August 16 – The Chancers  
August 23 – Derina Harvey  
September 23 – Irish Club Annual Seniors Dinner & Dance  
Tx;s \$15 – all members & guests are invited  
Dinner: 7:30 pm  
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## DO YOU OWN A PENSION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM?

*Recent changes in pension legislation now allows for a smooth and tax-efficient transfer of foreign pension assets to Canada.*

The Canadian government has recently updated its policy regarding the transfer of UK-based pensions into the Canadian retirement system.

These changes now provide the most tax-efficient opportunity for individuals to consolidate their assets into the Canadian retirement system if they qualify based on certain tax variables.

Should you integrate your foreign pension into Canada?  
Are there risks for leaving it in the UK?  
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What are the advantages of integrating it into Canada?  
What variables do you need to consider?  
And do you qualify for the new tax-efficient transfer options?

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## 40th anniversary celebrations at UBC Golf Course gala night

VANCOUVER – Be sure to save the date for the following important upcoming events sponsored by the Irish Sporting and Social Club.

**Saturday, July 19  
7:30 PM - Late  
ISSC ANNUAL RACE NIGHT  
FUND RAISER  
Croatian Cultural Centre,  
Vancouver, B.C.**

Proceeds from this event will support our hosting of the Western Canadian Championships on the August Bank Holiday Weekend, our 40th Anniversary Gala night in October and our participation at the North American Finals in Boston, on Labor Day Weekend.

#### WESTERN CANADIAN GAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

On December 1, 1974, the Vancouver Irish Sporting & Social Club was established when members of the Vancouver Irish community gathered to decide on the name of a new club.

It was Pat O'Donohue who proposed the current name, and it was unanimously accepted by all present that night.

Fast forward through several waves of immigration to Greater Vancouver from Ireland, and we see a club that has embraced the Gaelic Games as the backbone of a very successful and vibrant club 40 years later.

To celebrate this special year, there are two standout events on the calendar:

#### August 2-3 11<sup>TH</sup> WESTERN CANADIAN GAA CHAMPIONSHIPS Capilano Rugby Club in North Vancouver

On the August long weekend, the ISSC will host the Western Canadian GAA Championships at the Capilano Rugby Club in North Vancouver.

It will be the largest tournament staged in the history of the division and it is expected that there will be at least six

#### IRISH SPORTING AND SOCIAL CLUB



By  
**RONAN  
DEANE**

men's teams and five ladies teams competing for the division's bragging rights.

Further, Edmonton and Calgary men will be bringing the hurling sticks, and the clash of the ash will be heard in Western Canadian Championship action for the very first time.

Fort McMurray ladies fell just short in their first-ever Tom Gibbons Western Canada Championship against the Vancouver ladies.

It is one of the key match-ups that the whole division is looking forward to when the Albertans arrive in Vancouver this August.

In men's competition, Edmonton defend their title intent to prove that they don't need to be in the City of Champions to win this title.

Vancouver will be strong this year, however they know that the hotly contested Alberta Cup will mean their guests will hit the ground running when they arrive.

The Saskatchewan boys will hope to do one better in 2014 and perform on the senior stage.

With such a large gathering, the ISSC is hosting a festival that runs parallel to the Gaelic Games! Local Irish/Celtic businesses are encouraged to attend and set-up a stall at our event.

Please connect with issccchairman@gmail.com if you are interested in attending and promoting your business.

#### October 18 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary GAA-LA Event UBC Golf Course, Vancouver, B.C.

On October 18, the ISSC will host its 40th Anniversary GAA-LA event at the University of British Columbia Golf Course.

The club would like to extend an open invitation to all former players, members, supporters, and friends to come along and enjoy the celebration as part of the extended ISSC/GAA family.

It promises to be a night to remember, a night to renew and to rekindle old friendships.

The event is anticipated to sell out and the ISSC strongly encourages anyone who wants to purchase a ticket to RSVP e-mail isscvancouver40gala@gmail.com to reserve a ticket in advance of the official ticket launch which will coincide with the Western Canadian GAA Championships.

An event like this takes a high level of financial support from our club and extended sponsors, however ISSC would also encourage other parties interested in offering sponsorship for the night to contact us for further details at: isscvancouver40gala@gmail.com.



#### Can you help with our silent auction?

Do you have any items in new or good condition that would be suitable for *The Celtic Connection* fundraising silent auction for our golf tournament on Sunday, September 14?

Each year at our golf tournament we have a silent auction which is a very important part of our fundraising efforts.

We depend on this event to help us continue to bring our readers this newspaper which has helped unify and inform the Celtic nations in our communities for the past 23 years.

If you have any items to donate to the auction or need any further information, please call (604) 434-3747 or e-mail: cbutler@telus.net.

– Catholine Butler

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## THE CELTIC CONNECTION

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#### IHSC AGM

September 10<sup>th</sup> 2014  
Kerrisdale legion, 42th & Arbutus, Vancouver

## Derek Warfield & the Young Wolf Tones

VANCOUVER – The Vancouver CelticFest Society is proud to present Derek Warfield – a founding member and leader of the legendary Wolfe Tones for some 40 years – who has now assembled some of the finest young talents on the Irish music scene under the name of the Young Wolf Tones.

Direct from Dublin Derek Warfield & the Young Wolf Tones will appear in concert at St. Mary's Ukrainian Hall at 16th and Ash in Vancouver on Saturday, November 1.

This world-renowned Irish ballad group is packing the halls with a blast from the past while keeping the younger feet stomping all night long.

It promises to be a great night with only one appearance in Vancouver. The evening will be presented by CelticFest Vancouver so bring along all your friends to a rousing night on the town.

Tickets will go on sale on September 1. More information at: <https://www.facebook.com/CelticFestVancouver>.



Get Your Friends Together  
for Another Brilliant Day This Year

## The Celtic Connection Newspaper Presents our 11th annual Golf Tournament

Mylora Golf Club, 9911 Sidaway Road, Richmond, B.C.

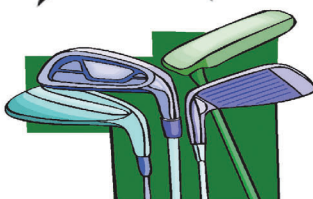
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2014**

FOR MORE DETAILS  
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ENTRIES PAYABLE BY CHEQUE  
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PLEASE NOTE  
date change!  
September 14

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The Celtic Connection  
#452 - 4111 Hastings Street,  
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– Cheers, Pete Mahony



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JP RYAN HURLING TEAM

"We're back again this year to defend our title and we proved that last year...was no fluke"

– Billy Quinlan,  
JP Ryan Hurling Team

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## Rogue Folk Club

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**Thursday, July 10**

The greatest Celtic guitarist in the world teams up with Nova Scotia singer / songwriter: 2 shows in 1!

**TONY McMANUS & LAURA SMITH**

**Monday, July 14**

Celtic music with a Kiwi twist, plus some amazing Scots piping!

**PACIFIC CURLS NZ**

**ROSS & JARLATH Scot**  
@ Waterfront Theatre, Granville Is.



**Thursday, July 31**

Stunning young singer with Steve Dawson & The Black Hen Band

**Colleen RENNISON**

**Thursday, August 14**

The best trad. Celtic band to come out of Cape Breton in 20 years!



**COIG**

**Friday, August 15**

Sylvia Tyson, Cindy Church, Caitlin Hanford, & Gwen Swick!

**QUARTETTE**

**St. James Hall (3214 West 10th Ave.)**  
**Tickets & Info (604) 736-3022**

# Some fine Celtic music coming our way this summer



**VANCOUVER** – Things are warming up here on the left coast, both weather-wise and musically-speaking!

There are three concerts of Celtic music at **The Rogue** in the next few weeks which – I promise you – will be amongst the best you'll hear all year.

On Thursday, July 10, **Tony McManus & Laura Smith** perform at The Rogue at St. James Hall (3214 West 10th Avenue).

Tony McManus is widely regarded as the finest guitarist in Celtic music these days. Born and raised in Glasgow, he is self-taught, and his most recent CD consists of classical music selections played on the steel string guitar; surely a first in this genre!

He is best known for his Celtic guitar though, and his transcriptions of complex pibroch / Ceol Mor bagpipe pieces are truly stunning.

Laura Smith from Nova Scotia is best known for her memorable reinterpretation of *My Bonny*. Her latest CD consists of several trad. Scots ballads as well as several original songs.

Tony teamed up with her a year or so back, at first to record with her, and this led to concert performances across Canada and at the recent Folk Alliance in Kansas City – which were met with ecstatic reviews from all who witnessed them.

Tony will accompany Laura's set and will also perform a solo set. We are thrilled to be able to present them in concert at The Rogue.

The following Monday (July 14) The Rogue takes over **The Waterfront Theatre on Granville Island** for a double bill featuring New Zealand / Scots trio **Pacific Curls** and the incredible piping duo **Ross Ainslie and Jarlath Henderson** from Scotland.

This theatre is air-conditioned! It will need to be, for this concert will surely feature some of the hottest music in town that night!

Ross and Jarlath recently released their second CD, *Air-Fix*, which showcases their versatility as well as their incredible skills as pipers.

Jarlath, who is a practising MD when he's not piping, specializes in the Irish uilleann pipes and Low D Whistle, while Ross plays Border pipes and various low whistles.

They will be joined by **Ali Hutton** on guitar and vocals.

We saw them at the Edmonton Folk festival last summer, and Tony Montague of *The Georgia Straight* witnessed them at a trad. festival in Edinburgh last month. We agree that this is some of the most amazing piping that we have heard!

**Pacific Curls** have visited our shores three times over the past few years. Their remarkable blend of Celtic fiddle tunes with Polynesian rhythms and soulful songs in Maori, English and Rotuman – backed by guitar, ukulele, and cajon is beautiful and exhilarating at the same time.

Their vocal harmonies are glorious and they bring together their respectively



By  
**STEVE  
EDGE**

## THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB

*“Coig – whose name means five in Gaelic – is the most exciting new trad. band to come from Cape Breton Island since the Barra MacNeils and the Rankins”*

disparate worlds in a most enjoyable way!

Students of Scots history will be aware of the Eighteenth Century Scots Presbyterian preacher **Norman McLeod**, who first led his congregation across the Atlantic to settle near Baddeck, Nova Scotia.

The site of their settlement is now the Gaelic College at St. Anne's, and is the HQ of Cape Breton's wonderful **Celtic Colours** festival which takes place every October.

After a few years he decided this wasn't quite the ideal new location for his flock, so he led them even further this time, first to Adelaide, Australia and then to Waipu on the north island of New Zealand.

Little did he know that **Pacific Curls** would retrace much of those journeys 250 years later – albeit in a much more comfortable and more musically fulfilling way!

Margaret and I went to **Celtic Colours** last year and had an amazing time there.

The most impressive new band we heard there was **Coig**, whose name means five in Gaelic.

These five are fiddlers: **Chrissy Crowley** from Margaree and **Colin Grant** from Sydney, N.S., fiddler / singer **Rachel Davis** from Baddeck; pianist **Jason Roach** from Cheticamp on the French west coast of Cape Breton; and multi-instrumentalist **Darren McMullen** from Hardwood Lands, NS, whose mastery of all things stringed was the most impressive feature of **David Francey's** backing band at his sold out show at The Rogue last fall.

This stunning band has just released its first CD – I'm currently awaiting delivery by Canada Post – but all five have

released solo and collaborative albums in the past few years, most notably Crowley's *Last Night's Fun* and *The Departure* CDs and Davis' solo CD, *Turns*.

You might have seen Colin Grant at the **Celtic Festival** in recent years too. He has his own band and is also a member of **Sprag Session**, a contemporary Celtic combo from Sydney.

Individually they are amongst the very finest young musicians in Cape Breton; collectively they are the most exciting new trad. band to come from that island since the **Barra MacNeils** and the **Rankins** emerged 25 years ago.

**Coig** are every bit as good as the best of those two esteemed bands, and their approach is even more traditional.

Come and see them on Thursday, August 14 at The Rogue at St. James Hall. You will be blown away!!

**Cindy Church** is a wonderful signer originally from Halifax. For many years (notably at Expo 86) she was the backing singer in **Ian Tyson's** band.

**Sylvia Tyson** used to be married to him, of course, and **Ian and Sylvia** were amongst the leading bands in the folk revival of the early 1960s. Sylvia is still going strong, still writing and singing in that crystal-clear voice.

They are joined by **Caitlin Hanford** and **Gwen Swick** (who used to play fiddle in the trad. band **Tamarack**) to form **Quartette**, and this renowned Canadian combo makes its Rogue debut on August 15.

You may have noticed that **Shore 104FM** has now become **LG1040**, and its format is now “Classic Rock.”

Fortunately they still broadcast Coastal Blues every night from 9 PM to midnight, and they continue to sponsor the music before the fireworks during the annual **Celebration of Light** (July 26, July 30, and August 2 this year.)

The Rogue teams up with LG1040 to present **Shorefest** at the Sunset Beach Stage again this year. It's FREE, and there are six bands, including **Jim Byrnes & The Sojourners**, **Jon & Roy**, **Current Swell**, **Scarlett Jane**, **Locarno**, and **Spirit of the West**.

Spirit **Geoffrey Kelly** does double duty on July 30th with **Locarno** (featuring Tom Landa and Kalissa Landa-Hernandez of The Paperboys) and **SOTW**.

Geoff was one of my main sources of inspiration and music when I got started at **CiTR** in 1985 and I remember trying for years to get them booked at the Vancouver Folk Music Festival.

Then AD Gary Cristall repeatedly insisted that if he wanted a Celtic band he would get one from Scotland or Ireland.

I feel he completely missed the point about the early SOTW: they were a Canadian band with strong Scots roots, playing the music they grew up with and attaching it to the songs of their Canadian experiences.

While the Celtic influence is less noticeable these days, the Spirits can still rock and reel with the best of them, and I will always be indebted to Geoff for introducing me to such great bands as **The Batties**, **The Tannies**, **Touch-**

*[Continued next page]*

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# A two-day Celtic celebration at Canmore Highland Games

CANMORE, Alberta – On Labour Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday, August 30-31, 2014, the Three Sisters Scottish Festival Society will present the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Canmore Highland Games at Centennial Park.

This signature summer event spans two days now with a celebration of everything Celtic, with live entertainment in the beer garden, piping and drumming, Highland dancing, heavy sports, sheep dog demonstrations, clan tents, Celtic vendors, and traditional food and beverages.

A major highlight has always been the thrill associated with the grand finale of the games events.

A tantalizing new event on August 30 will be the kick-off for the Games. Called 'Taste of the Highlands', it will feature socializing over premium scotches, fine wines, Big Rock tasters and finger food. Tickets include the first two beverage-tasting tickets, with more on sale at the event.

Partners in the event offering taste samplings are Canmore Wine Merchants (fine wines and scotches) and Big Rock Brewery (with a delicious array of micro-brewed samples).

"We wanted to enhance our games experience by providing an event to sat-



PHOTO: Mark Dowding

THE WHEAT IN THE BARLEY pulls together a lot of great influences into one package: Celtic, Slavic, French Canadian, Yiddish, Cajun and more. With an impressive array of instruments at their command, the band puts on a show that's as danceable as it is listenable.

isfy the social needs of our adult attendees who have a penchant for fine tastes," says Greg Stevenson, committee head for the 'Taste' event.

The event will run from 6-10 PM in the Big Rock Festival Tent, a beautiful venue that has been traditionally sitting idle on the Saturday.

Stevenson says, "We hope to host at least 400-500 patrons, although our capacity is much larger if needed. We will also open our souvenir retail booth dur-

ing 'Taste' so that we can maximize our fundraising that evening."

Sunday brings the full Highland games and all that it entails which runs from 8 AM to 6 PM all around Centennial Park.

The evening ceilidh winds up the Highland games season in western Canada – where those have been competing can let loose, shake it out and celebrate all things Celtic inside the festival tent with music and dance.

"We always strive for the best Celtic talent we can find," says entertainment coordinator Sally Garen. "During the day we will feature the duo Gail and Karl (of The Malarkeys) from Kelowna."

They will play from the Malarkeys' repertoire, plus branch out into folk and country with a liberal sprinkling of original songs.

As the afternoon heats up, The Wheat in the Barley will take the stage, offering their brand of Canadian folk-funk fusion, "...a great mixture of both original and traditional songs, plus outstanding instrumentals from the Celtic countries..." "Here's looking forward to the 'Wheaties'," says Garen.

"This year we're so happy to present Solstice as the Ceilidh headliner," she says. Solstice is one of Canada's most exciting and prolific Celtic folk bands.

Based in Montreal, Solstice has been delighting audiences across North America and Europe for over a decade with their explosive live performances.

Formed in 2000, Solstice quickly became a mainstay in the Montreal folk scene with their unique brand of Celtic folk that incorporates elements of Bluegrass and Canadian Maritime music.

With a phenomenal marriage of flute, whistle, and fiddle anchored by driving acoustic guitar rhythms and powerful vocals, Solstice takes you on an intense musical journey that transcends generations and musical styles.

Around 85 percent of the thousands who attend the Canmore Highland Games are from outside the Bow Valley. Including their overnight stays, they inject over a million dollars into the local economy.

It's easy to order advance tickets online through Ticketpro, but be quick for the Ceilidh, it's always a sold out event.

[See [www.canmorehighlandgames.ca](http://www.canmorehighlandgames.ca) or [www.ticketpro.ca](http://www.ticketpro.ca) to save and take advantage of advance ticket prices.]



PACIFIC CURLS from New Zealand play a double bill with Ross Ainslie and Jarlath Henderson at The Waterfront Theatre on Granville Island on Monday, July 14.

[Continued from page 4]

stone, The Bothies, and so many more.

For Celtic music fans, the pick of this year's festivals has to be Edmonton with Harrison coming in as a highly respectable runner-up.

Edmonton (August 7-10) has **Donal Lunny and Andy Irvine**, **Lunasa**, **Sharon Shannon**, and a new quartet with **Niamh Parsons**, **Ron Kavana**, **Paddy Keenan** and **Siobhan Peoples**.

Plus Dublin rockabilly sensation **Imelda May** (who was featured on *The Chieftains' Rock of Ages* CD last year).

The Harrison Festival has the likes of **Tony McManus**, **Ross & Jar**, **Pacific Curls**, English duo **Gilmore & Roberts**, and the amazing new combo **North Atlantic Trio** (Celtic harp, dobro and bodhran / cajon.)

On September 19 The Rogue teams up with North Van's Centennial Theatre and Nanaimo's **Celtfest** to bring back

Galician piper **Carlos Nunez** and his fabulous band, who made such a huge impression on us all at The Rogue in February.

Don't make any travel plans for the weekend of November 15 / 16!

New Irish supergroup **The Gloaming** plays The Chan Centre at UBC on Saturday November 15, and English guitarist / singer **Martin Simpson** plays The Rogue the following night

Check out The Gloaming. This remarkable new band stars Clare fiddler **Martin Hayes** and Afro Celt singer **Iarla O'Lionaird** amongst others.

Their beautiful debut CD came out on Realworld Records earlier this year.

To hear the best of Martin Simpson, try to track down the bonus disc version of his latest CD, *Vagrant Stanzas*.

The extra tracks are incredible! (So are the others!)

For all the latest news and to hear music by upcoming performers – and many more on our **Radio Rogue** internet "station." Visit [www.roguefolk.bc.ca](http://www.roguefolk.bc.ca).



August 30-31, 2014

Picture yourself here.



Info: [www.canmorehighlandgames.ca](http://www.canmorehighlandgames.ca)  
Tickets: [www.ticketpro.ca](http://www.ticketpro.ca)

**TICKETPRO**  
[www.ticketpro.ca](http://www.ticketpro.ca)

**Saturday, August 30 - 6 to 10 pm**  
**Taste of the Highlands**

Enjoy fine wines, premium Scotches, delicious brews and finger food in the heated Big Rock Festival tent

**Sunday, August 31**  
**The Highland Games**

Highland dance, piping & drumming, heavy sports competitions, sheep dogs, tug of war, clan tents, Celtic vendors, traditional food & beverages, Massed Bands. (Gates open at 7am)

**Sunday, August 31 - 6 to 11 pm**  
**The Ceilidh**

A spirited celebration of dance and music held in the heated Big Rock Festival tent featuring Celtic band "Solstice" and more.



Cairde, craic, ceol 2014....



The Irish Cultural Society of Calgary (ICS) is proud to present its music and dance program for Summer-Fall 2014!

As well as Ireland's top musicians and dancers in performance, we will also be starting our ceilis up again in September along with Irish music lessons for children.

For up-to-date information on tickets, enrolment, etc., check out [www.calgaryics.org](http://www.calgaryics.org) or email [calgaryics@gmail.com](mailto:calgaryics@gmail.com) (attn: Emily Cargan, President).

**In Concert - straight from the old country!**

August 6th, 2014

Andy Irvine and Donal Lunny in Concert

August 12th, 2014

Ryan Kelly and Neil Byrne of **Celtic Thunder** in Concert

October 7th, 2014

Comhaltas in Calgary - Concert and Workshops

**Get Dancing!**

September - December 2014 (dates to be confirmed)  
Ceili dance workshops and ceilis

November 5th, 2014

Set Dancing Workshop with Oireachtas judge, Jackie Scanlan

**Play Along!**

September - December 2014 (dates to be confirmed)  
Irish music lessons for children - instruments supplied by ICS; semester fee of \$150 (10 lessons); working musicians as instructors; concert to close!





IN DECEMBER 1900 three lighthouse-keepers, Thomas Marshall, James Ducat and Donald McArthur disappeared from the Flannan Isles Lighthouse without trace.

## The mystery of the Flannan Isles Lighthouse

**T**HE sailing ship *Marie Celeste* became famous for having been discovered on December 5, 1872 in the Atlantic Ocean, unmanned and apparently abandoned (the one lifeboat was missing, along with its crew of seven).

There was a similar incident on the Flannan Isles Lighthouse when all three keepers disappeared on December 13, 1900, just over a year after the light began operating, and were never heard of again.

No solution to their disappearance has ever been found, and for over a 100 years now this case has been of endless fascination to those who love unsolved mysteries.

The event captured the imagination of the public in much the same way as the *Marie Celeste*. The official Northern Lighthouse Board position is that a large body of water washed them out to sea. But, no one knows for sure the true story.

The Flannan Lighthouse is located on the Flannan Islands 21 miles west of the Isle of Lewis and marks the fringe of the Outer Hebrides with only St. Kilda further west.

It is named after St. Flannan who was St. Ronan's half brother and the seven rocky outcrops are sometimes called the Seven Hunters.

The island of Eilean Mor on which the lighthouse stands had two other habitations before the lighthouse was built.

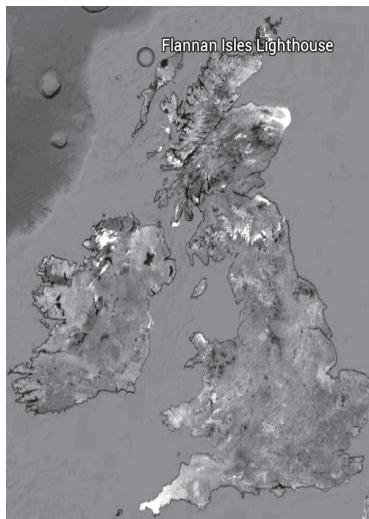
The ruins were described by the Ancient Monuments Commission as "The Bothies of the Clan McPhail" and in appearance one of these ruins seems to have a chapel and the other a dwelling.

The lighthouse was sanctioned by the Board of Trade in 1896 but was not completed until 1899. The engineers were David and Charles Stevenson.

It stands on the top of a 200 foot cliff. The tower is 23 metres high and flashes white every 30 seconds with a range of 20 miles.

Dwelling houses for the lightkeepers' wives and families were built at the shore station at Breasclete, Isle of Lewis.

The site for this was chosen for its close proximity to Loch Roag, a sea loch,



THE ISLAND of Eilean Mor on which the lighthouse stands is a lonely outcrop of the Flannan Isles, approximately 21 miles from the Outer Hebrides, western Scotland.

which provided a safe anchorage and shelter for the lighthouse tender when taking on or putting ashore the lightkeepers, or when bad weather made it impossible to carry out the relief on the due date.

As there was no radio communication between the Flannans and Lewis at that time, a gamekeeper, Roderick MacKenzie, was appointed as observer to the light.

His duties involved watching for any signals from the lighthouse 18 miles north west of his vantage point at Gallan Head, Lewis and to observe and report any failure in the exhibition of the light.

In the event of such a failure he reported immediately by telegram to head office in Edinburgh so that the necessary steps could be taken to have someone sent to carry out any repairs.

Flannan Isles lighthouse was one of the last of the Northern Lighthouse Board's stations to be automated on September 28, 1971.

## Bob Geldof: Life is 'intolerable' without his daughter Peaches

LONDON – In his first interview since the death of his 25-year-old daughter, Bob Geldof told of the "intolerable" pain he continues to feel and said he finds himself sobbing in the street when he becomes overwhelmed by emotion.

In an interview with ITV's Lorraine Kelly, he said he will sometimes "buckle" when he thinks of his loss out of the blue.

Peaches was found dead at her home in Kent three months ago as a result of a suspected heroin overdose.

Geldof told presenter Kelly it was "still very raw" as he explained, "I'm walking down the road and suddenly out of the blue there's an awareness of her – and you know, I buckle."

Discussing his loss, he said, "It's intolerable – it's very hard as everybody must realise, especially if it happened to them too, and what else do you do, you get on with it."

Geldof went on, "I've always done that and being on stage is entirely cathartic, it just clears your head. I just get on a stage and go mad."

"If I dwell on the words sometimes, I find it hard to struggle through the song because they take on whole meanings that I never meant when I wrote them."

The Boomtown Rats frontman – who has just announced a national tour with his reconvened band – said his family's



BOB GELDOLF and his daughter Peaches who died tragically earlier this year. She died one day after she posted a photo online of herself as a baby with her mother Paula Yates who died 14 years ago from a heroin overdose.

life had been "part of the national soap opera."

Other past dramas in his life had included his former wife Paula Yates, leaving him in 1995 after an affair with the Australian singer Michael Hutchence.

Hutchence, an Australian, died in a hotel room in Sydney, which was ruled to be suicide.

Yates later died of a heroin overdose of her own in 2000 with Geldof going on to take custody and then adopt the couple's daughter Tiger Lily.

Geldof told Kelly, "Bizarrely, and I wish it were other, from the very get-go, my life seems to be incredibly episodic like a soap opera."

"I'm never aware I'm in the next scene until something happens and I'm al-

ready in the middle of it. There's no getting out of it and you have to move on to the next scene, whatever that it is."

In another interview for Radio 2's breakfast show, he explained how messages and sympathy from the public had helped him to come to terms with his grief.

Geldof told presenter Chris Evans, "I was overwhelmed. It's a cliché also but it really helps. Not just the number of letters, just the sentiment."

"I mean some of the stories they tell you are heart-rending as you know – but just the sentiment, just one line and you open them up and the impact, you know."

"I was amazed by the impact of her, so young, on her generation."

### CELTIC MUSIC REVIEW

By CATHOLINE BUTLER



#### CELTIC ANGEL Celtic Hits

Celtic Angel, Leela Barbara Fraser is a fourth generation Celtic Canadian singer of Scottish and Irish ancestry.

She was born in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, into a musical family with seven siblings who collectively sang and performed Celtic and Christian music at community events and concerts in Eastern Canada, into their late teens.

Leela continued her passion for music and attained a Bachelor of Music in Classical Voice and a Diploma in Jazz Studies from St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia.

Much of Leela's inspiration for music comes from her mother, Lillian (Ryan) and father, James Fraser.

Leela and her mother are both sopranos and frequently performed at local Celtic music events, concerts and musical theatre.

Over time, Leela has witnessed the disappearance of many iconic Celtic folk songs due to the advent of new musical genres and styles. This has motivated her to take on the project of recording and reviving traditional Celtic songs.

Like an angel, her sweet and serene soprano lyrics are easy listening as she brings her own creative style to the traditional tunes on *Celtic Angel*, *Celtic Hits*. On some of these classics, she sings in Scots Gaelic.

There are 16 tracks on the album, including: *The Wild Mountain Thyme*; *An Eriskay Love Lilt*; *Danny Boy*; *Mairi's Wedding*; *Scotland the Brave*; *Skye Boat Song*; *The Road to the Isles*; *The Dark Island*; *Will Ye No Come Back*; *The Isle of Innisfree* and *Loch Lomond*, to name a few.



### Royal National Mod: Scotland's biggest Gaelic Cultural Festival

INVERNESS – Scotland's biggest Gaelic cultural festival, the Royal National Mod, will be held in Inverness for the first time since 1997.

Organised by An Comunn Gaidhealach, the festival will take place from October 10 to 18 and will include Gaelic songs and drama and also Highland dancing.

There will also be a torchlight procession and music by acts Skipinnish and Gria.

Competitors and spectators are expected from the U.S.A., Australia and Canada.

Alongside the traditional competitions, this year's Mod will feature its biggest fringe event featuring music sessions, poetry and dance.

Currently Leela is composing, arranging, and developing a unique style of Celtic music that blends traditional classic Celtic melodies – both Scottish and Irish – with instruments such as the bagpipes, bodhran, tin whistle, Celtic harp, violin, piano, guitar, and strings.

For the past 15 years, Leela has extensively performed Celtic, classical and world music around the globe at events such as the Pan American Games, Diversity Festivals and Wayne Dyer events.

For more information about Leela Fraser, check out her website at: [www.celticangelmusic.com](http://www.celticangelmusic.com).

Twelve pubs, Urquhart Castle, Fort George and Culloden Battlefield's visitor centre will host fringe events.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gaidhealach, said, "We are delighted to be returning to Inverness for the first time in 17 years and to be bringing the biggest fringe in the event's history."

"The competition is the heart of the Mod and we have had substantial entries this year."

"The fringe also means we can bring Gaelic culture to a new audience, Gaels and non-Gaels together and celebrate talented musicians from around the world with our exciting programme of events."

Last year's Mod was held in Paisley.



# 'Calling off Garth Brooks concerts will cost millions' says promoter

DUBLIN – Concert promoter Peter Aiken has said Garth Brooks and Irish tourism will lose millions with all five Croke Park gigs cancelled.

He told RTE Radio that the singer wanted to play in the stadium, and was disappointed when he heard about the planning debacle.

Brooks had been due to stage five shows at Croke Park stadium on July 25 to 29.

After the first two dates were cancelled by Dublin City Council, an impending legal challenge from a nearby Croke Park resident to the remaining three Garth Brooks concerts was the tipping point in the country star's shock decision to cancel all his Irish dates.

Fans, the tourism sector and businesses are now counting the massive cost of the complete cancellation of the series of five gigs, for which 400,000 tickets had been sold.

The country's cash-strapped businesses branded it a costly "fiasco," while Taoiseach Enda Kenny said the loss of an estimated EU50 million was a "shock" for the economy.

The debacle was branded an "embarrassment" for the country by Arts Minister Jimmy Deenihan.

The taoiseach said "This appears to have been very badly handled all round. It is a shock to the system in terms of the economy of this city and the reputation of our country."

Both the GAA and Croke Park are also set to lose out on a big payday and hotel bosses called it a "severe blow."

Over 70,000 ticketholders had planned to travel from abroad.

Ticketmaster described the scale of the operation for refunding 400,000 tickets as "unprecedented."

The singer's decision to pull the plug came after he was informed a resident was seeking a High Court injunction to stop him performing in Croke Park.

When the council refused permission for two of the dates, Garth Brooks said he would do "five shows or none at all."



U.S. COUNTRY MUSIC legend Garth Brooks was due to launch his comeback world tour in Dublin with concerts on July 25-28 but due to licensing fiasco, the five-night run has now been cancelled with an estimated loss of EU50 million to the Irish economy.

The U.S. singer compared having to choose between concert dates to being asked "to choose one child over another."

Even though it became clear that the decision of the council could not be legally reversed, fans and businesses remained hopeful that at least three of the concerts – those booked for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights and permitted by Dublin City Council – would go ahead.

But the revelation that even those three gigs were under threat pushed the singer into deciding to pull out of what was to be the start of his comeback tour amid concerns it would be logistically impossible to stage the mammoth show.

A cargo ship carrying 18 trucks with the customised equipment and staging – which Brooks helped select through snapping photographs of precisely where he wanted the stage to be set in Croke Park – was already on its way to Ireland, having departed from the U.S. on July 1.

The huge show was planned by a producer who has been involved in several Super Bowls and a camera crew was set to fly in from the World Cup in Brazil to capture the entire event for a comeback documentary.

Labour Relations Commission (LRC)

chief executive Kieran Mulvey said the country's image abroad was "in shreds."

He said that the cancellation was a "debacle" which "will be world news." "It will be used against us by competing tourist and concert authorities in the future. It will be spun against us," he said, adding, "We've an infinite capacity to score own goals."

As the recriminations continued, devastated promoter Peter Aiken claimed that he had been "shafted" by Dublin City Council chief executive Owen Keegan.

Asked about the financial implications for his business, he replied, "It's going to be horrendous. How do you recover?"

Aiken was not insured for the shows because insurance companies required a licence before providing cover. However, he was adamant that he will get over the setback.

The promoter doubted there would never be another artist in his lifetime in Ireland that would sell 400,000 tickets.

## Guinness cancels Arthur's Day after five years

DUBLIN – Guinness has cancelled its Arthur's Day drinks promotion but the brewer insists it did not give into pressure to abandon the one-day drinking celebration.

Arthur's Day was an annual series of music events worldwide, originally organised by parent company Diageo in 2009 to promote the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Guinness brewing company.

Marketing Director of Guinness Stephen O'Kelly said the celebration had run its course. He denies negative press surrounding the day and the issue of binge drinking influenced the decision.

Arthur's Day was run annually for the past five years in late September when bars ran Guinness promotions and surprise bands played in certain venues around Ireland and in 55 countries worldwide.

Diageo has announced a new music promotion program called Guinness Amplify, which will support new bands.

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## TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR JULY

*Celt In A Twist* is local contemporary Celtic radio heard weekly on AM 1470, CJVB in Vancouver.

[www.worldbeatcanada.com](http://www.worldbeatcanada.com).

The following is the *Celt In A Twist* Contemporary Celtic Top Ten:

1. *Saoirse's Heart* by Celtic Cross - *Saoirse's Heart* on Independent.
2. *I Am Who I Am* by Firkin - *Finger in The Pie* on Pump Jump Records.
3. *AD/BC* by Saor Patrol - *Open Air Asylum* on ARC Music.
4. *Danns' A Luideagan Odhar* by Julie Fowles - *Every Story* on Machair Records.
5. *Danse (Dance Hey)* by Bodh'aktan - *Tant qu'il restera du rhum* on Go - Musique.
6. *Freedom/Saoirse* by The Gloaming - *The Gloaming* on Justin Time.
7. *Whiskey and Weed* by Barleyjuice - *This is Why We Can't Have Nice Things* on Independent.
8. *Bagpipe Music* by Battlefield Band - *Room Enough for All* on Temple.
9. *The Duhks* by Lazy John - *Beyond the Blue* on Compass Records.
10. *Wargames* by LQR - *A Taste of Liquor* on Independent.

**Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:**  
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# How do we honour the history of our early settlers in western Canada?



**VANCOUVER** – During a recent Maritime, Atlantic Canada, and New England cruise we noticed numerous monuments and plaques honouring Irish, Scottish and English people who played a significant role in the development, history and growth of their cities and towns.

In Quebec City, a Celtic Cross stands with the words “to the people of Quebec from the people of Ireland in remembrance of their selfless compassion in a time of need.”

This was a gift from James Callery and the National Famine Museum in Stokestown, Co. Roscommon in Ireland.

A plaque in Sydney Harbour, Nova Scotia recognizes that in August 1802 the 245-ton ship *Northern Friends* arrived with 415 settlers from Scotland.

This marked the first emigration directly from Scotland to Cape Breton and formed the vanguard of the great migration which gave the island its Scottish character.

On Prince Edward Island, Daniel Brenan (1796-1876) an Irishman from Ballinakill, Co. Laois is remembered as a successful businessman. He became a surveyor, merchant, banker, politician, public lecturer, and real estate developer, and a leading importer and retailer.

In Charlottetown we toured historic buildings and sites which were homes and businesses of many early Scottish settlers – a Scottish piper welcomed us to the tour.

There is also a statue and plaque there to commemorate Sir John A. MacDonald, a Glasgow Scot, who is known as the Father of Confederation in Canada.

Vancouver and other cities across western Canada and British Columbia also have major contributions made by Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English settlers.

Are these designated as historic sites? Are there plaques and memorials recognizing these immigrants? Are these sites on tourist and tour maps?

My question is how do we recognize these contributions and how do we go about getting historic designations?

It is up to us to see that the role of these early settlers from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales in the development of western Canada is not lost to history.

There are those who now want to eliminate any connection to Britain in the names of some Canadian streets, lakes, rivers, and it is important to get these recognized as historic sites before these changes take place.

In less than five minutes I found the following British connections in Stanley Park alone.

The Nine O’Clock Gun is a cannon located near Brockton Point in Vancouver, British Columbia that is shot every night at 21:00 (9 PM) PT.

The crests of King George III and Henry Phipps, First Earl of Mulgrave, Master-General of the Ordnance at the time the cannon was cast are on the barrel.

By **STEVE McVITTIE**

## Brockton Point Lighthouse

A number of ship collisions in the waters around the point led to the construction of a lighthouse and signaling station at Brockton Point.

For a time, Brockton Point had a lighthouse keeper, who served for 25 years starting in 1890 and is credited for having saved 16 people from drowning.

The present day lighthouse tower with an automatic light was built in 1914. It was designed by Thomas Hayton Mawson, who also constructed the lifeboat house located below the point and other Stanley Park landmarks.

Thomas Hayton Mawson was born on May 5, 1861 at Nether Wyresdale in Lancashire and died November 14, 1933, at Applegarth, Hest Bank, near Lancaster, Lancashire, aged 72.

Better known as T. H. Mawson, he was a British garden designer, landscape architect, and town planner.

## Malkin Bowl

Former mayor W.H. Malkin built a “shell” stage modelled after the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles in honour of his late wife in 1934.

On July 8, 1934, Malkin Bowl hosts its first concert, a free performance by the Vancouver Symphony that draws 15,000 people. It was rebuilt after a fire in 1982. Located in front of the Stanley Park Pavilion.

William Harold Malkin (July 30, 1868 – October 11, 1959) was the twenty-first mayor of Vancouver, British Columbia from 1929 to 1930, after serving as chairman of the Vancouver Board of Trade in 1902. He was born in Burslem, Staffordshire, England.

## Lord Stanley Statue

The Lord Stanley statue sculpted by Sydney March and located at the Coal Harbour entrance to welcome visitors to Stanley Park was unveiled in 1960.

English sculptor Sydney March (1876–1968) was a prolific artist, whose primary focus was portrait busts and other sculptures of British royalty and contemporary figures, as well as war memorials.

One of eight artists in his family, he and his siblings completed the National War Memorial of Canada in Ottawa after the death of their brother Vernon March in 1930.

## The Robert Burns Memorial in Stanley Park

Robert Burns (January 25, 1759 – July 2, 1796) (also known as Robbie Burns) was a Scottish poet and lyricist.

The memorial statue to the Bard of Ayrshire located at the Coal Harbour entrance to the park was the first statue erected in Vancouver. It is a replica of the Burns statue designed by George Lawson in Ayr, Scotland.



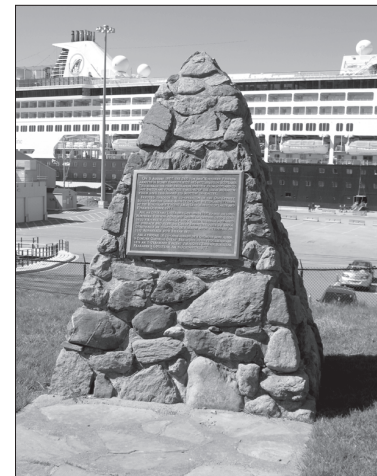
AN ESTIMATED 12,000 people gathered on August 25, 1928 for the official unveiling of the first statue erected in Vancouver — the Robert Burns Memorial in Stanley Park. The cost was \$5,000 and it was imported from England via the Panama Canal. Motion picture films were made of the ceremony and later shown in theatres in Vancouver and across Canada. [Vancouver Archives]



PHOTO: Steve McVittie  
SIR JOHN A. MacDonald statue and plaque in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.



A CELTIC CROSS stands in Quebec City in memory of the selfless compassion of the people of Quebec to Irish famine refugees in their time of need.



MEMORIAL to 245-ton ship *Northern Friends* which arrived in Nova Scotia with 415 settlers from Scotland in August 1802.



THE ORIGINAL executive of the Vancouver Burns Fellowship (1928). Reading from left (Front row) Rev. Alex. Thomson, James Taylor (Hon. Secretary of Statue Fund), P. McCarrick (President), Alex. McRae (Vice-President), and A. Fraser Reid (Hon. Secretary of Fellowship). (Back row) David Murray, John Macdonald and John MacInnes.

[Vancouver Archives]

The cost was \$5,000 and the statue was shipped from England to Vancouver via the Panama Canal. A further \$2,000 was raised to create a granite pedestal for the nine-foot bronze figure.

It was unveiled on August 25, 1928 through the fundraising efforts of the Vancouver Burns Fellowship, the Vancouver Scottish Choir and the Scottish Orchestra.

The unveiling ceremony featured music by the pipe band of the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders and the Vancouver Scottish Choir.

The proceedings were broadcast using loudspeakers so that the crowd, estimated at 12,000, could hear the program. Motion picture films were made of the ceremony and later shown in theatres in Vancouver and across Canada.

**King Edward VII** – This monarch is commemorated by an oak and plaque near Brockton Pavilion.

**Queen Elizabeth II** – Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is commemorated by a plaque and oak tree, planted in a small grassed area near the golf course.

**William Shakespeare Gardens** – Located near the Rose Garden Cottage, this garden consists of a relief statue and trees and plants mentioned in the Bard’s plays. Created in the 1930s.

Steve McVittie and his wife Lil are owners of The Celtic Treasure Chest import shop in Vancouver and British Imports in Delta, B.C. Steve also served as parade marshal organizing the annual Vancouver CelticFest St. Patrick’s Day Parade for the past 10 years. To contact him, call (604) 261-3688 or online: [www.celtic-treasurechest.ca](http://www.celtic-treasurechest.ca).



# One in five Britons think 1914 was about Nazis

LONDON – Nearly one in five Britons thinks the country became involved in the First World War to stop the rise of Nazi Germany, according to a survey.

Eighteen per cent of those polled mistakenly believed the UK entered into the conflict in 1914 to halt the group which was led by Adolf Hitler in the Second World War.

The research also found that 17 per cent thought the dictator was the leader of Germany at the time of the First World War.

However, the survey of 2,493 adults commissioned by *The Times* WWI Centenary Facsimile also found a majority of those questioned were clued up on several key facts.

Nearly seven in 10 people (69 per cent) knew that Franz Ferdinand was the Archduke of Austria-Hungary. His assassination is widely seen as having set in motion the chain of events that led to the war.

More than half (57 per cent) knew that Britain became involved in the First World War because of a treaty with Belgium to defend it in the event of an invasion.

Knowledge of the country's leadership was sketchy, with one in 10 believing



THE Battle of the Somme was one of the bloodiest battles of the First World War, claiming over a million casualties in five months.

Winston Churchill was prime minister at the start of the conflict.

Only 36 per cent correctly answered that the prime minister was Herbert Henry Asquith, while 34 per cent guessed it was David Lloyd George, whose premiership started during the war.

Areas in which respondents were most knowledgeable were when the First World War took place (90 per cent), what the term The Allies refers to (92 per cent), and the fact that British and

German soldiers once marked Christmas Day by playing a game of football (85 per cent).

Those from Scotland (68 per cent) were slightly more successful than respondents from England (66 per cent) and Wales (64 per cent).

People aged 55 and over were the most knowledgeable, with 72 per cent of correct answers, while more men than women answered correctly to each of the nine factual questions they were asked.

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# Reaching out to the Celtic nations at the B.C. Highland Games



PHOTO: Hamish Burgess 2014

ON THE EVENING before Bannockburn Live! ,600 pipers and drummers marched from Stirling Castle down to the King's Knot field, followed by a great ceilidh with Scottish band 'Whisky Kiss'.



PHOTO: Hamish Burgess 2014

ROVING REPORTER Hamish Douglas Burgess met the folks of the Greater Victoria Police Pipe Band having a great time at Stirling Castle at Pipefest 2014 in Stirling, Scotland.

## Commemorating Bannockburn Victory - 700 years later

DUNFERMLINE, Scotland – Descendants of Robert the Bruce gathered for a service on June 27 to commemorate his victory at the Battle of Bannockburn 700 years ago.

Bystanders watched as Lord Bruce carried the sword of King Robert into Dunfermline Abbey, where the historic king is buried. The private family service came during a week of events to commemorate the battle.

Earlier in the day, a replica of Robert the Bruce's throne – carved from an ancient tree which he is said to have planted himself – was taken into the Abbey.

The tree from which the throne is carved was planted at Strathleven House at about the time Robert owned the estate.

When it fell in 2005, the timber was salvaged by Strathleven Artizans, a local historical group who undertook the eight-year project.

More than 100 people took part in a torchlight procession on the battlefield exactly 700 years from the date of the June 24 battle.

Led by the National Trust for Scotland, the group set off at midnight walking from the battlefield visitor centre to the Rotunda monument, home to the Borestone where Robert the Bruce is said to have planted his standard the night before the 1314 battle.

Bannockburn Live was held near Stirling with a re-enactment of the battle organised by Clanranald, along with music, talks and historical displays.

The battle of Bannockburn was one in



BANNOCKBURN LIVE was held near Stirling with a re-enactment of the battle, along with music, talks and historical displays.



LORD BRUCE bearing the sword of King Robert I of Scots, accompanied by The Hon. Benedict Bruce arrives for a service to commemorate the victory of Bannockburn.

a prolonged conflict between Scotland and England 700 years ago.

Edward II led an army through Scotland to lift the siege of his garrison at Stirling Castle as he attempted to retain control over the country, but Bruce and his army knew the land and won the two-day battle despite being outnumbered.

By CATHOLINE BUTLER

VANCOUVER – Highland Games are not just for the Scots. Jim Bain co-chair and logistics manager with the B.C. Highland Games is working toward having all the Celtic nations participate in the games in British Columbia.

Bain, along with his co-chair, Glenna Urbshadt are responsible for taking care of the field at the games and booth set-up at Percy Perry Stadium in Coquitlam.

Jim said, "One of our long-term goals is to get all of the local communities involved. The Irish came this year, and we were very grateful.

"I know that George McDonnell of the Irish Heritage Society had a great time at their booth at the games. His booth was very busy and they participated in the Parade of the Clans, which is held every year and that was fabulous.

"Next year, we're going to extend an invitation to the Welsh community, and we have already had interest from the Isle of Mann group who are interested in coming next year."

In past years, rain and cold weather have played a key role in a decline in attendance. This year, the day dawned sunny with perfect weather for the B.C. Highland Games on June 21.

"I tell you on Thursday, before the games" said Jim, "when, we were doing the set-up at the field it was raining but it cleared on Friday and Saturday was just a fabulous day.

People just came out in droves and the attendance was great. Attendance was much higher than last year, but I haven't got the final count yet.

"The field was full, all the venues were full, the beer garden was full and at the end of the day for the massed pipe bands, the stands were full, and the field was crowded to watch ....it was a great day!"

Jim said there were some changes which also helped boost attendance this year.

"Some of the things new at the games this year was certainly the presence of the Irish. We also had a couple of new vendors and we increased the number of food suppliers.

"What was really popular and new this year was the Aussie Pie Guy. He's famous and very popular in downtown Vancouver for his savoury pies.

"On the main stage we had Cookeilidh, a band from Victoria, and earlier we had Kailyarders from Vancouver, and the featured pipe band was the Semiamhoo Pipe Band."

Organizers are having their first post-games meeting this September and Jim spoke about some of their plans saying, "As I said earlier, we want to extend the Celtic participation and to attract more bands and more dancers from further away and extend our reach.

"We would really like to extend our reach more into Alberta and Saskatchewan. We do have a lot of participants coming from Washington and Oregon and some from Alberta.

"But we would really like to see if we can expand the number of participants, starting in next year."

For more information about the B.C. Highland Games, checkout their website at: [www.bchighlandgames.com](http://www.bchighlandgames.com).



PHOTO: Leila Wallace

GEORGE MC DONNELL, vice president of the Irish Heritage Society of Canada, at the B.C. Highland Games with the flag of the Celtic nations.



PHOTO: Leila Wallace

MEMBERS of the Irish Heritage Society of Canada at the B.C. Highland Games – (L-R) Teresa Mc Donnell, Gwen McCamley, Tony Camley, Ivan Douglas, George McDonnell.



PHOTO: Shona McMillan

COOKEILIDH, a four member Celtic band from Victoria, B.C., played the mainstage at the B.C. Highland Games. The band is noted for their high energy performance driven by a passion for the timeless and traditional Celtic music. The band is comprised of 12-string guitar, fiddle, wooden Irish flute, electric bass, bodhran, and vocals.



PHOTO: Shona McMillan

HEAVY SPORTS trophies at the annual B.C. Highland Games in Coquitlam, B.C. on June 21.



# Scottish history and diaspora highlight of Edinburgh conference

EDINBURGH – This month I will be participating in a three-day conference called ‘The Global Migrations of the Scottish people c. 1600’.

Appropriately enough, it will be hosted in the National Museum of Scotland in the midst of its eclectic collection drawn from Scotland and around the world.

Despite the fact that the sessions and speeches take place in a room with a capacity of 250, the conference was sold out months ago and there is a long waiting list.

According to one of the organizers, Professor (now Sir) Tom Devine, “the attendees include scholars and grad students, but the most pleasing aspect is that the majority are interested members of the public. This reflects the huge interest in Scottish history in recent years.”

It also, of course, reflects the huge interest in the Scottish diaspora in recent years. Delegates will arrive in Edinburgh from other parts of Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Canada.

The conference has even managed to draw together participants from different parts of the political world.

The Scottish Government is a major sponsor, former prime minister Gordon Brown is opening the conference, and Humza Yousaf, Scotland’s Minister for External Affairs and International Development, gives the welcoming address to the delegates.

My own contribution to the proceedings is to chair the session on contemporary issues entitled ‘Scotland Today: Perspectives from the Diaspora’.

The panel consists of David Speedie from the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs; Professor Stuart Macintyre from the University of Melbourne; Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke who is a former secretary of state for Scotland and British High Commissioner to Australia; and Dr. Laurie Anderson, executive director of Simon Fraser University.

Alan Bain, president of the American-Scottish Foundation in New York will join us for the question and answer session. John Craig, SFU’s Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, will be in the audience.

To paraphrase Samuel Johnson, the prospect of being hanged concentrates the mind wonderfully.

The anticipation of presiding over such an august group, while unnerving, has also made me reconsider my personal experience as a former member of the Scottish diaspora and investigate the more general context.

In my early days in Canada, I had no conception of myself as a member of a diaspora and have no recollection of the word ever being applied to the Scottish immigrant experience.

Communication from home was still in the form of brief phone calls where parents wielded the phone like a hot potato (on the grounds that the call “will be costing ye a fortune”) and tattered copies of Scottish newspapers that arrived courtesy of Canada Post.

Now, there’s e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, Skype and any number of other forms of instant global communication and the newspapers are available online.



By  
**HARRY  
McGRATH**

The numerous Scottish societies that served as gathering places for immigrants have given way to LinkedIn groups and social network sites like KILTR and Scotster which bind the Scottish diaspora to the Scots at home.

The process of representing Scotland on the Internet is about to take another step with the introduction of an Internet domain (.scot) intended for ‘the worldwide family of Scots’.

Host countries are changing too and Canada is an especially interesting example.

Scots in Canada are now part of its multicultural fabric of the country, redefining their place in a country that has changed and evolved, especially in the last 50 years or so.

Canada is also the only country where counting the Scottish diaspora is a science rather than an art.

Estimates of Scotland’s global diaspora fluctuate wildly from 40 to 100 million (and all points in-between) and are at

the mercy of those doing the estimating.

Canada’s census, however, counts the various diaspora using a system which allows for up to four ‘ethnic origins’. This method also taps into one of Scotland’s traditional strengths – the power of contradiction.

The number of ‘Scots’ in Canada continues to rise as the number of new immigrants from Scotland continues to decline.

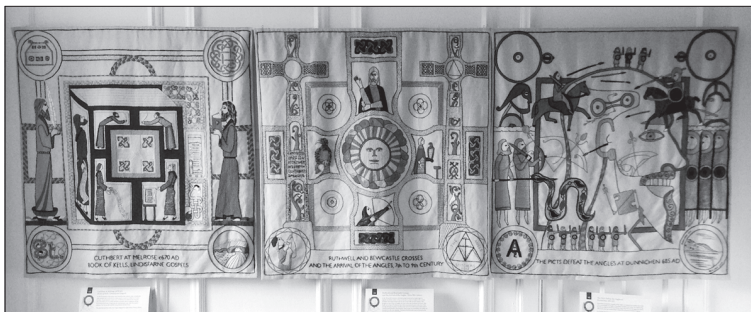
In my years of working to make connections between Scotland and Canada, the conference is the most high-profile gathering on the subject of the Scottish diaspora that I have been involved in.

It is also a reminder of the vital role played by Simon Fraser University in Scotland’s international network.

SFU is almost unique among universities outside of Scotland in its Scottish branding: from its name, to its ‘clan’ sports teams, to the widespread use of the word ‘Highland’ in its existing facilities and housing developments.

It is home to the six-time world champion SFU pipe band and the Centre for Scottish Studies.

Even a cursory glance at the conference programme reveals how few Scottish Studies centres there are around the globe and how important SFU’s centre is for preserving the folk memory of the Scots in western Canada and as a research base for the Scots in Canada in general.



THE Great Tapestry of Scotland depicts 12,000 years of Scottish history and is the longest of its kind in the world, measuring a mammoth 143 metres.

## Great Tapestry of Scotland returns to Parliament

EDINBURGH – The Scottish public are invited to make their own indelible imprint on history as the Great Tapestry of Scotland returns to the Parliament building once more.

The embroidered tapestry depicts 12,000 years of Scottish history and is the longest of its kind in the world, measuring a mammoth 143 metres upon its 2013 completion.

Now it’s set to get a little bit bigger as part of the Parliament building’s 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations with a new ‘People’s Panel’ set to be added.

Designed by Andrew Crummy, the tapestry took 1,000 volunteers stitching for 50,000 hours to create the initial piece of art.

The inspiration of Edinburgh author Alexander McCall-Smith, it is scripted by historian Alistair Moffat, with illustrations from Andrew Crummy.

The tapestry depicts all of the great events of Scotland’s history: the Picts, the Celts, the Normans and the Vikings, Scottish kings and queens, battles, sheep shearing, the Highland Clearances, scientific advances, Robert Burns, James Clerk Maxwell, Scottish comedians such as Sir Harry Lauder and Ronnie Corbett, even the tennis star Andy Murray.

Now everyone is welcomed to contribute in the new chapter regardless of experience with experts on hand to guide novices through the process.

Those selected will be done so purely on a first come-first serve basis at selected times between July 1 and September 13.

It is the second time the Great Tapestry of Scotland will be on display in the main hall of the Scottish Parliament building after it was first unveiled in September of last year.

Following the initial showcase it was taken on a tour around the country so Scots outside of the capital could appreciate the intricate 160 panels.



HUMZA YOUSAF Scotland’s Minister for External Affairs and International Development will give the welcoming address to delegates at the Edinburgh conference. He is pictured above in April 2014 at the Centre for Scottish Studies at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. (L-R) John Craig, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at SFU; Leith Davis, Director of the Centre for Scottish Studies at SFU; Humza Yousaf; Ronald Sutherland, SFU Scottish Studies Centre Steering Committee member.

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# An All Irish Gathering in Seattle: The Irish Ambassador, Two Irish Consuls, the Mayor and the New Chief of Police

*“As we stood chatting about Dublin in a pub in Seattle, the chief of police rooted in her handbag, pulled out her cell phone, dialled a number, and handed it to me for a chat with Valerie Barry in Dublin.”*



JOURNEY to Seattle seemed like a long way to go for lunch. But the lure was an opportunity to see and hear Ireland's ambassador to the USA, Anne Anderson when Maura De Freitas kindly invited me to join her and Marie Morris for the trip.

And a 200 kilometre drive through sun-drenched Washington State, in good company, is no hardship.

Anderson's biographical information is impressive. Glass ceilings obviously present no barriers.

She was the first woman to represent Ireland in a chain of notable positions: Ambassador to the UN, the European Union, France, and Monaco.

This is on top of a distinguished public service career in Ireland that included counsellor in the Anglo-Irish Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

She was also chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

A large turnout of Seattle's Irish community joined a group of dignitaries at FX McRory's restaurant in Seattle to partake of a delicious lunch and greet Ambassador Anderson.

These included Seattle's first citizen, Mayor Ed Murray (who boasts Irish blood), the new Chief of Police, Kathleen O'Toole, Ireland's Consul General in San Francisco, Philip Grant, and the man responsible for organizing the event, Ireland's Honorary Consul in Seattle, John Keane.

Following Keane's address of welcome, Mayor Murray spoke of his pride in the investiture of Seattle's new chief of police.

He spoke of the similarity of Washington State to Ireland: its location in the north west of a continent, its leadership in technology – and its rain.

In response, Ambassador Anderson said that she had been “swelling with pride” the previous day when Seattle's Irish mayor swore in Irishwoman Kathleen O'Toole as chief of police.

She commented on the city's thriving business climate, “You can feel dynamism and creativity in the air of Seattle,” she said.

She was proud, too, of the fact that *Forbes Magazine* recently named Ireland as top of its list of Best Countries for Business.

As we heard this impressive woman speak, and saw her easy manner with people, I wasn't the only one there thinking that, despite her achievements to date, this woman is still going places, and that, in about four years' time, there'll be a vacancy looming for an Irish president.

## By MARY HATCH

The restaurant was awash with a warm glow as photographs were taken prior to the ambassador's departure, and I found myself standing next to the chief of police.

I introduced myself, and she asked where I had lived in Dublin.

“Dundrum,” I told her, and she said that she had lived in Donnybrook.

“I went to school there”, I said; “Muckcross.”

“Did you know Valerie Barry?” she enquired. Did I know Valerie Barry? Everyone in Muckcross knows Valerie Barry.

“She played hockey,” I recalled. If I had recalled more effectively, I would have remembered that Barry had a brilliant hockey career, including captaining the Irish hockey team in 1968/69.

As we stood chatting about Dublin in a pub in Seattle, the chief of police rooted in her handbag, pulled out her cell phone, dialled a number, and handed it to me for a chat with Valerie Barry in Dublin.

Poor Valerie must have been scrambling to come with any memory of me: you don't remember people four or five years behind you in school.

But she's a gracious lady, and we had a nice chat anyway, courtesy of Chief O'Toole.

Our journey home was smooth until we got to the border where we chugged forward inches at a time.

Finally, we reached the booth, where the Canada Customs agent asked about our trip and its purpose.

He seemed impressed by our lunching with an ambassador, and wanted to know how we scored an invitation.

Maura told him she was publisher of a newspaper covering the event.

“Oh, which newspaper?” he asked.

Maura replied, “*The Celtic Connection*.”

Not only was this man familiar with the CC, he was a keen reader of the Welsh community's news, of which he wanted more.

Clearly impressed, however, he waved us through, no further questions.

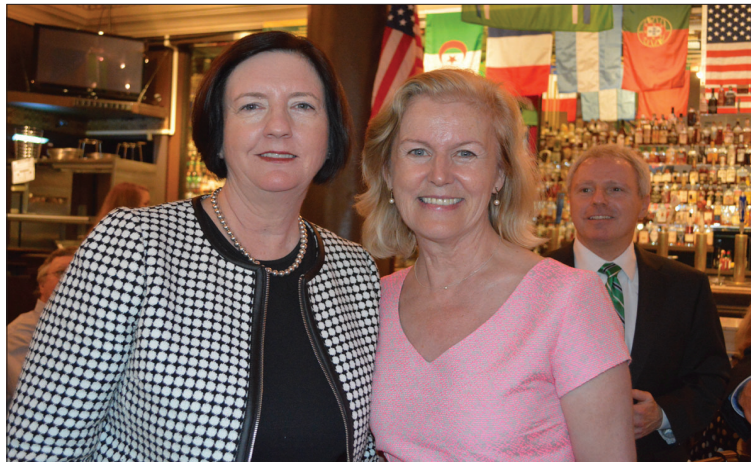


PHOTO: Maura De Freitas

KATHLEEN O'TOOLE (L), Seattle's first female police chief. She is pictured above with Anne Anderson (R) the first female Ambassador of Ireland to the United States. O'Toole lived in Ireland from 2006-2012 where she served as Chief Inspector of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate. She was also the first female police commissioner of the Boston Police Force in Massachusetts.



PHOTO: Maura De Freitas

THE MAYOR of Seattle Ed Murray has strong Irish family connections with all four grandparents born in Ireland.



PHOTO: Maura De Freitas

MARIE MORRIS and Mary Hatch of Vancouver with Kathleen O'Toole, the newly appointed police chief in Seattle. After introducing herself, Mary Hatch and the police chief soon found common ground with connections in Dublin.



PHOTO: Sean O'Sullivan

A WARM and engaging woman, Anne Anderson has a long list of impressive credentials.



FINIAN ROWLAND with Seattle's new Police Chief, Kathleen O'Toole.



PHOTO: Maura De Freitas

MAL JONES with the Irish Heritage Club and Brian White of the Seattle Gaels which recently hosted a very successful GAA tournament in Seattle with games of hurling, camogie and men's and women's Gaelic football. Teams from Seattle, Portland, Corvallis and Vancouver participated and White said how much the club enjoyed having the participation from Vancouver, B.C.



AMBASSADOR Anne Anderson with Seattle photographer Sean O'Sullivan.





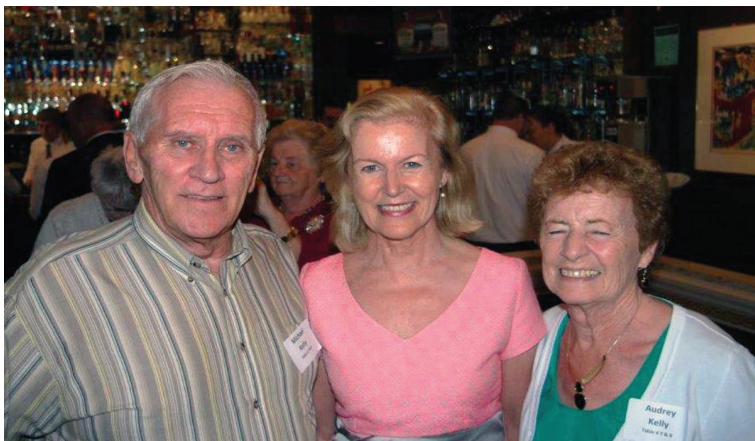
PHOTO: Maura De Freitas  
MICK McHUGH, owner and manager of F X McRory's Restaurant in Seattle where the ambassador's luncheon was hosted with Nanci Spieker, the Irish Seattle Festival producer who also delivers *The Celtic Connection* in Seattle.



PHOTO: Maura De Freitas  
MAUREEN KEANE, wife of John Keane the Honorary Irish Consul in Seattle (and contributor to *The Celtic Connection* newspaper), with Mary Shriane, a long-time supporter and organizer with the Irish Heritage Club in Seattle.



PHOTO: Sean O'Sullivan  
SNOHOMISH COUNTY council member Terry Ryan (L), Seattle Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole (C) and Snohomish County council member Brian Sullivan (R).



MIKE AND AUDREY Kelly who travelled from Kelowna, British Columbia to meet Anne Anderson, the new Irish Ambassador to the U.S. at the June 24 luncheon hosted at F X McRory's Restaurant in Seattle.

**FOR MORE ABOUT AMBASSADOR ANDERSON'S VISIT TO SEATTLE, SEE PAGES 20 AND 21**



FRANK and Brenda Dudfield pictured above on their latest walkabout outside the Capitol Building in Denver, Colorado with *The Celtic Connection*.

## Frank and Brenda Dudfield have walked all 50 U.S. states

VANCOUVER – Frank and his wife Brenda Dudfield are avid Volkssporters, a sport which promotes non-competitive participation in walking and other recreational activities for fun, fitness and friendship.

They have just completed at least one walk in all 50 U.S. states, plus Washington, DC.

Their last walk was in Colorado Springs, attending an event held in conjunction with a beer festival. They have also walked in every Canadian province and the Yukon Territory.

A few highlights on travels have been seeing the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia; views from the observation decks of the Capitol Buildings in Washington; Times Square and the Statue of Liberty in New York; Temple Square in Salt Lake City; the Boston Freedom Trail; the Barkus Parade in Baton Rouge; and Mardi Gras week in New Orleans.

Volkssporting has given them the opportunity to go to places they would never have considered visiting, even just for a 10 kilometre walk!

On their travels the Dudfields have driven many boring miles only to be rewarded with gorgeous colours and changing landscapes around every corner.

The couple said they have visited so many places they never heard of before and met so many like-minded people, forging lasting friendships.

The Canadian Volkssport Federation is affiliated through the international parent organization with more than 50 member groups in countries around the world

[For more information about The Canadian Volkssport Federation, with links to the American Volkssport Association and the British Walking Federation, visit their website at: [www.walks.ca](http://www.walks.ca).]

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# One piper, two police pipe bands: The Delta Police and Seattle Police



**V**ANCOUVER – It is not unusual for a bagpiper to belong to two pipe bands at the same time and to perform in each as and when required. But, in the case of retired Vancouver Police Department Sergeant Maurice (Moe) Coll, there are some unique circumstances.

In one case, the band is a Scottish Highland pipe band, with clan tartan kilt and feather bonnet; in the other, an Irish/Celtic pipes and drums band, with plain kilt and a caubeen (beret).

There are also subtle differences in the music played and the overall sound of the two genres.

It was once summed up as the fact that the Irish are poets, but the Scots are warriors. This statement is, of course, open to discussion!

It all began in early 2011, when Delta's Chief Constable, Jim Cessford, attended a conference on policing in Seattle as a speaker.

During conversation with one of the conference organizers it transpired that Seattle was in the process of forming its own police pipes and drums.

When the need arose for a ceremonial occasion that called for the complement of pipes and drums, Seattle Firefighters Pipes and Drums had done the honours, but it was felt that it was time for Seattle police to form their own unit.

Chief Constable Cessford spoke with Ryan Gallagher, president of the newly-formed Seattle Police Pipes and Drums (SPP&D) and arranged an introduction with members of the Delta Police Pipe Band.

He also enthusiastically agreed that the Delta Police Pipe Band would take part in the upcoming concert.

The culmination of this was a joint con-

## By DAVID ROBERTS

cert, including the prestigious Boston Police Gaelic Column of Pipes and Drums and the Delta Police Pipe Band.

Also featured were an expert solo piper and Irish-style step-dancers.

The concert was held at the University of Washington's Pigott Auditorium on July 22, 2012 – a sellout and a complete success. It can be seen on YouTube, and has garnered several thousand hits.

During his involvement in the concert organisation, Moe Coll gave generously of advice based on his experience and then became involved in the further development of the SPP&D.

Born in County Limerick, Ireland, Moe came to Canada in 1957 with his parents and is intimately familiar with the nuances of Irish pipes and drums music, his father having been an avid follower of Celtic pipe bands.

He has been a drummer and piper for many years and includes several local bands in his resume.

A member of the Delta Police Pipe Band for 12 years, he has served in many executive positions, being fully conversant with the organisation and administration of such a group.

Moe Coll's continuing contribution to the SPP&D was recently recognized by a highly unusual gesture.

The Pipes and Drums Bandmaster Ryan Gallagher, describes it thus, "When I



**LIMERICK-BORN** retired Vancouver Police Department Sergeant Maurice (Moe) Coll has been a member of the Delta Police Pipe Band for 12 years. He is also a member of the Seattle Police Pipe Band and will accompany them on their upcoming tour of Ireland in September. They will play Belfast, Dublin and Galway which is 'Sister City' to Seattle.

came up to Delta in 2011 and saw how Drum Major Moe Coll handled the Delta Police Pipe Band I was extremely impressed.

"His very presence and quiet authority

made me realize that he could be a tremendous help to our fledgling band.

"The personal association which followed helped us to get to the stage where we are now able to perform pub-

licly with complete confidence, with Moe giving us guidance in all aspects of organisation, deportment and musical proficiency.

"Our band's proposed trip to Ireland in September of this year provided an opportunity to thank Moe for his help and we invited him along.

"Discussion took place amongst our band and we decided that it would be to our distinct advantage to include him as a full member of the band. It will also be an opportunity for him to reconnect with his Irish roots.

"Moe Coll's help and guidance has been instrumental in us reaching the point where we recently performed at the memorial to two fallen Alaska State Troopers with a crowd of 6,500 in attendance. Moe Coll played the pipes in our uniform, and as one of us."

Piper Moe Coll now regularly parades with the SPP&D, and will travel with them on their various engagements.

His reaction to the honour accorded him by the Seattle Police Pipes and Drums is one of gratified amazement.

"Now that I have passed on the role of Drum Major in the Delta Police Pipe Band, I have the time to devote to helping and being a part of the SPP&D.

"Travelling to practices in Seattle poses no real problem as I listen to pipe band music and run through things in my mind so I am well prepared by the time I arrive.

"The honour they have accorded me in accepting me as a full member of the band is typical of the friendliness and generosity I have felt.

"The numbered badge I wear on the left of the chest bears month and day when a Seattle Police officer was killed in the line of duty.

"It is a privilege to be associated with them and to feel that I have a hand in their future success. For me, being with a band that is totally law enforcement oriented and uniformed, performing Irish music, is a coming home."

The Seattle Police Pipes and Drums have gone on from strength to strength and have developed the confidence and expertise that public performance provides.

Composed entirely of serving and retired law enforcement members from Seattle and the surrounding area, they play at service events such as funerals, parades and presentations.

They take part in community festivals and parades and have become a familiar sight to the citizens of Seattle.

In the future the SPP&D have a trip to Ireland planned for September 2014, where they will play in Dublin, Belfast and will be the featured guest band at the International Oyster Festival in Galway, which is a "Sister City" to Seattle.

This is the most internationally recognised Irish festival after St. Patrick's Day.

They have also been invited to perform at the Memorial to First World War veterans at Roscrea.

Their calendar includes taking part in the 15th Anniversary of 9/11; the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbour; a trip to Boston and Cape Cod; and New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Truly, a fusion of cultures and a great example of cross-border cooperation.

## Belfast woman run over by NY subway trains

**NEW YORK** – Two Irish rescue workers came to the aid of an Irishwoman after she fell on to the tracks in a New York City subway station on the morning of June 30 – and survived three trains passing over her.

Niall O'Shaughnessy from Limerick was the paramedic who responded to the call when Belfast native Mary Downey (22), accidentally fell on to the tracks at Times Square Station. He along with firefighter and Dublin native Sean Cummins rescued her from the tracks.

She wasn't discovered until the driver of the third tram spotted what he thought was litter on the track – it was actually Downey waving her hand.

The driver slammed the emergency brakes – however some of the carriages of the third train passed over her. By this time, 24 subway cars had driven over her.

Cummins said he jumped down from the platform to provide urgent assistance.

He spoke to Downey to try and keep her calm, whereupon O'Shaughnessy asked him, "Where are you from?"

The victim, thinking he was speaking to her replied, "Belfast."

Cummins then said he was from Dublin, and O'Shaughnessy said he was raised in Limerick.

Both men then joked, "What is this – an Irish reunion?"

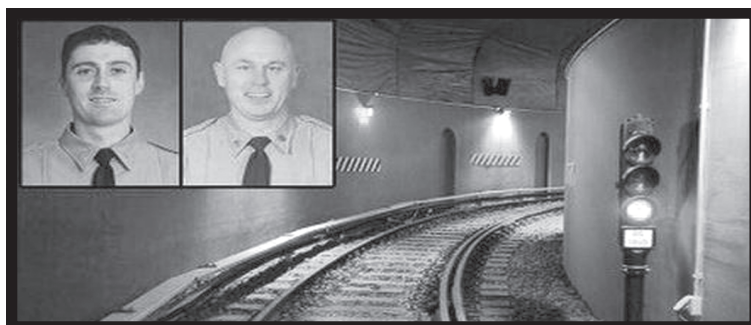
Downey was transported to a New York hospital in a stable condition.

Miraculously, the only injury she suffered was a broken shoulder.

Both men said they respond to these kind of emergencies on a regular basis but in almost all cases the outcome is fatal.

"To say she was lucky was an understatement," O'Shaughnessy said. "I was just delighted she was ok."

"Only in New York does something like this happen," added Cummins.



**PARAMEDIC Niall O'Shaughnessy (L)** and firefighter Sean Cummins (R) rescued Mary Downey from the subway tracks in New York City. Downey fell on to the tracks at 49th Street Station at the north end of Times Square, and was lucky to escape with her life after breaking her shoulder in the fall.





# Seminar and Networking Session to Help Irish Newcomers in B.C.

By EILIS COURTNEY

President, Irish Women's Network of B.C. & Administrator Irish in Vancouver online

Despite it being a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon and the middle of the World Cup, more than 50 newcomers registered for the fifth Irish Newcomers Information and Networking Seminar.

Sponsored by the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Program and coordinated by the Irish Women's Network of B.C., this seminar provided advice to Irish newcomers on job hunting, resumes, information interviews, etc. as well as information about networking, visas and settling in Vancouver.

Over 20 members of the Irish community attended as resource people to provide advice and connections for the newcomers in their chosen area of work.

The group was delighted to welcome Cathy Murphy, Director of Communications and Operations at the Irish Canadian Immigration Centre (I/CAN), who was in Vancouver just for the day and who gave a short presentation on



what services I/CAN provide to the Irish newcomers.

Thanks as well to Hays Recruitment and Scotiabank, sponsors of I/CAN, for making themselves available to the newcomers.

In a post-event survey, this is what attendees said when asked what they found useful about the event:

"Jennifer's presentation on resume tips was extremely helpful. I felt everything (Deborah) said about getting to know the differences in culture between Ireland and Canada rang true for me. Getting to meet other people in the same situation and making new friends was great. The atmosphere was so relaxed and friendly."

"Very helpful advice on resume and cover letter – I have since changed mine completely. (The session was) very informative and helpful. The speakers were professional and more

than willing to help everyone, we really enjoyed the day."

"Very helpful and practical information about job hunting, as well as hearing stories from others who have come to Canada and what they learned along the way – there are many good tips that I have taken from this event that I will use."

Everyone was invited to finish off the afternoon with more informal networking in Mahony and Sons, with a free pint provided by Mahonys and a reception hosted by Cathy Murphy and I/CAN.

The IWN would like to sincerely thank Jennifer, Deborah and Cathy for their presentations; the resource people for their time and contacts, and everyone who provided support in one way or another.

The next seminar will be held in October/November 2014 so watch the Irish in Vancouver facebook page, the website [www.irishinvancouver.com/whats-on](http://www.irishinvancouver.com/whats-on) and other Irish community facebook pages and websites for the confirmed date.

For further information, e-mail Eilis Courtney at: [eilis3473@gmail.com](mailto:eilis3473@gmail.com).



PHOTO: Connie Cronin CCPhotography

**PARTICIPANTS** at the Irish Newcomers Information and Networking Seminar presented by the Irish Women's Network of B.C.

## Mary McAleese: Pope Francis plan to consult 'male celibate' priests on family life is 'bonkers'



**MARY McALEESE** the former President of Ireland has strongly questioned the Pope's synod to review the Catholic Church's teaching on family life. She has the backing of the Association of Catholic Priests and is asking for "a new theology on women."

DUBLIN – Former two-term President of Ireland Mary McAleese has described the Pope's plan to canvass bishops' opinions on family life as "bonkers."

McAleese strongly questioned Pope Francis calling a synod to review the Catholic Church's teaching on family life.

She won the backing of the Association of Catholic Priests with some of her comments, which demanded a "new theology of women" instead of an "old boys club."

She said there was "just something profoundly wrong and skewed" about asking clergy for their views when they were all "male celibates."

And the mother-of-three questioned how many people who would be taking part in the gathering had ever changed a baby's nappy.

A world synod of bishops to discuss family life, and whether the church

should revise its teachings on the subject, is due to be held in Rome this October.

McAleese questioned the idea of people "who have decided they are not going to have any children, not going to have families, not going to be fathers and not going to be spouses" discussing the matter.

"It is completely bonkers," she said following her receipt of University College Dublin's famous Ulysses medal on Bloomsday – June 16.

The Vatican has already circulated a questionnaire and a working paper written by the secretariat of the Synod of Bishops which will be released before the end of the month.

In the interview with Professor Conor Gearty of the London School of Economics, McAleese (62) said, "I've got a much simpler questionnaire and it's only got one question."

"How many of the men who will gather to advise you as pope on the family have ever changed a baby's nappy? I regard that as a very, very serious question."

The Association of Catholic Priests said that they believe women should have a "huge involvement" in Pope Francis' upcoming discussion.

Father Sean McDonagh, a spokesperson for the organisation, said that he believes "women should be included" in October's discussion, and that "it doesn't make sense" for them to be excluded.

"I believe that women should have a huge involvement in all of these issues. These are moral issues about family and sexuality," said McDonagh.

He said that he believes that Pope Francis is "trying to find ways" to include women.

## Writer Dermot Healy dead at 66

DUBLIN – Acclaimed Irish writer Dermot Healy has died at the age of 66. He was described by writer Roddy Doyle as "Ireland's finest novelist."

Born in Finea, County Westmeath, Healy spent his childhood in Cavan Town, an experience he recalled in his acclaimed memoir *The Bend for Home*.

Healy was the author of four collections of poetry, most recently *A Fool's Errand*, a book-length poem about the migration of barnacle geese from Greenland to an island by his home in Ballyconnell, County Sligo, which took him 12 years to write.

In a statement on June 30, President Michael D. Higgins paid tribute to Healy, and said that his work "received the recognition and tributes which his work long deserved."

He also paid tribute to the writer's involvement in the Irish emigrant community in London where he lived for a time, highlighted by a theme of displacement in his writing.

His sensibility to the migratory experience, and the world of in-between had made his poetic prose ring with a universal quality.



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# James Joyce: A Writer for Our Time

**O**NE hundred years ago, on June 15, 1914, a young man from Dublin issued a book which would, he maintained, give Irish people a chance finally to view themselves in his finely polished looking glass.

He had also declared that unless his first book was published the civilisation of his country would be retarded.

Time has a way of dealing with such grandiose claims. The Court of Chronos exacts justice in nearly every case.

Spoofers are thrown out of court, never to be heard of again; those whose work rightly deserves attention are given a fair hearing.

For all his bluster, the case put forward by that young man, James Joyce, for his book of 15 short stories, *Dubliners*, has been upheld.

Justice is more than a metaphor here. Joyce spent more than a decade of extraordinary struggle to defend the legitimacy of his writing.

In his fiction, he used proper names, slang and curse words; he expressed the tragedy of Dubliners' lives, and even confronted the dysfunctionality of their sexual relations.

Publishers hemmed, printers hawed; they asked for changes, then more changes which were never enough.

No diplomat, Joyce challenged publishers' view that the book was immoral with the irony that would characterise his later work.

For nearly 10 years one publishing house after another rejected the book. Joyce joined a writer's guild, and the publication of the book cost him infinitely more in delays and legal fees than he ever saw from it.

Today *Dubliners* reads as a prescient collection. In one story, 'An Encounter', two truant schoolboys meet a man in a great coat who is the worse for drink.

The man interrogates them about their sweethearts and then disappears, apparently to interfere with himself.

On his return, he is overbearing and menacing towards the boys. Neither the publishers cum censors who parsed the book for obscenity, nor the myopically sighted moralists of the day spotted the potentially scandalous implications of that story.

The less innocent Ireland of 2014 is rather more aware of the threat of child abusers, which leads to the most searing news story of this month.

## Tuam Mother and Babies Home

Why is it that when the remains of 800 mothers and babies were discovered in an unmarked grave in Tuam, Co. Galway, the Archbishop of Dublin vociferously condemned the egregious treatment, and welcomed an official enquiry into abuse at institutions charged with taking care of young women and children, and certain Irish politicians rushed to claim that the numbers were exaggerated?

The answer is power: whereas once the clerical class breezily made such distinctions, today our political class is the one most removed from the exercise of conscience and compassion.

## THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By  
**MAURICE  
FITZPATRICK**

Archbishop Martin has done a wondrous job of attempting to address the wreckage of abuse perpetuated within the Catholic Church; he has been brave, honest and humble.

The power that the Catholic Church used to have in Ireland has been so thoroughly discredited that nobody but a wilfully blind adherent will trust in its explanations of past abuse. The Catholic Church is finally to be subjected to the law — the archbishop is right to welcome this novel approach to justice.

Against this backdrop, how would James Joyce, a hundred years on, have viewed the state of public and private morality in Ireland?

We know from conversations recorded with Joyce in his mature years that he was dismayed that the most Irish people managed to do with their political independence was to hand it over to a coalition of the Catholic Church and a self-serving middle class.

**Dubliners 100 by Tramp Press**  
But how exactly does *Dubliners* reflect the lives of modern Irish people?

Luckily, Tramp Press has addressed just that question with a book, *Dubliners 100*, a retelling of Joyce's stories in modern times. Tramp Press assembled 15 of Ireland's skilled prose writers to create their own stories inspired by the lineaments of Joyce's originals. And they did Joyce proud.

The most outstanding versions of Joyce's stories collected here are *A*

*Mother* by Elske Rahill and *A Painful Case* by Paul Murray.

'A Mother', who appears as a puritanical tyrant wielding unwarranted control at her daughter's first big concert in Joyce, morphs into a watery Gaelscoil busybody in *Dubliners 100*.

Irish language schools, or Gaelscoileanna, are just the setting for a modern rendering of *A Mother*.

The mother in this story, Kathleen, belongs to a swelling proportion of the Irish middle class who push for Irish language schooling, although their underlying aspiration is for something entirely different.

Not for her the liberal views of Educate Together, Rahill's remade title character, Kathleen, sees in such schools an opportunity to shield her princess from the worst assaults that exposure to a multi-ethnic society may bring; she is deftly wrong-footed in the story when she is forced to cope with other mothers who refuse to follow her lead.

The retelling of *A Painful Case* captures the humour of later Joyce when the hermitic and anemic Mr. Duffy is transformed into Dublin's most feared restaurant critic.

Just as Joyce's Mr. Duffy created a worldview that trapped him and ultimately destroyed any chance of happiness he might have had, so this Mr. Duffy had hid behind an armoury of savage restaurant reviews and contempt for yuppie company, which succeeds in perfectly translating the spirit of the Joyce story into a Twenty-First Century setting.

Richard Ellmann's view that "we are still learning to be Joyce's contemporaries" is as true today as it was when he wrote it in 1959.

On the centenary of the publication of Joyce's first book of fiction, *Dubliners 100* has provided a compelling reason to read James Joyce in our time. It is a welcome book.

*Dubliners 100* was published by Tramp Press in June 2014

## Debt-hit Irish ex-tycoon Tony O'Reilly bankrupt

DUBLIN — Former billionaire Anthony O'Reilly is facing the prospect of bankruptcy with banks that stood by him poised to break ranks to chase his debt free assets.

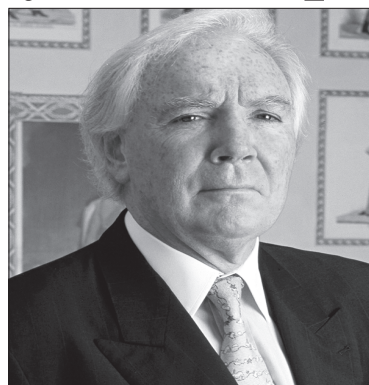
Once Ireland's richest man, O'Reilly faces a forced sale of all his secured and debt free assets to satisfy a EU22.6 million debt owed to bailed-out AIB Bank, and is considering bankruptcy in the Bahamas, where he now lives.

The possible nuclear option of bankruptcy by O'Reilly comes after a legal action by AIB led to the effective collapse of an agreement he had negotiated with nine domestic and international banks to whom he owes almost EU200 million.

The former owner of the *Irish Independent* and the *Belfast Telegraph* was refused a six-month grace period by the Commercial Court in Dublin on June 27 on the registration and execution of the judgment in favour of AIB.

A rugby winger with caps for Ireland and the Lions, O'Reilly's career in business began in the early 1960s when he joined the Irish Dairy Board, developing the Kerrygold brand.

He moved onto the giant U.S. food

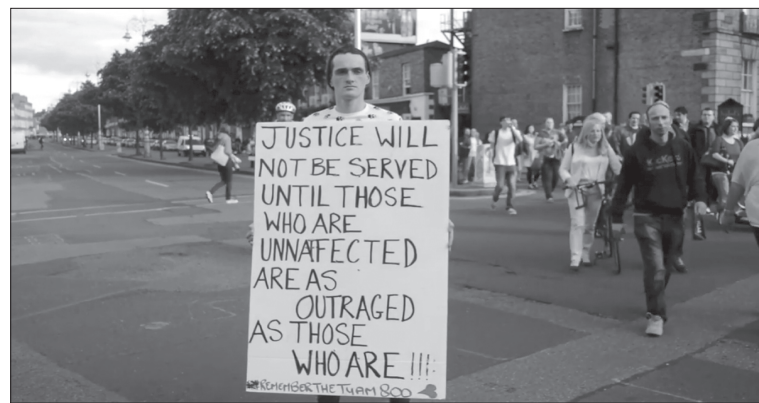


**END OF AN EMPIRE** for Tony O'Reilly as he considers bankruptcy in the Bahamas.

group Heinz, becoming the first non-family chairman of the company.

But the 78-year-old's business interests have come crashing down around him. Investments in the porcelain and crystal maker Waterford Wedgwood and newspaper group Independent News & Media (INM) resulted in huge losses.

O'Reilly had wanted to sell his debt free assets in an orderly fashion, but AIB could now move against them, triggering other banks and creditors to do the same.



PUBLIC MARCHES at the Dail demanded a public inquiry into the mother-and-baby homes deaths.

## Enda Kenny: Babies of unmarried parents were 'treated as an inferior sub-species'

DUBLIN — Babies of unmarried parents were treated as "an inferior sub-species" for decades in Ireland, Enda Kenny has admitted, as a State inquiry was announced into religious-run institutions used to house pregnant mothers.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that in many cases their treatment, and that of their babies, was an abomination," the taoiseach said in an emotive statement to the Dail.

Children's Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan said the special commission will investigate the deaths of babies at mother-and-baby homes across Ireland.

He said the inquiry will cover the infant mortality rate, vaccines, medical trials, the geographic spread of these institutions and the legal complexities.

The planned commission of inquiry was given a guarded welcome by the opposition parties, human rights organisations and by campaigners for adoption equality.

The Catholic bishops also welcomed the move and apologised for the church's role in mistreating unmarried mothers.

"Sadly we are being reminded of a time when unmarried mothers were often judged, stigmatised and rejected by society, including the church," a bishops' statement said.

"It is important that the commission, and all of us, approach these matters with compassion, determination and objectivity. We need to find out more about what this period in our social history was

really like and to consider the legacy it has left us as a people," the bishops added.

The Commission may be headed by a judge or former judge and the minister said an emphasis will be placed on delivering a timely report at a reasonable cost to taxpayers.

The minister indicated that the Protestant-run Bethany Home in Dublin, whose survivors have long campaigned for redress, should be included.

Up to 35,000 unmarried mothers are believed to have spent time in 10 homes run by religious orders in Ireland from the foundation of the state up to the 1980s.

This inquiry follows massive national and international publicity about a home in Tuam, Co. Galway, run by the Sisters of the Bon Secours where the remains of 796 infants are believed to be buried.

The latest issue follows controversies about clerical sexual abuse and the treatment of women in the Magdalene Laundries.

Flanagan said the inquiry must see the complex issues in the context of the times in which they occurred.

Tanya Ward, chief executive of the Children's Rights Alliance, said the inquiry was a first step in establishing the truth about the mother-and-baby homes.

"Uncovering the dark history of how we treated unmarried mothers and their children is vital for us to truly acknowledge and understand our past," she said.



**TONY O'REILLY**, Ireland's first billionaire has been labelled insolvent and was left pleading with a Dublin court for more time to sell off assets — including his beloved 750-acre Castlemartin stud farm in county Kildare — as he battled to stave off creditors' demands.



## ‘A sickening and prolific sexual abuser’

LONDON – Disgraced entertainer Jimmy Savile had unrestricted access to commit “truly awful” abuse of hospital patients across the country over decades and even boasted about defiling corpses, a series of chilling reports have revealed.

The Radio One DJ who also presented the BBC’s *Top of the Pops* and *Jim’ll Fix It*, died in October 2011 – a year before allegations he had sexually abused children were broadcast in an ITV documentary, *Exposure: The Other Side of Jimmy Savile*.

The documentary ultimately led to a joint review by the Metropolitan Police and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which in turn triggered separate National Health Service investigations.

In 2012 police said Savile, one of Britain’s best-known celebrities in the 1970s and 1980s, had sexually abused hundreds of victims, mainly youngsters, at hospitals and at BBC premises over six decades until his death aged 84 in 2011.

A series of reports released on June 27 showed Savile had used his fame and charitable work to get unsupervised access to patients, raping and sexually abusing victims in hospital wards, corridors and offices.

In all, he is believed to have abused at least 500 girls and boys, some as young as two, most between 13 and 15, as well as countless adults ranging up to 75 years old.

As shocking as the findings are, even more shocking is the fact that Savile got away with it for so long.

That realization has “shaken our country to the core,” U.K. Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt said following release of the reports.

“Today’s reports show that in reality he was a sickening and prolific sexual abuser who repeatedly exploited the trust of a nation for his own vile purposes.”

In one disclosure, it was reported that Savile, who had publicly spoken of his fascination with the dead, had sexually abused bodies in the mortuary of Leeds General Infirmary in northern England, taking advantage of his role as a volunteer porter.

Savile was knighted by Queen Elizabeth and honoured by the Pope for his voluntary work at hospitals which he exploited to gain unprecedented access to patients.

The reports are the latest to have been commissioned into how Savile was able to get away with his crimes and why victims were ignored or disbelieved.

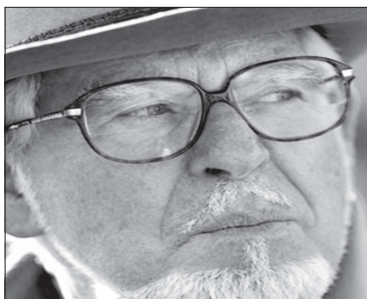
His crimes also prompted a large scale police investigation termed Operation Yewtree which has led to the arrest of numerous high-profile ageing British celebrities.

In May, Britain’s best-known celebrity publicist Max Clifford became the first person to be convicted in the operation, for indecently assaulting teenage girls in the 1970s and 1980s.

More recently on July 2, disgraced entertainer Rolf Harris was convicted on 12 charges of sexual abuse with more charges pending.



JIMMY SAVILE with some of the children who took part in his series of *Jim’ll Fix It* on BBC television in 1974.



DISGRACED entertainer Rolf Harris.

### ‘Even people you know and trust can be abusers’

LONDON – Rolf Harris has been sentenced to five years and nine months in jail after he was found guilty of 12 counts of indecent assault.

Harris (84) assaulted four girls and young women aged from seven to 19 between 1968 and 1986, including his daughter Bindi’s childhood best friend, the court found.

In a strange twist, Harris had funded and starred in an educational video warning young people about the dangers of sexual abuse.

Called *Kids Can Say No*, the 20-minute video, shown widely in schools, used Harris’s renown and rapport with young people to explain what he called the difference between “yes feelings” – those prompted by properly affectionate touching such as parental hugs – and “no feelings.”

“Sometimes people do things to one another that don’t make them feel good,” Harris explains to a group of primary school-age children before prompting them, as an exercise, to yell “Go away!” at him in unison.

In the wake of the court case, some details of the video are chilling: one filmed roleplay portrays a young girl being improperly touched by the father of her friend, an experience mirroring what the former friend of Harris’s daughter, Bindi, recounted to the court.

“Even people you know and trust can be abusers,” Harris tells the children in the video.

Harris remained impassive as sentence was passed, with daughter Bindi watching from the gallery.

His frail wife Alwen did not go to court for the sentencing, although she has attended much of the trial.

# Westminster Pedophile Ring: Claims Intensify as MP Threatens to Name Names

LONDON – The controversy surrounding claims of a pedophile ring operating in Westminster in the 1980s has intensified with a former minister threatening to “name and shame” suspects.

The *Daily Telegraph* reports more than 10 politicians are named on a list of alleged child abusers held by detectives investigating the claims.

Past and present MPs or peers from the three main parties are on the list, which includes former government ministers and household names.

Some of those named, such as Cyril Smith and Sir Peter Morrison, are no longer alive, but others are still active in Westminster.

The news comes days after it emerged that a dossier on an alleged Westminster pedophile network compiled by the late Tory MP Geoffrey Dickens went missing after it was handed to the former Home Secretary Lord Brittan in 1983.

Former Tory children’s minister, Tim Loughton, said he is ready to use the protection of parliamentary privilege to name suspected pedophiles unless a full inquiry is launched.

“Like many in Westminster, I was gravely concerned by the news the dossier compiled by Tory MP Geoffrey Dickens, who spent his career fighting child abuse, had been lost.

“Inevitably there is conjecture that someone deliberately lost it or hushed it up. Who did this? Were they politicians, civil servants, or police complicit in a cover-up?”

And Lord Tebbit, a senior member of Margaret Thatcher’s cabinet at the time of the original affair, added his voice to the 139 MPs demanding an inquiry and proper explanation of what happened to the dossier.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that a senior Tory politician said to be part of a child sex ring was allegedly stopped by a customs officer with child pornography videos in the 1980s but was neither arrested nor charged after senior officers received the material.

All the allegations relate to the dossier compiled by Dickens which was passed on to the home secretary.

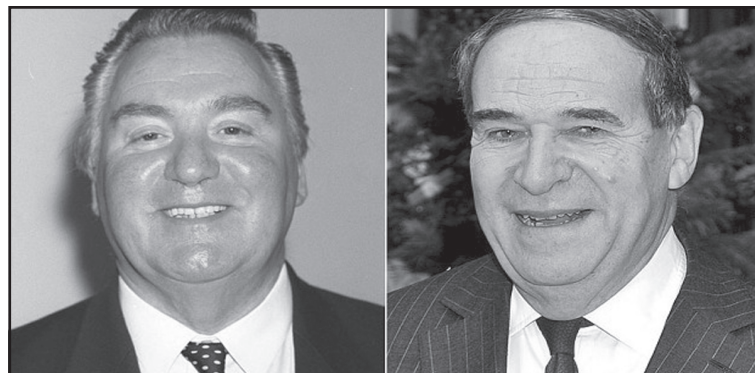
Initially Brittan could not recollect the dossier but finally confirmed he received it in the mid-1980s. He said the file was handed on to officials and police at the time. No action followed and the documents have since gone missing.

David Cameron has asked a senior civil servant to “find answers” about the missing dossier, as the Home Office faces calls to explain why it was “not retained” by officials.

But Labour MP Simon Danczuk, who helped reveal details of child sex abuse by former Liberal MP Cyril Smith, has demanded a Hillsborough-style inquiry into all the historic allegations.

What many in Westminster believe is that this affair is gaining a momentum of its own and that, in the end, a full inquiry drawing together all strands of the ongoing sex abuse inquiries is needed.

Much of the rumour and speculation



TORY MP Geoffrey Dickens (L), handed the dossier to Leon Brittan (R), who was the home secretary at the time.

surrounding the Dickens’ dossier, along with the names of very senior suspects, was widely discussed in Westminster at the time but there never appeared to be any hard evidence and no action was ever taken.

Political journalists were certainly aware of the names of individuals suspected of involvement in child sex abuse

but, again, there was never any hard evidence according to the *Daily Telegraph*.

Now, 30 years later, it appears the allegations might finally be addressed and, if any of the suspicions which were raised in the 1980s turn out to be true, and action is taken, it could rock the British establishment.



FORMER News International chief executive Rebekah Brooks (L) has been cleared of all charges while Andy Coulson (R), 46, the former editor of the *News of the World*, has been found guilty of presiding over a five-year phone hacking plot at the tabloid.

## Two different outcomes into hacking charges

LONDON – Two once-powerful British journalists met starkly different fates into charges of phone hacking on June 26.

Former *News of the World* editor Rebekah Brooks was acquitted, while fellow editor Andy Coulson was convicted after a long trial centring on illegal activity at the heart of Rupert Murdoch’s newspaper empire.

The almost eight-month trial – one of the longest and most expensive in British legal history – was triggered by revelations that for years the *News of the World* used illegal eavesdropping to get stories, listening in on the voice mails of celebrities, politicians and even crime victims.

The scandal led Murdoch to shut down the 168-year-old tabloid and spurred criminal investigations in which dozens of journalists and officials have been arrested.

Coulson – Prime Minister David Cameron’s ex-media chief – was sentenced to 18 months in prison for being complicit in widespread tapping of voice mails.

The 46-year-old Coulson edited the *News of the World*, then Britain’s biggest-selling newspaper, between 2003

and 2007.

He stepped down after former royal editor, Clive Goodman and private investigator Glenn Mulcaire admitted hacking into phones of royal aides to generate front page news stories.

Just months later he went to work as the communications director for Cameron, first in opposition and then in Downing Street when the Conservative leader was elected as prime minister in 2010.

“For a period of years there was industrial-scale phone-hacking at the *News of the World*,” prosecutor Andrew Edis said.

“These defendants utterly corrupted that newspaper which became at the very highest level a thoroughly criminal enterprise.”

Dozens more journalists, nearly all from Murdoch’s tabloids, are still awaiting trial over alleged offences arising from the huge police investigation into phone-hacking.

Cameron made a public apology following Coulson’s conviction, as his political rivals said the appointment had demonstrated the prime minister’s lack of judgment.





GERRY CONLON was the first of the Guildford Four to be freed. He is pictured on October 19, 1989 outside the Old Bailey, London, after an investigation by Avon and Somerset Police found serious flaws in the way Surrey Police handled the case.

## Gerry Conlon has died in west Belfast at age 60

BELFAST – Gerry Conlon, who was wrongly convicted of the 1974 Guildford IRA pub bombing, has died aged 60 after a short illness.

He was one of the Guildford Four, who spent 15 years in prison before their convictions were quashed in 1989. It was one of the most notorious cases of a miscarriage of justice in British legal history.

Paddy Hill, who was one of six men wrongly convicted of IRA bombings in Birmingham, also in 1974, was among those who helped carry the coffin at the emotional funeral service at St. Peter's Cathedral in west Belfast.

Along with the other members of the Guildford Four – Paddy Armstrong, Paul Hill and Carole Richardson – Conlon was jailed for life in 1975 for the attack on the Horse and Groom pub in the Surrey town which killed five people and injured 65.

At the time of their sentencing, the trial judge Justice Donaldson told them, "If hanging were still an option, you would have been executed."

The four were freed in October 1989 after the Court of Appeal quashed their sentences amid doubts raised about the police evidence against them.

An investigation by Avon and Somerset Police found serious flaws in the way Surrey Police handled the case.

As he emerged free from the Court of Appeal, Gerry Conlon famously declared, "I have been in prison for some-

thing I did not do. I am totally innocent."

Conlon's father Giuseppe, who was also jailed as part of a discredited investigation into a supposed bomb making family – the Maguire Seven – died in prison.

His mother Sarah, a tireless campaigner for their freedom, died in 2008, aged 82.

Conlon was played by Daniel Day-Lewis in the 1993 film *In The Name Of The Father*.

Solicitor Gareth Peirce, who was played by Emma Thompson in the same film, told mourners of Conlon's struggles with life in the years after his release, living like a recluse in England and developing a drug habit.

But she said he overcame those difficulties and returned to Belfast to be with his mother in the year before she died.

In his homily, Father Ciaran Dallat said Conlon always carried a burden of guilt, feeling he was responsible for the death of his dad in prison.

"In the master's house, the place that Jesus has prepared in heaven, we trust that Giuseppe and Sarah are there and he will truly be at peace at last because Giuseppe will reassure him, as his mother tried so often, that it wasn't his fault – it wasn't his fault, other people got it wrong."

In July 2000, then-prime minister Tony Blair became the first senior politician to apologise to the Guildford Four.

## Future of powersharing once again in doubt

BELFAST – The future of the powersharing administration in Northern Ireland was again in doubt after unionist parties walked out of a political talks process on July 2 following a decision to bar an Orange Order parade from marching past Ardoyne.

The Democratic Unionists (DUP) and Ulster Unionists (UUP) said that collapsing negotiations on outstanding peace process issues at Stormont, to highlight their anger at the ruling by the Parades Commission adjudication body, was the first stage of a "graduated response."

The next step was when DUP Stormont First Minister Peter Robinson pulled out of a scheduled joint meeting in Dublin with Sinn Féin Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, Irish premier Taoiseach Enda Kenny and deputy prime minister Tanaiste Eamon Gilmore.

In issuing its determination, the Parades Commission cited the potential for public disorder and negative impact on community relations among its reasons for preventing the contentious July 12 evening parade proceeding along north Belfast's Crumlin Road, which is adjacent to the nationalist Ardoyne neighbourhood.

While both loyalists and republicans have engaged in serious rioting linked to the parade in recent years, the DUP and UUP insisted the commission had given in to the threat of republican violence.

The two main unionist parties issued a joint statement endorsed by a range of smaller unionist and loyalist parties in the region, including two with links to paramilitary groups. All the signatories said they were also cutting ties with the Parades Commission.

As the Orange Order denounced the decision as "preposterous," Robinson said the commission's stance had put the powersharing institutions in danger.

McGuinness, who said the region was in for a "fraught couple of weeks," expressed disappointment that the North South Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin Castle had been cancelled.

"This is clear evidence that the Orange Order is now setting the pace for political unionism and the DUP in particular is now dancing to its tune," he said.

Earlier McGuinness said unionists needed to explain exactly what "graduated response" meant. "I hope it doesn't mean a threat to the institutions," he said.

"I have made it clear that these institutions have provided very important stability."

He added, "I tell it as it is. I think there is an awful lot of scepticism and indeed cynicism out there in regard to the willingness of unionist parties and the Orange Order to come to an agreement."



THE Northern Ireland Parades Commission has banned an Orange Parade from the Ardoyne nationalist area to prevent violence on July 12.



QUEEN ELIZABETH II with Northern Ireland First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness during a tour of Crumlin Road Gaol, Belfast, on day two of her visit to Northern Ireland.

## Queen's visit to N. Ireland hailed an overwhelming success

BELFAST – The Queen has ended a three day trip to Northern Ireland by laying a wreath to commemorate Irish service personnel who died in the First World War.

Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh were guests of honour at the commemorative event in Coleraine on June 25 to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the conflict and all those who lost their lives in the subsequent four years.

Members of the Royal British Legion from both sides of the Irish border were invited to the event in the town hall. The war ended in 1918, three years before the partition of Ireland.

The Royal couple flew to Coleraine from her official residence at Hillsborough Castle where earlier they chatted to experts from the Antiques Roadshow who assessed items from the castle's collections.

Buckingham Palace officials have hailed what was the Queen's twenty-first visit to Northern Ireland as an overwhelming success.

While past trips have seen her itinerary closely guarded due to security fears, this time engagements were publicised in advance and that open nature continued as the events unfolded.

The Queen's intimate walkabout in St. George's market in Belfast city centre even saw teenagers stretching out in a bid to get "selfies" with the monarch, which would have been unthinkable in past years.

As with a range of recent royal engagements involving Ireland, both north and south, the theme of reconciliation was to the fore.

This was evident when the Queen and Duke toured the regenerated old Crumlin Road Gaol in Belfast with First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, both of whom were detained in the prison during the Troubles.

It was her encounters with McGuinness that grabbed the headlines and it was changed times indeed when the former IRA commander could praise her "passionate" commitment to reconciliation.



BELFAST Lord Mayor Nichola Mallon welcomes the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh to a luncheon at Belfast City Hall.

He said his 10 minute private audience with the monarch at Hillsborough Castle in Co. Down was "very nice" and "useful." He described her as a woman who was "a very easy person to speak to."

It was the Queen's third encounter with McGuinness but their first on an individual to individual basis.

"Remember I am an Irish republican, I was an Irish republican when I went in there and I am still a very proud Irish republican, but I also have a very important ministerial position.

"My job is to represent everybody, my job is to provide real and positive leadership – that's what I am trying to do.

"And I think in these engagements with Queen Elizabeth, and this is the third, I always see these as an opportunity to reach out, to stretch out the hand of friendship to the unionist community here in the North.

"And I think from the contributions made by Queen Elizabeth it's quite clear indeed – her visit to Dublin, meeting me in Belfast two years ago, the visit to Windsor Palace and again today, that she is someone who absolutely and passionately supports the peace process and supports big acts of reconciliation."

Before meeting McGuinness, the Queen also had an audience with Democratic Unionist First Minister Peter Robinson.

While relations between Sinn Féin and the Royal family are seemingly thawing, the Queen's latest visit comes at a time when a deep freeze has set in at the heart of the power-sharing institutions at Stormont.

Political progress on big ticket issues has stalled, with McGuinness and Robinson unable to find consensus on how to deal with the long standing disputes – such as those on parades, flags and the past – that continue to block the road toward a fully shared society.

## BBC Panorama 'loses' sensitive NI Troubles data

LONDON – The BBC has been accused of losing sensitive data about a secretive army unit, potentially compromising the identity of one of the ex-soldiers who took part in a documentary.

The investigative Panorama programme lost files that related to the Military Reaction Force (MRF), a secretive British Army unit in Northern Ireland that is alleged to have shot unarmed civilians during the Troubles in the early 1970s, it has been reported.

The unit was exposed in a Panorama episode called "Britain's Secret Terror Force" in November last year.

The claims have prompted the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to investigate, which could lead to a criminal prosecution.

The data was downloaded to a memory stick and handed by an inexperienced researcher to a third party, in protest at

the way the programme was handling a documentary.

Initially, the data was believed to relate only to Panorama's investigation into alleged questionable practices at the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

The researcher leaked the file to the office of the mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman, because she did not believe the documentary, broadcast in April, was balanced.

However, the dossier contained not just the names of Panorama's anonymous sources on the Tower Hamlets investigation but also the identities of confidential sources on a previous programme about secret British Army operations in Northern Ireland.

The notoriously secretive MRF included men from the Special Air Service, the Special Boat Service, the Royal Marines and the Parachute Regiment.





THE PRINCE of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall view the names of miners engraved into the stones at the Welsh National Miners Memorial in Senghenydd, in the Aber Valley.

## Prince Charles and Duchess of Cornwall Attend Miners Memorial

THE Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall attended the Welsh National Miners Memorial in Senghenydd to pay tribute to miners who lost their lives in a coalmine disaster in 1913.

In 1913, an explosion at the Universal Colliery in Senghenydd killed a rescuer and 439 miners. The incident is considered the biggest disaster in the area.

Last year, a national memorial was unveiled to mark the 100-year anniversary of the accident.

Roy Noble, who is the patron of the village's heritage committee, welcomed Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall on July 3.

Prince Charles laid down a wreath at the foot of the monument and the couple was shown the memorial, which lists all those who perished during the tragedy, some as young as 14.

They browsed through the names as the choir sang *Senghenydd*, which asks "where have all the young men gone?,"

concluding "we will remember them."

Prince Charles said, "My wife and I have so enjoyed this opportunity to meet you all and if I may say so to have a chance to pay our respects at the memorial.

"We just wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who've been involved in ensuring such a marvellous memorial is there in memory of all those many people who died so tragically, not only in 1913, but in 1901.

"I think we owe such an enormous debt of gratitude, respect and appreciation to those people – so many from the same families – who went underground and were courageous and determined enough to do so."

One of those in attendance was Viv Pitten, a 70-year-old man who resided at the top of the valley. He said that although the explosion happened more than 100 years ago, it is still raw for people his age.

Charles and Camilla also took time to greet the crowds and accepted flowers from the schoolchildren who were there.

## Glasgow 2014: Queen visits Commonwealth Games sites

GLASGOW – The Queen was in Glasgow on July 2 to view preparations for the Commonwealth Games as part of a week of engagements in Scotland.

The monarch was joined by the Duke of Edinburgh on a visit to Glasgow's Kelvin Hall, where the uniform and accreditation centre for the 2014 Games is located.

It is expected that around 50,000 people will come through its doors before the Games begin later this month.

The Royal couple met volunteers and were presented with a pass and a uniform memento of the visit, before departing to the city's Emirates Arena, one of the largest facilities of its kind in Europe.

They viewed construction of the badminton courts in the arena and met the Scottish badminton group, before watching cyclists using the adjoining Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome.

Named in honour of the UK's most successful gold-medal winning Olympian and Scottish Commonwealth Games champion, the velodrome's 250-metre track was designed by Ralph Schuermann, one of the world's foremost track designers.

The Queen met those involved in the construction of the arena before attending a private lunch.

The royals then travelled to Cumnock in East Ayrshire, where they were met by the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, known as the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay in Scotland, for a visit to Dumfries House.

# Wales Welcomes Dylan Thomas Fans to Centenary Celebrations

By EIFION WILLIAMS

Visitors to Swansea this summer will find a city alive with events associated with the Dylan Thomas Centenary celebrations.

During a week's stay in the city last month, I was impressed with the fact that Dylan's "ugly, lovely town" is pulling out all the stops to honour its famous son, who was born in October, 1914.

The thousands of visiting Dylan Thomas fans from all over the world will undoubtedly boost the city's economy. The Welsh Government also anticipates that a spin-off effect from the Centenary will boost tourism in the rest of Wales.

During the year, visitors to the city can take in the ongoing exhibition at the Dylan Thomas Centre, including the poet's early handwritten notebooks. These were sold in the 1940s and have now been returned to Wales on loan from the University of Buffalo, New York.

The Centre is also showcasing the work of other contemporary writers. A collection of Thomas memorabilia can also be seen at the nearby Swansea Museum.

The Dylan Thomas 100 Organization is sponsoring many projects throughout Wales. Among the highlights are: *Under Milk Wood – An Opera*, by John Metcalf, as well as a television production of the play, featuring, among others, Sir Tom Jones as Captain Cat and opera star Bryn Terfel as the Reverend Eli Jenkins.

A movie of *Under Milk Wood* is also currently in production starring Charlotte Church and Rhys Ifans, with guest appearances by former Labour Leader Neil Kinnock and rugby legend Gareth Edwards.

Visitors can also participate in tours of the poet's favourite Swansea haunts. His birthplace at 5 Cwmdonkin Drive has been faithfully restored to the way it would have looked during the poet's boyhood.

And no Thomas tour would be complete without a visit to a few of the surviving pubs associated with the poet.

Dylan Thomas 100 will also be celebrated overseas. The British Council Wales is sponsoring an international programme called "Starless and Bible Black" with the aim of "engaging new audiences with fresh perspectives on the work of Dylan Thomas and on contemporary Wales."

A wide range of activities will be presented in cities across Canada, the United States, India, Argentina and Australia.

Although Dylan Thomas spent many years in England after leaving Swansea in his early twenties, two other Welsh towns are closely associated with the poet.

For a few years at the end of the Second World War, he and his wife Caitlin lived in the beautiful seaside town of New Quay on the west coast of Wales.

Unfortunately, this proved to be a turbulent period in the couple's lives and included an episode where an aggrieved veteran fired a gun at the Thomas house after suspecting his wife of infidelity with Dylan.

By contrast, the town of Laugharne, where he spent the last few years of his life, provided Dylan with a more



PHOTO: Gareth Newton

THE BOATHOUSE at Laugharne where Dylan spent much of his last few years. He worked in the small writing shed perched on a steep slope above the house with a panoramic view of the estuary and the beautiful Gower Peninsula.

peaceful atmosphere, where his muse could flourish above his "heron Priested shore."

The Thomases lived in the Boathouse, with a panoramic view of the estuary and the beautiful Gower Peninsula. Dylan spent much of his time in a small writing shed perched on a steep slope above the house.

In one of the oddest Centenary celebrations, the writing shed and its contents, including scattered papers, beer bottles and cigarette butts, have been faithfully copied.

The "pop-up shed" is now travelling to dozens of venues all over Wales. It has already been seen at the Hay Literary Festival and can be seen later this summer at the Brecon Jazz Festival and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show.

It will also visit the National Eisteddfod of Wales, to be held this year in Llanelli.

While visiting Laugharne my wife and I walked the Dylan Thomas Trail to the shed and the Boathouse, which is open to visitors.

There were not many walkers on the trail on that rainy day and a sudden downpour forced us to adjourn to Brown's Hotel where Dylan and Caitlin spent so many hours during their years in Laugharne.

Laugharne is not far from Fernhill, the farmhouse that is the subject of one of Thomas' most popular lyrical poems and where he spent childhood vacations with his aunt and uncle. The poem is an impressionistic recollection of innocent childhood.

It is evident that Dylan loved the Carmarthenshire countryside and coastline. It could be said that his heart was in Swansea but his soul was in rural Carmarthenshire.

In a recent interview in the *Daily Telegraph*, Dylan's granddaughter Hannah Ellis said of her grandfather, "He was incredibly Welsh. There was nowhere he felt more comfortable than in a pub in Laugharne or New Quay, being around people who weren't putting on airs and graces."

## Wales has highest numbers in poverty

CARDIFF – New figures from the Department of Work and Pensions reveal that Wales has the highest percentage of people on low incomes in the whole of the UK.

The latest Households Below Average Incomes (HBAI) survey shows that in 2012/13 24 percent of workers in Wales live on low incomes after housing costs, a higher proportion than England, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

And the figures are getting worse. They are a percentage point up on the previous year, and do not take account of recent welfare changes such as the benefit cap and another year of increases in welfare not keeping up with the cost of living.

The DWP statistics show that Wales has some of the highest levels of "absolute poverty" after housing costs, especially for children, a third of whom fall into that category, and working age adults, where it is on the rise with a quarter now in absolute poverty.

Someone is considered to be in absolute poverty if they receive less than 60 percent of the average income in the year in question.

Poverty among pensioners is also on the up in Wales, with nearly a quarter captured by that definition.

Overall, 17 percent of individuals across the UK are in absolute poverty, with Wales in the third highest position at 19 percent. Northern Ireland (21 percent)

and Yorkshire and Humberside (20 percent) have marginally higher overall rates than Wales.

Nevertheless, in figures which will surprise some, London also has some of the highest levels of absolute poverty after housing costs, with numbers there also increasing.

Some 200,000 more individuals are in poverty, with two-fifths of children, a fifth of pensioners and more than a quarter of working age adults in that state.

Kirsty Davies, Head of Oxfam Cymru, said, "These figures are depressing but come as no surprise.

"We know from our 13 projects across Wales that many people are struggling to make ends meet even if they are working, and more and more people are having to rely on hand outs from food banks to survive."

Mark Goldring, Oxfam chief executive, added, "The figures reveal that the economic recovery is not making enough of a difference to the poorest, many of whom are facing a daily struggle to put food on the table. Politicians of all parties need bolder, long-term policies that can help people move out of poverty.

"Oxfam is working hard to address poverty in the UK. While doing our work, we see unacceptable levels of poverty that exist in one of the richest countries in the world and call for politicians of all stripes to urgently address the issues keeping people in poverty."



# How to Make a Perfect Cup of Tea



This month's column is for the restaurant server or even your significant other because this month we talk about how to make the most simplest of things: a proper cup of tea.

If you are tired of being presented with a tea bag served in a cold cup filled with lukewarm water, cut out this column and leave it with your tip.

First, let's get our language straight. Confusion comes because the word "tea" has two definitions.

"A tea" is a water infusion of plant matter. Hot water is used to extract chemical compounds and flavors from the plant matter (herbs).

For example, you can make "a tea" of peppermint leaves. Just pour hot water over the plant matter and let it steep. The result is a tea of peppermint leaves.

On the other hand, *tea* is a beverage made specifically from the leaves of *Camellia sinensis*, a type of evergreen shrub.

Depending how the *Camellia sinensis* leaves are cured, the teas they produce can be white, green, oolong (in-between green and black tea) or black with white producing the mildest flavors and black the most robust.

The quality of the tea you serve is totally dependent on the temperature of the water you used to prepare it.

The temperature must be close to boiling to extract the flavors of black tea. If you see tiny bubbles forming around the tea bag, it is a giveaway the water you used was not hot enough to do the job.

Herbal tea is not tea because it is not made from the leaves of *Camellia sinensis*. It is a herbal tea (hot water infusion) of some plant matter.

If someone requests tea, they usually want green, oolong or black tea. If they want herbal tea, they will usually ask what kind of teas you have.

Making tea is so easy it is hard. First you require tea (usually tea bags) and actively boiling water. Don't worry, by the time the tea steeps the temperature will drop to a drinkable range.

Add a bit of boiling water to the cold tea pot, swirl it around to warm up the pot and then discard. This ensures the temperature of the water is not overly reduced by a cold pot. A warm cup is a nice touch too.

Add the tea bag to the pot and pour the actively boiling water over the bag. This is what your customer ordered.

They should not have to make the tea themselves from a pot of water, a container of tea bags and a cup.

Restaurants charge the same amount for coffee and tea yet coffee is made for the patron while tea makers are expected to make it themselves.

If a customer wants milk with their tea, they mean milk not cream. The fat in cream overcomes the taste of the tea.

Cream is for coffee. Skim milk should not be offered either (unless specifically requested).

Some fat is required to cut the taste of tannins in the tea. Whole milk is best but low fat will do too.

If a customer orders tea with milk, pro-

## SLÁINTE – TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH!



By  
MAUREEN  
KEANE



vide at least a quarter cup of milk per cup of tea.

Don't serve the milk in one of those tiny coffee creamer pitchers that contain a scant two tablespoons. Don't serve the milk in a glass!

If you serve tea, invest in some milk pitchers so the milk can be neatly poured.

If a customer orders tea with milk, don't bother serving a wedge of lemon with it. The lemon juice will just curdle the milk in the tea.

The next problem is flavored teas. Most people just want plain black tea so always have at least one black tea available.

English or Irish Breakfast are the best blends for premium black teas but Lipton will do nicely too if properly prepared.

*Sláinte* lumps flavored teas with herbal blends – they are not, to her, true teas. If *Sláinte* asks for black tea, please do not suggest Earl Grey.

Earl Grey is black tea flavored with bergamot oil. Some of us do not want flavored oil in our tea!

What can you do as a server? Read the tea bags so you know what is in them.

Know that a good cup of tea does not require a display of so-called premium tea bags.

What separates a good cup of tea from the bad is the application of boiling water and use of a teapot.

Customers, remember the only reason restaurants get away with serving such inferior tea is because we let them.

Maureen Keane MS CN is the author of 14 books on health and diet and a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Read her blog at [www.keanenutrition.com](http://www.keanenutrition.com).

## SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

### PASSINGS

• Jim Shriane, 88, who died on June 29 in Birmingham, England, was a brother of Frank Shriane of Seattle.

• Thomas Donoghue, a former Irish Heritage Club Board member, died in Arlington on June 26.

• Nicky Daly, who died in Dublin on June 24, was the father of Paul Daly of Seattle.

• Ellen Rossbotham, who died in Belfast on June 12, was the mother of Dominic Rossbotham of Seattle.

• Madeline "Rusty" Hernandez, 77, a native of Dublin and former Lynnwood resident, died June 7 in Las Vegas.

• Anne McClean, 83, a native of Co. Monaghan, died in Sequim June 23.

• Sara Rice, 92, a native of Galway, died in Redmond May 28.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílse* – May their faithful souls rest at the right hand of God.

**ROAD BOWLING** – The fifth annual Vashon Island Irish Road Bowling Association Tournament is Saturday, July 19 at 2 PM, following the Vashon Island Strawberry Festival Parade.

Starting point is at SW 220th Street and Old Mill Road and all attendees are encouraged to participate in this informal tournament. For more information, contact Bob Williams at (206) 403-5202.

**CONNECTIONS EXHIBIT** – You are invited to attend photographer Rozarii Lynch's CONNECTIONS photo exhibit and reception on Saturday, July 19, 6-9 PM at Studio Lucile, Bemis Building, 55 S Atlantic Street, Seattle.

Photographed exclusively for Irish Week 2014, and exhibited during the Irish Festival at the Seattle Center, CONNECTIONS was so well received that it is having a second reception in Seattle before traveling.

The exhibit is a collection of abstract images of things around Seattle that remind and connect us with Ireland. For more information, visit: [rozariiphotography.com](http://rozariiphotography.com).

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** – On Sunday, July 20, during the 10:30 AM Mass at Holy Rosary Church, 4139 42nd Avenue SW, west Seattle, Fr. John Madigan celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination as a priest in 1974.

His anniversary Mass will also be a memorial for his 93-year-old mother who died in Ireland on May 10.

In 1974, Fr. John was the last Irish-born priest to come to Seattle directly after ordination and he has been involved in the Irish community ever since.

In February 2012, the Irish Bishops and Seattle's Archbishop jointly appointed him as Chaplain to Seattle's Irish Community.

**JULY 27 PICNIC** – Seattle's Irish community picnic is noon to 6 PM on Sunday, July 27, at Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah (exit # 15 off I-90).

Games and fun for the entire family, and all are welcome. Free hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided but bring your own drink and a dessert to be shared.

There's a covered picnic area and several BBQ grills if you bring charcoal. Hurling game starts at 1 PM followed by games and fun for the entire family – tug-o-war, sack-races,



By  
JOHN  
KEANE

water balloon toss, etc.

For details, email: [Picnic@irishclub.org](mailto:Picnic@irishclub.org) or call (425) 290-7839.

**IRISH MUSIC WEEK** – Cascadia Irish Music Week is August 10-16 at Camp Casey Conference Center on Whidbey Island.

If you're thinking of registering for this year's camp please don't delay. *There's still room in all classes*, but organizers are committed to keeping the class sizes reasonable and will close registration for individual classes when they reach their capacity.

This year's teachers include the Mulcahy Family, Randal Bays, Johnny Og Connolly, Sean Gavin, John McEvoy, John Blake.

If you're interested in Irish traditional music, Cascadia is the place to be this summer. For more information, visit: [CascadiaIrish.org](http://CascadiaIrish.org).

**GAELIC HEADSTONE** – On Friday evening, August 15, at 4:30 PM, Irish Music Camp musicians will gather for a tune in Sunnyside Cemetery in Coupeville at the 1860s Maylor headstone that carries an inscription in old Irish Gaelic script.

The headstone was inscribed in Ireland and brought to Whidbey Island where it was erected in 1863 in memory of Máire Barrett Maylor, a native of Nenagh, Co. Tipperary who died there in 1861.

All are invited to join the musicians at the headstone on August 15 and for dinner afterwards at Camp Casey before the Friday evening Irish Music Camp Concert.

However, advance dinner reservations are required to (425) 290-7839. For more information on the headstone, visit: [IrishClub.org/headstone](http://IrishClub.org/headstone).

**WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST** – While visiting Seattle, Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson was the guest speaker at a Women in Business Leadership Initiative breakfast that was cosponsored by Irish Network Seattle and the Seattle Chamber of Commerce.

The event attracted over 160 attendees, the vast majority of whom were businesswomen, and Anderson's anecdotes, advice and words of encouragement captivated the crowd.

Speaking to the challenges that women face while maintaining a work-life balance, Anderson also shared personal stories of her own life. For photos, visit Irish Network Seattle on Facebook.

**NEW POLICE CHIEF** – The appointment of Kathleen O'Toole as Seattle's first female police chief was approved by Seattle City Council on June 23.

She immediately took the oath of office in front of a large crowd that included her good friend Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson.

O'Toole lived in Ireland from 2006-2012 when she served as Chief In-

spector of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, a body responsible for bringing reform, best practice and accountability to Ireland's 17,000 member police force.

The Seattle Police Force numbers about 1,820 members. O'Toole's grandparents were from Athlone, Co. Westmeath and her husband's grandparents were from Cong, Co. Mayo.

**DUBLIN EXHIBIT** – Seattle's Irish-born glass artist Paula Stokes was at Dublin Castle recently to help launch Dale Chihuly's Ulysses Cylinders exhibition.

Inspired by James Joyce's *Ulysses*, the exhibition is a unique collection of golden glass based on a previous Irish Cylinders series formed in 1975, but that exhibit was cancelled after Chihuly had the auto accident where he lost the sight in one eye.

This new exhibit was designed and formed last year with James Joyce's *Ulysses* as the sole inspiration.

The pieces were lavished in gold, had delicate and intricate glass drawings melted onto their surface, and then were skilfully blown to their final shape.

To see a video of the cylinders being formed, search on YouTube for "Dale Chihuly Irish Cylinder Blow".

**LAW FELLOW** – Eamon Maguire, a native of Belfast who has attended Trinity College Dublin, the Dublin Institute of Technology and Manchester University of Law, is the 2014 Thomas Addis Emmet Fellow in International Public Interest Law.

He will spend two months working in public-interest law with Seattle's Appleseed Foundation.

Founded in 1997, the law fellowship program is named for a hero of Ireland's 1798 United Irishmen rebellion. Sponsored by the UW and Ireland's Free Legal Advice Centers, the fellowship program is supported by Seattle's Irish Heritage Club.

**WATCH #11** – 21-year-old Aaron Kovar, son of Dubliner Bernie Creaven, made his Sounders FC debut after signing with Seattle in January as a home grown player.

Aaron was named 'Man of the Match' after assisting in two goals in a recent game against PSA Elite helping the Team to advance to the fifth round of the Open Cup.

In the past he played for the U-18 National Team before being named Washington State Gatorade Player of the Year. Now the big question is, will he declare for Ireland or the USA?

**GALWAY MAYOR** – Councilor Donal Lyons has been elected Mayor of Galway, Seattle's Irish sister city.

Now an independent councilor, Donal was formerly a Progressive Democrat and served as Mayor of Galway from 2001-2002 during which time he visited Seattle as mayor.

The City of Yelm near Olympia has had a sister city relationship with Ferns, Co. Wexford, since 1996.

**STATISTICS EXPERT** – Professor Adrian E. Raftery, Professor of Statistics at the University of Washington, recently presented the inaugural Gosset Lecture in the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin.

Identified as the world's most cited researcher in mathematics for an

[Continued on page 21]



## SEATTLE IRISH NEWS



IRISH AMBASSADOR Anne Anderson addressed a sold out breakfast crowd at Seattle's Rainier Club on June 24.



MEMBERS of Irish Network Seattle met with Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson at Seattle's Rainier Club. From left [Front Row], Honorary Consul John Keane, IN-Seattle President Noreen McCormack, Aoife Blake, Ambassador Anderson, Bríd Nowlan, Kathryn O'Hora, Caroline Cumming, Aly Gardner and Ciaran O'Mahony. [Back Row] Irish Consul General Philip Grant and Mal Jones.



YELM CITY Councilor Bob Isom, Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson and Yelm City Mayor Ron Harding. Yelm, near Olympia, is a sister city of Ferns, Co. Wexford.

### [Continued from page 20]

entire decade (1995-2005). Dubliner Adrian was also inducted as a member of the Royal Irish Academy.

He is currently on leave from the UW and is serving as a Visiting Professor at the School of Mathematical Sciences, University College Dublin.

**BECKETT FESTIVAL** – From August through November, a group of almost 20 theatre companies in Seattle will produce an unprecedented Seattle Beckett Festival.

The festival will celebrate the works of Samuel Beckett, an Irish avant-garde novelist, playwright, theatre director and poet, who was awarded the 1969 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Beckett is widely regarded as being among the most influential writers of the Twentieth Century and his work offers a bleak, tragicomic outlook on human nature, often coupled with black comedy and gallows humor.

The festival will feature performances of Beckett's plays (such as

*Waiting for Godot*, *Endgame*, *Krapp's Last Tape*, *Act Without Words parts I & II*, etc.), along with readings of his poetry and prose, screenings of his films, master classes on Beckett, pop-up performance events, presentations of the radio plays, and much, much more.

Organized by Seattle Shakespeare Company & Theatre Puget Sound in conjunction with various other arts organizations including ACT Theatre, Cornish and Seattle University, performances will be held in various venues around Seattle this fall!

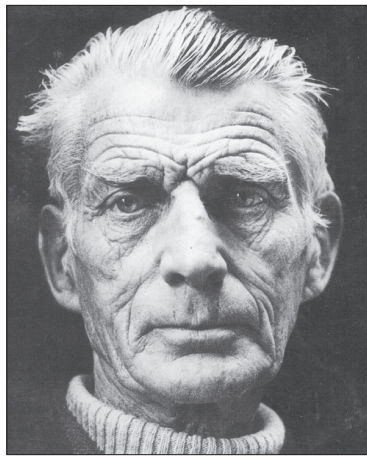
For more detailed information, visit [www.seattlebeckettfest.org](http://www.seattlebeckettfest.org).

### MISCELLANEOUS

The Irish Book Club will next meet on August 25 in north Seattle – e-mail [hudit@comcast.net](mailto:hudit@comcast.net) for details.

All GAA hurling and football games are telecast live from Ireland at Fadó Irish Pub, First and Columbia, downtown Seattle. Visit: [fadoirishpub.com](http://fadoirishpub.com).

**Save The Date:** 2014 Irish Reels Film Festival is October 24-26.



A SEATTLE Beckett Festival will run from August through November this year produced by the Seattle Shakespeare Company & Theatre Puget Sound in conjunction with 20 local theatre and arts organizations including the ACT Theatre,



ROZARII LYNCH, a Seattle-based photographer from Co. Cavan, whose CONNECTIONS photo exhibit and reception is Saturday, July 19, 6-9 PM at Studio Lucile, 55 S Atlantic Street, Seattle.

## Irish author seriously injured in U.S. assault

NEW YORK – Award-winning Irish writer Colum McCann has been assaulted in a Connecticut hotel after reportedly coming to a woman's aid. He was hospitalised with significant facial injuries.

Police said the author was beaten in New Haven on the evening of Saturday, June 28. They say witness accounts suggest he may have tried to help a woman in a dispute.

Police say the woman's companion may be the assailant they're seeking.

McCann's wife Allison Hawke said her husband has been released from hospital. She said he was getting dental work and was not in a position to comment.

Police say McCann gave information to detectives and they have significant leads they hope will soon lead to an arrest.

McCann is the award-winning author of six novels and two collections of short stories.

His novel *Let the Great World Spin* won worldwide acclaim, including the International Impac Award 2011, a literary award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and several other major literary prizes.

A member of Aosdána, he was awarded a Chevalier des arts et lettres by the French Government in 2009.

Born in Ireland, McCann lives in New York City and holds dual Irish and U.S. citizenship.



MICHELLE, Mick and Louise Mulcahy, Irish musicians from Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, will be among those teaching Irish music at the Cascadia Irish Music Week from August 10-16 at Camp Casey Conference Center on Whidbey Island.

## Quote of the Month

*"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of missing that drop."* – Mother Teresa

[Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, M.C., commonly known as Mother Teresa (1910-1997), was a Roman Catholic religious sister and missionary of Albanian origin who lived for most of her life in India. She founded the Missionaries of Charity. Among some of the works of charity, the congregation run hospices, homes for people with HIV/AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis, soup kitchens and orphanages. Members of the order must adhere to the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience and their fourth vow is to give "wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor." She was the recipient of numerous honours, including the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.]

## Seattle Irish Immigrant Support Group



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BORIS JOHNSON (L) in his weekly column in the *Daily Telegraph* writes “my general message to Tony Blair would be to put a sock in it really. Paper bag on head time is my advice.”

## Boris Johnson: Tony Blair’s Iraq comments ‘unhinged’

LONDON – Boris Johnson has described Tony Blair’s argument that the violent insurgency in Iraq has nothing to do with the 2003 invasion as “unhinged.”

Writing in the *Daily Telegraph*, the Mayor of London says the former prime minister is undermining the case for “serious and effective intervention.” He described the invasion as a “tragic mistake” and a “misbegotten folly.”

Blair was prime minister when forces invaded Iraq in 2003 on the basis that it had weapons of mass destruction.

Last month Blair said there would still be a “major problem” in Iraq now even if Saddam Hussein had not been toppled in 2003. He insisted the current crisis was an issue that “affects us all” and urged more western intervention in the area.

“Even if you’d left Saddam in place in 2003, then when 2011 happened – and you had the Arab revolutions going through Tunisia and Libya and Yemen and Bahrain and Egypt and Syria – you would have still had a major problem in Iraq.

“Indeed, you can see what happens when you leave the dictator in place, as has happened with Assad now. The problems don’t go away,” he said.

The last of Britain’s troops withdrew from Iraq in 2011 after eight years.

Johnson’s comments came as the Iraqi government claimed to have “regained the initiative” against an offensive by Sunni rebels led by ISIS – the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

Extremists captured key cities, including Mosul and Tikrit, but several towns have now been retaken from the rebels.

Writing in his weekly column on June 15, the Mayor of London said he has “come to the conclusion that Tony Blair has finally gone mad.”

He writes, “The Iraq war was a tragic mistake; and by refusing to accept this, Blair is now undermining the very cause he advocates – the possibility of serious and effective intervention.

“Blair’s argument (if that is the word for his chain of bonkers assertions) is that we were right in 2003, and that we would be right to intervene again.

“Many rightly recoil from that logic. It

*“Somebody needs to get on to Tony Blair and tell him to put a sock in it – or at least to accept the reality of the disaster he helped to engender. Then he might be worth hearing.”*

is surely obvious that the 2003 invasion was a misbegotten folly.”

He later writes, “Somebody needs to get on to Tony Blair and tell him to put a sock in it – or at least to accept the reality of the disaster he helped to engender. Then he might be worth hearing.”

Foreign Secretary William Hague said the turmoil in Iraq should not be used as an opportunity for a “proxy debate about Tony Blair and everything he has ever said and done.”

Asked in the Commons by the SNP’s Angus Robertson whether Blair should resign from his role as a Middle East peace envoy, Hague said “this would not be helpful.”

Earlier Hague told BBC Radio 4’s Today programme that it was “entirely possible” to argue that “it was the right thing to remove Saddam Hussein but that mistakes were made in the aftermath of that.”

He added, “Of course, it is possible to argue that Western intervention makes these problems worse and it is possible to argue the absence of Western intervention makes these things worse.

“Foreign policy is the fine judgement between those things. I think the truth about intervention is that it is only right when it is a last resort and where it either has limited objectives or it has a very comprehensive plan working with regional and local leaders to go with it.”

# The madness of house prices in London just keeps growing

LONDON – You may have read of the startling price rises in the London housing market, so to give you some idea of the extent of the phenomena, this is my experience.

Thirteen years ago my wife and I purchased a two bedroom Victorian terraced house in a nondescript area of Ealing, West London. The price was £200,000.

At that time my wife was the driving force behind moving from our small apartment to a house, because she felt we needed more room.

All that concerned me was the proximity to restaurants, a decent pub and most importantly the garden. I didn’t want one: Garden = less time to play golf.

Property square footage baffles me but suffice to say that compared with some Canadian houses, our house would be the size of their downstairs toilet.

Last year we (my wife) decided that we (she) wanted to sell the house and purchase a larger property.

Having extended our humble abode horizontally and vertically to within an inch of its life, the decision was prompted by the desire to have a new project to decorate, extend, improve and probably fill with cushions.

I confess to being somewhat overwhelmed with this idea as the thought of yet another army of Polish and British builders marching in and out filled me with dread.

Past experience showed that the Polish builders walk straight to task while the Brits walk straight to the kettle, but both make one hell of a mess and seem to stay forever.

Nevertheless, a smiling estate agent arrived and informed us that he would sell our property within a week for £625,000, a full £25,000 above the going rate.

He added that the perfect “project” for us (my wife) to get our (her) teeth into was coming on to the market.

The house was indeed sold, in principle, for the higher price within four days, but the “project” fell through and after weeks of hunting, and an inordinate amount of stress the entire idea of buying and selling was abandoned.

Last week the same estate agent asked if we would again be interested in selling the house as he had several prospective buyers.

This time the price would be £740,000, an increase of just over 18 percent!

I cannot understand how this can continue, and although it does not happen anywhere else in the country, demand in London shows no sign of slowing down.

Meanwhile in Wales, I am pleased to announce that the normal administrative lunacy continues to thrive.

In Carmarthen a cow escaped from a field and ran along a main railway line then on to a main road.

With the aid of a scrambled police helicopter the constabulary tracked it down, cornered it in an empty car park, and then shot it dead.

A local commented, “it was a cow, not a bloody lion.” I too am at a loss to understand this draconian measure. But one can imagine the scene.

## POSTCARD FROM LONDON



By  
ELFAN  
JONES

The helicopter circling, a policeman with a hailer, sharpshooters wearing black flak jackets crouched behind angled police cars with the blue lights flashing, and Daisy the cow, quietly munching away at the hedgerow.

Then the inquest. “Officer, why did you shoot the suspect?”

“I saw it go for its gun sir and felt my life was in danger.”

“Fair enough, well done officer. This is in keeping with our No Tolerance policy, let this be a warning to the bovine population of Carmarthenshire.”

Equally insane is The Arts Council of Wales awarding of the following grants.

A writer has been given £25,000 to tour Latin America in search of poets and

wanderers.

Another writer receives £20,000 to “go be a bird and find free flowing narratives.”

A dancer has been given £25,000 to put himself in a place of contemplation and reflection. (A few large glasses of Argentinian Malbec does the trick for me).

He has walked across the 640-foot transporter bridge in Newport and discovered he is afraid of heights. So that’s money well spent then.

And, finally, a teacher has been granted £25,000 so that he can stop teaching for 12 months, granting him time to make mistakes.

The Arts Council said he was grappling with the concept of “Nothingness” (two bottles of Malbec does it).

So there we have it – £90,000 of tax payers’ money carefully diverted from the health care or education budget by some demented civil servant.

Mrs. Carole Lloyd from St. Clares wrote to the *Carmarthen Journal* stating, “someone in the Welsh Assembly is having a laugh.”

I think the teacher, the dancer and the two writers are chuckling as well.

All for now.  
Best wishes,  
Elfan



THE housing boom in London continues to grow with record level prices.

## Planning a trip to Europe this summer?

LONDON – The cost of browsing the Internet on a mobile phone when travelling within the European Union has fallen by more than 50 percent, just in time for the summer holidays.

New EU limits came into force on July 1. They will reduce the cost of making and receiving calls across the EU, and bring down the cost of going online.

“This huge drop in data roaming prices will make a big difference to all of us this summer,” said Neelie Kroes, the EU telecoms commissioner.

The EU has been chipping away at roaming fees since 2007 by placing a cap on what providers can charge.

The changes are thanks to the European Commission, with the hope of removing roaming charges altogether by the end of year.

Consumers will also be able to choose a local mobile provider for data services when travelling in the EU, allowing them to compare various offers.



The caps do not apply outside the EU – and confusion among holidaymakers has led to instances of “bill shock,” when a mobile phone bill is much higher than expected.

According to uSwitch.com, a comparison service, 41 percent of British holidaymakers wrongly believe Switzerland is an EU country, while 38 percent think Turkey is a member state.

Ernest Doku, technology expert at uSwitch, said, “Limit the damage by making the most of free Wi-Fi at hotels and cafes and keep data roaming switched off.

“Don’t be tempted to opt out of caps imposed by your network. When it comes to calls and text messages, a great way to keep costs down to a minimum is to buy a local Sim card – put it in your phone and simply top it up.”





THE SITE OF a bomb explosion by Boko Haram in Borno state in Nigeria on June 30.

## Gordon Brown's plea over kidnapped Nigerian girls

LONDON – Former prime minister Gordon Brown made a rare House of Commons appearance to ask the government to adopt crisis measures to bring back about 300 girls kidnapped in Nigeria.

The Labour heavyweight, who is helping a safe schools initiative in the African country, led a debate on the fate of the girls at the end of the day's proceedings.

He called on the UK and governments around the world to step up efforts to bring back the schoolgirls who were kidnapped by Islamic extremist group Boko Haram in April.

There are reports that the group recently kidnapped another 60 girls and women and 31 boys. The militants have been demanding the release of detained members in exchange for hostages.

The former chancellor also highlighted the plight of millions of Nigerian girls whose schools have closed for fear of attacks and he spoke about the work of the safe schools initiative that will initially help 5,000 schools in the crisis-hit north of the country.

Brown said, "We must protect girls from



FORMER prime minister Gordon Brown called on UK and governments around the world to step up efforts to bring back the schoolgirls who were kidnapped by Islamic extremist group Boko Haram in April.

terrorist groups determined to peddle their perverted and extreme religious dogma that girls should not be at school.

"We must do everything in our power to prevent schools which should be safe havens becoming theatres of war."

## July is devoted to the Precious Blood of Jesus

Dear Lord, I need you now because I am filled with stress and anxiety.

Reading your Word brings comfort, as I ask you to come and take my heavy burdens. I take each burden, one by one, and lay them at your feet.

Please carry them for me so that I don't have to. Replace them with your

humble and gentle yoke so that I will find rest for my soul today. I receive your gift of peace of mind and heart. Thank you that I can lie down tonight in peace and sleep.

I know that you, Lord, will keep me safe. I am not afraid because you are always with me. Please keep me daily, Lord, in your perfect peace. Amen.

### NOVENAS

#### Novena to the Blessed Virgin

Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary (never known to fail). O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God. Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. O show me herein you are my Mother, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You gave me the Divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me. This prayer must be said for three days, even after the request is granted and the favour received, it must be published.

– KLSMC, PMKMC, MJF, DF, ADB, CSKB, CC, CKB, LC, SLMKR, CTK

Publication of this prayer is \$25 monthly  
(Canadian residents include 5% GST)

## Welsh Society mourns the passing of Gareth Prytherch

By EIFION WILLIAMS

VANCOUVER – Long-time Vancouver Welsh Society member Gareth Prytherch, who passed away on June 2, was a talented individual who could be said to have lived many lives.

He was one of a dwindling number of veterans of the Second World War, part of which he spent in a German prisoner-of-war camp.

Born in New Quay on Wales' Cardiganshire coast, Gareth grew up in the Vale of Neath mining village of Resolven, where his father owned a hardware store.

His mother died when he was two years old and Gareth often recalled fondly how this void in his life was filled by the kindness of the community and his many friends.

His father, a deacon in the village chapel, encouraged him to speak Welsh and attend chapel every Sunday.

He always remembered the wonderful singing in the chapel and these two influences, the Welsh language and the love of singing, remained with him throughout his life.

After attending grammar school in Towyn, North Wales, Gareth enrolled in a technical school before volunteering for the Merchant Navy at the beginning of the war.

Unfortunately, the ship to which he was assigned was sunk during a Luftwaffe raid on Bristol.

Gareth then became an air observer on anti-submarine patrols before joining Bomber Command's 149 Squadron.

In 1943 he bailed out over Frankfurt and spent the next two years in POW Camp Stalag IVB before being liberated by Soviet troops in April, 1945.

Gareth always had a positive view of life. In talking about his wartime imprisonment he was more likely to comment on acts of kindness on the part of his captors than on any harsh treatment he received.

He recalled, for example, the German mother who prepared a meal for him when he was captured and brought it to his cell at considerable risk.

It was also in the POW Camp that he came to appreciate the importance of communication and he always credited Stalag IVB with his decision to learn French and German.

After the war, Gareth earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Southampton, specializing in industry and trade in South America.

At the same time he added to his collection of languages by learning Spanish. In the early 1950s he spent three years working for the Cocoa Marketing Board in Nigeria, following which he taught economic history and French in Bath Technical College.

Responding to an advertisement in the *Times Educational Supplement* Gareth then took up a teaching post in Surrey, British Columbia, followed by many years teaching in the Vancouver school system.

During this time he acquired Bachelor of Education and Master of Arts degrees from UBC. In the 1970s Gareth spent three years teaching in a Department of National Defence school in Lahr, West Germany. While there he enjoyed singing beautiful German folk music as a member of the Concordia Male Voice Choir.



GARETH Prytherch at 90 years of age.

Gareth's life was not without tragedy. His wife Doreen died shortly after the family returned from Germany. Together, they had raised three children, Rhodri, Rhys and Sian.

During his wife's terminal illness Gareth gave up teaching high school and served as a part-time lecturer in UBC's Faculty of Education, preparing teachers of French, German and Spanish.

In 1990 Gareth met Gail Howitt, who became his devoted friend for the rest of his life. The two families welcomed the loving and respectful relationship that brought so much contentment to their parents.

Gareth joined the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir shortly after its inception in 1980. In addition to singing, he also acted as the choir's translator and pronunciation coach and accompanied the choir on several overseas tours.

One of his fondest memories was chatting with Katherine Hepburn during the filming of the movie *Mrs. Delderfield Wants to Marry*. Gareth was one of eight choir members hired to sing a Gregorian chant during the filming.

He is still remembered by choir members as the voice on the pronunciation tapes. In 2008 the VWMC gave him an honorary life membership in recognition of his long association with the choir.

Gareth was an active member of the Vancouver Welsh Society for over 50 years. He was a frequent speaker and raconteur in society events and a regular participant in the monthly bilingual religious services and Welsh-speaking sessions.

Described by one member as 'a Welshman to the core', Gareth also had a healthy appreciation for other languages and cultures.

He was a member of *Alliance Francaise* and the Spanish Circle in Vancouver and encouraged the VWMC to develop an international repertoire in keeping with Canada's multicultural society.

Over the course of a long and fruitful life, Gareth Prytherch touched many lives in several parts of the world. He will be remembered in Vancouver with great fondness and respect by all those who benefited from his knowledge and wisdom in so many diverse activities.

A Memorial Service for Gareth Prytherch will be held at 2 PM on September 21 at the Cambrian Hall, 17<sup>th</sup> and Main, Vancouver.

## In Memory of Sam Haqq

By EIFION WILLIAMS

VANCOUVER – Sam Haqq passed away peacefully on May 16 at his Richmond home after a life of service to the community.

Sam was well-known to Welsh Society members in recent years through his frequent attendance at Cambrian Hall events with his Welsh-born wife Nerys.

Samuel Aimul Haqq was born in 1927 to an Indian immigrant family in St. Thomas Village, Chaquana Township, Trinidad, where his father was a head teacher.

Educated under the British school system, he wrote the 11-plus examination and won a scholarship to St. Mary's College in Port of Spain.

In 1945 Sam graduated from St. Mary's with a Cambridge School Certificate and held several positions with the Trinidad Government before moving to Vancouver in 1953.

Sam enrolled in the Agriculture Department at UBC and earned a BSc in 1957 and an MSc in Agriculture in 1960.

While living at UBC's Acadia Camp, Sam met his future wife Nerys, who was attending the UBC Summer School of Opera. They were married in 1959.

In 1960-61 Sam enrolled in UBC's Faculty of Education and began teaching science and math at Steveston Senior Secondary School in Richmond.

He later became an administrator at McNair Secondary, followed by stints at McRoberts Secondary and Hugh Boyd Secondary.

His last teaching assignment was at Cambie Junior Secondary from which he retired in 1992.

He was also a summer school principal for several years.

During his teaching career Sam took two years off to work on a PhD in Agricultural Science.

Sam always had a passionate interest in tennis and until his eyesight failed he spent as much time as he could on the tennis court.

For many years he was the junior director of tennis with Tennis B.C., accompanying B.C. teams to tournaments.

He also spent over 30 years as provincial advisor of tennis for the B.C. Summer Games.

Together with Nerys, he ran the tennis program for the World Transplant Games held at UBC in 1983.

Sam was a member of the Vancouver Welsh Society and he and Nerys were faithful worshippers at the monthly bilingual church services at the Cambrian Hall, where Nerys was a regular soloist.

Sam was for many years a member of the Welsh folk dancing group. He was also active in St. Edward's Anglican Church in Richmond, where he served for a time as people's warden.

Sam is survived by his wife Nerys, their three sons, Stephen, Kenneth and Andrew, and their 12 grandchildren.

A well-attended Celebration of Sam's Life was held on May 29 at Coyote Creek Eaglequest Golf Course in Surrey.



# Stones Stand as Keepers of Time at Lughnasadh

**A**RTIFACTS of all sizes hold more than memory. As generations of humanity rise and fall, the stones of this earth hold and give witness to what we must know to move forward.

County Limerick, Ireland is home to the largest stone ring in Ireland, the *Lios*.

By CYNTHIA  
WALLENTINE

In Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales, stone circles remain, dotting the land and prodding the mind for the reasons behind their creation.

For those with more than passing interest, scholarly tomes too, come up short. Observatories, alignment sites, monuments, burial grounds – each place gives up some, but not all, of the thinking behind its being.

From its entrance, the *Lios* aligns on the Lughnasadh sunrise. Lughnasadh, on August 1, marks the beginning of the harvest and autumn for indigenous Celtic tribes.

Through another pair of stones in the circle, the *Lios* aligns with the Samhain sunset. Samhain, on November 1, is the first day of winter, and marks the New Year.

Concerned with the dark half of the year,



PHOTOS: Cynthia Wallentine

NEARBY the shore of enchanting Lough Gur, the entrance to the *Lios* (L), County Limerick, Ireland, is aligned on the Lughnasadh. The 20-ton stone, *Rounach Croim Dubh* (R) stands with otherworldly presence, set at the northeast of the circle.

the *Lios* is home to *Crom Dubh*. An ancient brother to the god *Donn*, *Crom Dubh* himself stands among the circle of 112 stones as a megalith approximately seven feet in height.

Named *Black Stoop*, *black crescent*, or “dark bent one,” it is *Crom Dubh* that carries.

From underground to outer world, *Crom Dubh* is primitive process, shadow to light and back again.

At harvest it is the bright god Lugh he

carries, golden wheat from fertile ground. The synapse between here and other, past and forward, *Crom Dubh* is both message and messenger.

In her well-known study of Lughnasadh, author Maire MacNeill characterizes the festival as an archaic struggle between the darkness of the stretching underworld, the ancient ground of original myth, and the brilliant world of later sky gods.

Lugh, a bright god of many arts, gives his name to the festival Lughnasadh,

carrying forth intellect, skill and the new ways.

Instead of struggle, maybe the festival represents the cycling of humanity, their nature and their history.

The new will ever overcome the old, even as old wisely gives way, in order to become young again. Forever a farmer to life, *Crom Dubh* returns below for the seed, stands as it grows, marks its harvest and waits for the return.

Perhaps a play for permanence was partially a reason for the stone circles that remain today.

Wooden henges and monuments decay even during the span of a human life. Stone, the bones of earth, remain long, even as human flesh steals away.

When the winds pick up, the wheat and leaves fall, but stones remain standing on the cooling world. In the depths of grief or the joy of life, they retain something of all that passes by.

A few years ago in this space, I wrote “Faith in the dark is earned through hardship that straightens, builds, and uncovers real strength in those who survive to recognize it.”

Perhaps for reasons such as this, *Crom Dubh* still stands in his place in a stone ring, as he has for more than four thousand years.

Lughnasadh, the Celtic autumn brings the gold of the harvest. Stand on the earth, feel the warm sun, smile to be yet alive. The season is passing.



SUSIE BIOLETTI of Trinity College Dublin with Peter Keegan, chief executive for Ireland, Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

## Four Medieval Irish Manuscripts to be Exhibited

DUBLIN – Four medieval manuscripts will be made public for the first time thanks to a grant from Bank of America Merrill Lynch to Trinity College Dublin’s library.

Once they are conserved, the early Irish manuscripts will be made available in TCD Library’s digital collections.

Most excitingly, they will be exhibited in public for the first time alongside the *Book of Kells*, the *Book of Durrow* and the *Book of Armagh* at the library.

TCD Library will receive funding for the project through Bank of America Merrill Lynch’s 2014 global Art Conservation Project. Since 2010, it has provided grants to museums in 27 countries supporting 71 conservation projects.

The grant will pay for the treatment, technical examination, digitisation and art historical study of four of the library’s most important early medieval Irish manuscripts:

The *Codex Usserianus Primus* is the earliest known surviving Irish manuscript, dating back to the Fifth Century.

It is recorded as an incomplete copy of the four Gospels on parchment.

The *Garland of Howth* is an Eighth

Century parchment manuscript associated with St. Nesson’s monastery on Ireland’s Eye, which contains a copy of the four gospels.

It features portraits of the evangelists and elaborated initials, with orange, white, yellow and blue pigments.

The *Book of Dimma* is a late Eighth Century manuscript on parchment, possibly produced at Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

It contains a copy of the four Gospels along with later Tenth or Eleventh Century additions and includes illuminated initials and portraits of the evangelists executed in red, yellow, blue and black pigments.

The *Book of Mulling* is an Eighth Century pocket-gospel, with Ninth Century additions that is associated with the monastery of St. Mullins in Co. Carlow.

It contains a copy of the four gospels, and features portraits of the evangelists Matthew, Mark and John, together with illuminated initials.

Susie Bioletti, head of Conservation at TCD Library, said this is the “single most generous grant ever bestowed on the Library for the conservation of early Irish manuscripts,” for which they are extremely grateful.

She said there can now be scholarship and public engagement with these “national treasures.”

**T**HE surviving evidence for rules of marriage in medieval Ireland indicates they were a mix of native Brehon Law and Roman Canon Law.

Native lawyers distinguished between three principal kinds of marriage: *lanamnas comthinchuir*, “a marriage of joint income,” *lanamnas for ferthinchur*, “a marriage on a man’s income” and *lanamnas for bantinchur*, “marriage on a woman’s contribution.”

The first kind seems to have been the normal form of marriage.

Marriage was publicly sealed by *arnaidm* meaning a “binding, tying,” marked by the formal exchange of property between the families of the bride and groom and was witnessed and secured by guarantors of appropriate status.

The giving of property or wealth from the man or his family to the bride’s family, known in Roman law as *donatio ante nuptias*, was rooted in Germanic and Celtic law.

The giving of such a gift may not have been essential to a marriage but no good marriage was complete without it.

Consequently most of the preliminaries about marriage were concerned with



**BREHON LAWS** have a reputation among modern scholars as rather progressive in their treatment of women, with some describing the law as providing for equality between the sexes. Early Medieval marriage in Ireland was a mix of both Brehon Law and Roman Canon Law.

the size of the dowry, because that determined the character of the marriage, as is clear from the three principal forms of marriage discussed in *Cain Lanamna* (an old Irish tract on marriage and divorce).

The law generally tried to protect women against gross abuse, such as

being forced into marriage by someone who only had his own interests at heart.

In comparison with the male-dominated prescriptions of Roman law, which upheld a double standard, one for men and quite another for women, Brehon law was quite liberal and compassionate and permitted women the power to divorce for several reasons.

Divorce by mutual consent was always available as a remedy for an unsatisfactory marriage.

Besides, the grounds for unilateral divorce (with or without penalties being incurred by the guilty party) are specified in very considerable detail.

A woman could divorce her husband for many reasons: sterility, impotence, being a churchman (whether in holy orders or not), blabbing about the marriage bed, calumny (to make maliciously or knowingly false statements about her), wife-beating, repudiation (including taking a secondary wife), homosexuality, failure of maintenance.

A man could divorce his wife for abortion, infanticide, flagrant infidelity, infertility and bad management.

Insanity, chronic illness, a wound that was incurable in the opinion of a judge, leech or lord, retirement into a monastery or going abroad on pilgrimage were also adequate grounds for terminating a marriage.

Contains extracts from: *Medieval Ireland: An Encyclopedia* edited by Seán Duffy and *Marriage in Early Ireland* by Donnchadh Ó Corráin.