

the celtic connection

ISSUE 23 VOLUME 7

Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991

SEPTEMBER 2014



ILLUSTRATION: Joanna M. Bromley
AUTUMN MOON heralds the end of summer and harvest season. Days grow shorter and the wheel of the year turns once more toward the autumn equinox on September 22.

[About the Artist on page 2]

The Celtic Harvest: Preparing for Winter



OR our rural Celtic ancestors, harvest was the most critical time of the year, and there were many superstitions and protective practices to ensure a fruitful crop.

The successful completion was a cause for great celebration.

In many Celtic communities there was a tradition of helping one's neighbour with farming tasks like harvesting.

Farmers in an area would co-ordinate their schedules so that a combined labour force was available to all, such as the wheat-reaping party.

Collaborating families exchanged gifts, and harvest suppers might include beef, mutton, potatoes, and mashed turnips.

On the Celtic calendar, Lughnasadh on August 1 marks the beginning of the harvest season.

It is based on the agricultural cycle and represents the end of summer and the

beginning of autumn. The days now begin to shorten more rapidly.

In Irish tradition, Lughnasadh was a celebration in honour of the Celtic sun god, Lugh.

The autumn harvest festival was a time of celebration when farmers would bring their bounty to market.

This period is also called Lammas in England.

It is during this time between Lammas and the autumn equinox that we see the theme of the god's sacrifice coming into being. The god must die and merge with the earth in order for the harvest to be plentiful.

In the Celtic tradition, Lugh's decline toward his sacrifice is celebrated; his death is not celebrated until the autumn equinox.

Autumnal equinox occurs on September 21 or 22, a time of equality of day and night with the forces of light on the decrease.

This is the second of the harvest festivals and the time marking the end of the harvest.

Scotland's future now rests with the people of Scotland

Will they stay, or will they go? That answer will finally be decided with an historic referendum on Scottish independence, Thursday, September 18. [RIGHT] Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond, and Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, at the launch of the National Conversation, August 14, 2007, following the election of the Scottish National Party (SNP). [See page 9]



WALES hosted the largest gathering of international leaders ever to take place in Britain at the NATO summit on September 4-5. On the first day, hundreds of protesters set off towards the Celtic Manor retreat where world leaders met on the outskirts of Newport. Overall, there were a total of 31 arrests related to the NATO summit 2014. [See page 7]



FORMER Taoiseach Albert Reynolds passed away in Ireland on August 21. He was remembered as a courageous peacemaker as tributes were paid for his key role in the Northern Ireland peace process. Pictured above is removal of the coffin from the Church of the Sacred Heart in Donnybrook, Dublin following his State funeral. [See page 14]



THE VANCOUVER Irish Sporting and Social Club's large touring party celebrated their wildly successful adventure at the 2014 North Americans Gaelic Games in Boston on Labor Day weekend. Five wins from six games played on their way to two championship titles.

[For more details, see pages 18 & 19]

WIN FREE TICKETS

Win a pair of tickets (2) - CelticFest Vancouver presents **Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones** at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Hall, Vancouver on November 1. (See page 3 for details). Entry by October 3. Mark your entry: Wolfe Tones.

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ABOUT OUR COVER ARTIST

JOANNA M. BROMLEY is a British self taught artist and illustrator based in Munich, Germany. She specializes in the detailed and whimsical fairy/fantasy art for children and for all children at heart.

She has always found inspiration in storytelling sources, starting with her Mum when she read from colourful nursery rhymes and fairy tale books. Movies, music and nature also play an important role in transporting her.

Next to drawing, painting, illustrating and being creative, she is a great movie fan and loves to read, especially fantasy and chic lit....oh, and browsing through the net to look at fabulous art work!

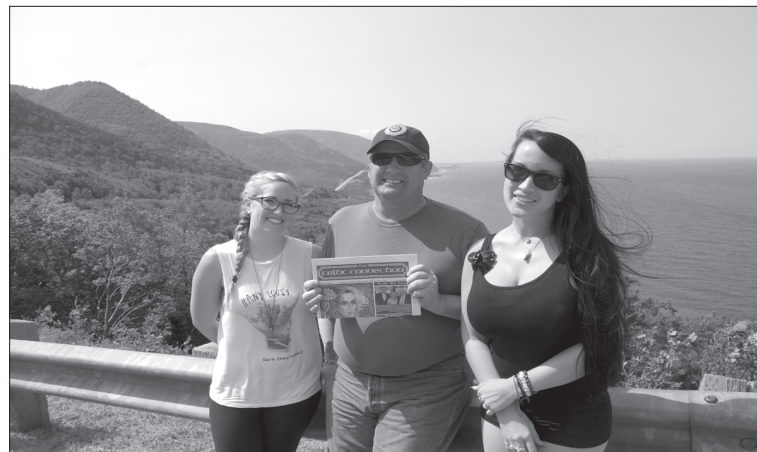
For more information, see: www.JoannaBromleyArt.com; www.etsy.com/shop/JJoannaBromleyArt; or www.facebook.com/JJoannaBromleyArt



PHOTO: Anita Nixon
THE FAMOUS Irish Pavilion leprechaun (Johnny Healy) enjoying *The Celtic Connection* at Heritage Days held each year in Edmonton on the August long weekend this summer.



PHOTO: Anita Nixon
CATHARINE JOYCE, the 2014 Western Rose also dropped by the Irish Pavilion at Heritage Days in Edmonton amid her busy schedule in preparation for her trip to Ireland for the Rose of Tralee International Festival.



THE McCay family from Calgary, Alberta – (L-R) Kelsey, Dad Pat (with a copy of *The Celtic Connection*), and Madisson overlooking the spectacular ocean scenery on the Cabot Trail on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia.

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

VANCOUVER

Thursday, September 18 – Conor Murphy MP for Newry and Armagh will speak on 'A New Vision for Ireland' – 7 PM at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 655 Burrard Street, Vancouver. Sponsored by Friends of Sinn Fein (Canada). Information: (604) 785-5030 or (416) 402-3729.

[For more details, see page 13]

Friday, September 19 – Carlos Nunez, Master of the Galician Bagpipes & his Band. 8 PM Centennial Theatre, North Vancouver. Tickets online: CTCBoxOffice@nvrc.ca or call (604) 984-4484.

[For more details, see page 4]

Saturday, September 27 – The Vancouver Irish Sporting & Social Club (ISSC) invite everyone to attend the Vancouver Whitecaps vs Real Salt Lake at 4 PM. The Whitecaps organization will be highlighting the ISSC 40th anniversary and display the club's trophies from Boston. More information on Facebook at: ISSC Vancouver.

Saturday, September 27 – The Irish Newcomers Information and Networking Seminar at BCIT Downtown Campus at 555 Seymour Street, Vancouver. More information and link to register: www.irishinvancover.com.

[For more details, see page 12]

Saturday, October 18 – Vancouver Welsh Society presents "An Evening With Dylan," celebrating the 100th anniversary of Dylan Thomas. Produced and starring Russell Roberts at 7:45 PM at the Cambrian Hall. For tickets and more information, call Sue at (604) 736-5406 or Gillian (604) 742-1378.

[For more details, see page 20]

Saturday, October 18 – Irish Sporting and Social Club 40th Anniversary GAA-LA Event UBC Golf Course, Vancouver, B.C. All former players, members, supporters, and friends are invited to come along and enjoy the celebration. For more information, e-mail isscvancouver40gala@gmail.com. Book tickets at: issc40.eventbrite.ca.

Saturday, November 1 – CelticFest Vancouver presents: Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Hall. Doors open 7 PM. Tickets: \$35 incl. service charge. Purchase tickets online at: www.northerntickets.com.

[For more details, see page 2]

EDMONTON

Friday, September 19 – Conor Murphy MP for Newry and Armagh will speak on 'A New Vision for Ireland' – 7 PM at the Edmonton Irish Sports & Social Society, 12546 126 Street NW, Edmonton. Sponsored by Friends of Sinn Fein (Canada). Information: (780) 680-1601.

CALGARY

Saturday, September 20 – Friends of Sinn Fein (Canada) Golf Tournament with special guest Conor Murphy MP for Newry and Armagh. Tee off 2 PM, dinner 7 PM, Crystal Ridge Golf Club, 9 Crystal Green Lane, Okotoks, Alberta. Information: (403) 969-8855.

FOR LISTING OF EVENTS IN SEATTLE, WA.
Turn to pages 16 and 17

THE CELTIC CONNECTION

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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?

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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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We specialize in advising individuals on the advantages and disadvantages of consolidating foreign pension plans to Canada. These types of transfer require an advance knowledge base of the pension systems both foreign and domestic. To request a free no-obligation review of your current foreign pension accounts please contact

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joey.basque@investorsgroup.com



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CelticFest Vancouver presents one of Ireland's best folk musicians

VANCOUVER – A special group of Irish men and women have been responsible for preservation of the tradition of Irish ballad singing over the past 50 years.

Derek Warfield is a distinguished name among them.

Derek Warfield and The Young Wolfe Tones are bringing that musical tradition forward with a reverence for Ireland's past and the energy and optimism of a new generation of Irish musicians.

"We're presenting an old tradition in a new package – and I've the same passion for it now as I had when it all started 50 years ago!" says Warfield.

After spending nearly 40 years as founder/leader of the legendary Wolfe Tones (named after the 18th Century Irish revolutionary Theobald Wolfe Tone), Derek is revered as a singer, songwriter, historian and entertainer in all parts of the world where Irish roots have been put down.

The original Wolfe Tones enjoyed phenomenal success with 13 best-selling albums, three number one hits, many television appearances and shows in esteemed venues such as New York's



DEREK WARFIELD & The Young Wolfe Tones will play St. Mary's Ukrainian Hall in Vancouver on November 1.

Carnegie Hall and The Royal Albert Hall in London.

Derek has been proudly presented with the keys to San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles for his contributions to Irish song and music over the years and was honoured as "Dublin Gael of The Year 2013" by the New York Dublin Society.

Since breaking away from the Wolfe Tones in 2001, Derek's solo career has yielded 11 albums to date, the most successful of them being *On the One*

Road, The Bonnie Blue Flag and Let Ye All be Irish Tonight.

With the formation and ongoing success of The Young Wolfe Tones, the legend of Derek Warfield continues.

Don't miss Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Hall, 16th Avenue and Ash Street in Vancouver on Saturday, November 1.

Tickets are \$35. Purchase online at: <http://northerntickets.com/events/derek-warfield-the-young-wolfe-tones>.

Five Year Anniversary of Johnnie Fox's Trad Sessions

VANCOUVER – Next month Elegwen O'Maoileoin celebrates the five year anniversary of his traditional Irish music session at Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug at 1033 Granville Street.

The first musician to ever play at the pub back in May 2005, Elegwen began the weekly four hour marathon session after returning to Vancouver from five years of touring with his folk group Damanta.

Co-hosted by Michael Viens of Vancouver's legendary Blackthorn, the session has expanded to Wednesdays (7-10 PM), in addition to Sunday 6:30-10:30 PM.

Elegwen has long fought to keep the session open and inclusive, thanking all musicians with complimentary drinks and sometimes even food.

Elegwen has only missed four Sundays since the start of the sessions (due to playing other shows in his original folk and alt rock projects, such as the steampunk project *Corset* which is just released on iTunes).

All eight of Elegwen's albums are also available on his site: www.elegwen.com where he is fundraising to replace his bouzouki, stolen by a cab driver on Saint Paddy's this year.

Stay tuned for official celebration information by joining the mailing list at www.VancouverIrishMusic.com and please join the Facebook page as well.



MICHAEL VIENS (L) joins Elegwen O'Maoileoin (R) to co-host the popular trad Irish music sessions at Johnnie Fox's on Granville Street in Vancouver, every Wednesday and Sunday evenings.

Irish emigrant sees his home for the first time in 50 years

LONDON – An elderly Irish man who left his home for London in the 1960s was recently reduced to tears when he was shown his home as it is today on Google maps.

Stephen O'Reilly was in a London bar when he saw an elderly man struggle up to the bar.

When he ordered a drink, Stephen recognised his accent as Irish so went over and said hello and got chatting with him.

Upon discovering that the man hadn't been home in over 50 years, Stephen took out his smartphone and amazed his new companion.



ELDERLY Irishman in London is reduced to tears of joy after seeing his childhood home on Google maps.

Writing on social media, O'Reilly said, "I met a very old Irish man after work this week in some old school dive bar. Not been back to Ireland since 1960s.

"Asked him his address. Typed his home

address in Ireland into Google earth on my iPhone and showed it to him and he started to cry with joy. Amazing

"He could see his house and the road he's never seen for like 50 years. Very powerful stuff we take for granted today."

The 76-year-old's emotional reaction to seeing his family home as a result of modern technology is a heartwarming reminder of its affects on modern life.

Without Stephen's instinct to check his phone for his address, the elderly man may never have seen his home again.

Stephen says the man will likely never return to Ireland due to ill health as "booking a flight is impossible and a one day coach ride is unbearable if you are 76."



IRISH NEWCOMERS INFORMATION AND NETWORKING SEMINAR

When: Saturday, September 27 at 2 pm

Where: BCIT Downtown campus, 555 Seymour St, Vancouver

Sponsored by the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Program, this seminar is open to all Irish men and women who would like information about job hunting, information interviews, resume writing, and much more.

Hear tips on how to succeed in the BC job market from a Human Resources professional. Network with other professionals who can help guide you in finding work as well as settling in Vancouver.

To register, go to: www.surveymonkey.com/s/newcomerseventregistration

More info: irishwomensnetwork@gmail.com



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October 25 – Martin Kerr

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CelticFest Vancouver presents



Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones

St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Hall
16th Avenue & Ash Street
Saturday November 1st, 2014
Doors at 7:00PM

To purchase tickets on line please go to

www.northerntickets.com

Or click go to this link:

<http://northerntickets.com/events/derek-warfield-the-young-wolfe-tones>

Ticket cost: \$35 includes service charge.

A look back at a long summer of scorchingly hot tunes



ANCOUVER – It only seems a couple of weeks ago that I last sat down to write a column for *The Celtic Connection*, yet, when I look back, there have been some incredible festivals and concerts and the hits just kept on coming!

It's been almost two months since the last edition came out, and what an amazing summer we've had.

The Rogue has witnessed memorable concerts by Scots guitarist **Tony McManus** and Nova Scotia singer **Laura Smith**; by New Zealand Celtic / Maori trio **Pacific Curls** and the remarkable pipers **Ross Ainslie** and **Jarlath Henderson** (Scotland & Ireland); by soulful young singer **Colleen Rennison** with **Steve Dawson** and band; by Cape Breton's young "supergroup" **Coig**; and by legendary Canadian singer **Sylvia Tyson** with her band **Quartette**.

Anyone who saw Ross & Jarlath and / or Coig will have been thrilled at the music and safe in the knowledge that Celtic music is alive and well and thriving as it branches out and reinvents itself with exhilarating rhythms from around the world, and with stunning musicianship and singing, while remaining true to its roots.

I strongly recommend *Air-Fix* by Ross & Jarlath and *Five* by Coig. Do your ears a favour and enjoy these superb young Celtic bands!

We have also travelled to festivals far and near and heard some fabulous music: **Island Musicfest** in Courtenay, the **Vancouver Folk Music Festival** in Jericho Park, the **Mission Folk Festival** in the Fraser Valley, **Shorefest** at Sunset Beach, and the **Edmonton Folk Festival** across the Rockies in Alberta.

We are so lucky to have such musical celebrations in our corner of the globe!

Island Musicfest highlights included duets by **Tony McManus** and Italian guitarist **Beppe Gambetta** (watch for a collaborative CD next year), some incredible gypsy guitar jams with **Maurizio Geri** (*Banditaliana*) and New Yorkers **Frank Vignola** and **Vinny Raniolo**, a surprise guest appearance by **Colin James** to join **Bonnie Raitt** for a few songs, and a stunning performance by African singer / women's rights activist **Angelique Kidjo**.

The **Vancouver Folk Festival** was plagued by a "perfect storm" of dull weather, **Joan Baez**'s cancellation due to laryngitis, competition from the free festival in Surrey (with **Bruce Cockburn** topping the bill) and the huge rock festival in Pemberton – which lured many experienced stage hands away.

There were some great moments, notably **Amos Lee** and **Noura Mint Seymali** on main stage, but my weekend was marred by a coffee spill which killed the laptop broadcasting my radio show live from the park. We were off the air for an hour and it was all a bit frazzled after that.

After the crowds and the problems at Jericho, the **Mission Folk Festival** provided the perfect "therapy." What a wonderful festival this is!

Every year there are surprises and delights too numerous to mention, and there's such a great sense of community ownership at this festival.

We all play a vital part in making this an annual highlight of the local music



By
STEVE
EDGE

THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB

scene. It's kind of hard to explain; it just feels more like "us," not "them," somehow!

A rare visit to the region by Ireland's **Dervish** was definitely a highlight. With **Cathy Jordan** in fine form on vocals, and **Tom Morrow** (fiddle), **Michael Holmes** (bouzouki), **Liam Kelly** (flute), **Brian McDonagh** (mandola), and **Shane Mitchell** (accordion) laying down some blistering sets of reels and jigs and polkas, we were treated to some of the very best Irish trad. around.

Poor Shane, though. He was in an accordion workshop on the Saturday morning and had to follow a mind-blowing solo rendition of Bach's *Toccata & Fugue in D* by **Quartetto Gelato**'s Belarusian virtuoso **Alexander Sevastian**.

"Time for a commercial break," he quipped, then launched into some tasteful jigs. But everyone was still talking about the Bach piece for hours.

There was a delightful workshop with **Cathy Jordan** and **Ruth Moody** trading songs but the remarkable music and showmanship of the **Lemon Bucket Orchestra** had the biggest impact.

This 15-piece band played Balkan music with horns and fiddles, the demonic Breton accordion of **Tangi Ropars**, and the amazing Ukrainian dancing diva **Stephanie Woloshyn**.

Not only did the band cavort on stage, but also moved into the audience whenever possible, and then five of the guys treated us to a set of shanties and the songs of Stan Rogers. What a remarkable crew!

The **Rogue Stage at Shorefest** featured fine sets by **Locarno** (**Tom & Kalissa Landa** and co.) and **Spirit of the West** the following Wednesday, and **Jim Byrnes & The Sojourners** were in stellar form on the Saturday night before the fireworks lit up English Bay. Huge thanks to LG104.3, the new radio station which replaced Shore FM recently.

We took a long and beautiful winding road through Brackendale, Whistler, Lillooet, Kamloops, Revelstoke, Lake Louise and Jasper en route to the **Edmonton Folk Festival**, which was another blockbuster event.

Ireland was represented by the likes of **Lunasa**, **Sharon Shannon**, **Donal Lunny**, **Andy Irvine**, **Ron Kavana**, **Niamh Parsons**, **Paddy Keenan**, **Imelda May**, **James Vincent McMorrow**, and Dublin brothers **Hudson Taylor**.

Wow! Such musical diversity – and such talent! Other highlights included performances by **Los Lobos** – arguably the best rock & roll band still active on the North American circuit – Hawaiian ukulele virtuoso **Jake Shamubukuro**, **Baka Beyond**, **Della Mae**, **Michael Franti**, **Lost Bayou Ramblers**, and Canadians **Pharis & Jason Romero**, **Ruth Moody**, **Alejandra Ribera**, and Alberta fiddler / singer **Lizzy Hoyt**.

On **Friday, September 19**, The Rogue teams up with Vancouver Island's **Celtfest** to present the return of the mercurial Galician piper **Carlos Nunez** and his quartet.

They performed at The Rogue earlier this year, and received the longest and most explosive standing ovation I've ever seen when Carlos recounted the history of the Galician pipes and wove together classical music and Celtic music into a seamless whole – with a uniquely Spanish flavour!

The *Guardian* newspaper calls his music "pipe music as if played by a Coltrane or a Hendrix." Rightly so. We first saw him at a festival in Brittany in 1990.

The teenage Nunez later joined **The Chieftains** in concerts around the globe, and he's since recorded and toured the world over with his own band. Strangely, he had never played in B.C. until this year, but now we are treated to a return visit. Not to be missed!

So, what's coming up at **The Rogue**, you ask?

Well, we have former **Paperboys** fiddler **Mark Sullivan** launching his ninth solo CD, *The Gathering Room*, at St. James Hall (3214 West 10th Avenue) on Friday, September 26 at 8 PM.

His band includes **Daniel Lapp**, **Andy Hillhouse** and **Craig McGregor**. White Rock's fiddling sensation **Kierah** will open.

The following night **Lynn McGown & Michael Pratt** – who own the Celtic Traditions clothing and music store on West 10th – launch a new CD with their band, **Quartete a Tete**.

The other band members are fiddler **Vanessa Kay** and guitarist / singer **Michael Viens**. They will be joined by **Craig McGregor** again, and pianist / accordionist **Simon Kendall**. It should be quite a party, and a great night for fans of traditional music and song.

Other Rogue shows this fall:

• **Reid Jamieson** (Friday, October 3, St. James Hall);

• **Dan Bern & T. Nile** (Saturday, October 4, Waterfront Theatre);

• **Del Barber** (Thursday, October 9, St. James Hall);

• **Don Ross & Thomas Leeb** (Thursday, October 16, St. James Hall);

• **Ellis Paul** (Friday, October 17, St. James Hall);

• **Ray Bonneville** (Thursday, October 23, St. James Hall);

• **Corey Harris & Alvin Youngblood**



QUARTETE A TETE with **Lynn McGown** and **Michael Pratt** and band members **Vanessa Kay**, **Michael Viens** will launch their new CD at the Rogue on September 27. They will be joined by **Craig McGregor** and **Simon Kendall**.

Hart (Friday, October 31, St. James Hall);

• **The Winsome Kind & Radim Zenkl** (Friday, November 7, St. James Hall);

• **De Temps Antan** (Saturday, November 8, St. James Hall);

• **Caleb Klaunder Country Band & Viper Central** (Friday, November 14, St. James Hall);

• **Martin Simpson** (Sunday, November 16, St. James Hall);

....and don't miss the amazing Celtic supergroup **The Gloaming** (**Martin Hayes**, **Iarla O'Lionaird** and company) at The Chan Centre on Saturday November 15.

Tickets for all Rogue shows can be obtained on our website www.roguefolk.bc.ca and you can hear music by all these performers – and many more besides – on *The Edge On Folk* every Saturday from 8 AM to noon on CiTR FM 101.9 and www.citr.ca – hosted by yours truly.



FORMER Paperboys fiddler **Mark Sullivan** will launch his ninth solo CD, *The Gathering Room*, at St. James Hall (3214 West 10th Avenue) on Friday, September 26 at 8 PM.

Galicia's Carlos Nunez: 'The Jimi Hendrix of the bagpipes'



HEY call him "the Jimi Hendrix of the bagpipes," but Carlos Nunez

is far more than that, or even "the seventh Chieftain," an honorary member of the legendary traditional Irish band.

He is a modern master of the gaita, the bagpipe of Galicia, a region in the north-west corner of Spain, and one of the world's greatest folk instrumentalists.

Nunez is a classically trained musician who also plays flute, recorder, whistles and a number of traditional instruments.

And he is both a traditionalist and an innovator, playing a key role in preserving the gaita, an instrument that is a symbol of Galician culture yet was once fading to extinction.

Over the years Nunez has collaborated with **The Chieftains**, **Ry Cooder**, **Compay Segundo**, **Mike Scott** of **The Waterboys** and Japanese composer **Ryuichi Sakamoto** as well as flamenco guitarists and Sufi singers from Tangier.

His 1996 debut recording, *A Irmandade Das Estrelas* (The Brotherhood of Stars), an improbable platinum seller in Spain, featured more than 50 guests.



CARLOS NUNEZ

"Collaborations are my modus operandi," says Nunez who is now on his North American tour.

"It's a philosophy that comes from traditional music – especially Celtic music. We don't have that sense of the author, alone with his creation. Instead, in traditional music the idea is that music is a collective creation."

Carlos brings his stunning band to the Centennial Auditorium in North Vancouver on Friday, September 19. For tickets and more information, see: www.centennialtheatre.com.

A tribute to my friend, musician Bruce Mathisen

By **ROGER BUSTON**
VANCOUVER – It is with the deepest of sadness that I announce the loss of my dear long-time friend and fellow musician Bruce Mathisen.

Bruce was a lover of fine music, most especially folk, with Celtic at the top of the list. He brought forth an amazing array of songs to play and was always ready to provide suggestions for a playlist.

In 1999, Bruce undertook assisting me with getting a number of my songs recorded. The efforts sidelined into sessions at the Boar's Head restaurant on Marine, where we were joined by future band-mates Brian Taylor and Chris Williscroft.

When the restaurant closed, Bruce hosted several gatherings in his home, drawing such stellar players as Jennie Bice, Doug Medley, Joe Samorodin, and many others. Wine, whisky and food melded with magic and the music lingered in hearts long after.

Out of this warm mixture of joyous playing and rich harmonies, Three Row Barley arose.

Bruce (who actually had never intended to take up playing professionally) stood with the band until he retired from performing in 2005, after a powerful St. Patrick's show at the Commodore.

The band released one CD, *Overserved*, which Bruce graciously financed.



MUSICIAN Bruce Mathisen had a great fondness for Celtic music and was a member of Three Row Barley until he retired.

Bruce was an avid golfer and sports fanatic, read extensively, loved to travel all over by car, and was a connoisseur of good wine, his knowledge honed by years of working for the BC Liquor Board.

His intellect was razor-sharp and he could hold forth on any number of subjects. But it was best to enter into discussion with him well-armed with facts – he did not take well to idle remarks! Ignorance was a sworn enemy.

Regarding Bruce's fondness for Celtic music, he readily admitted that he was "only part- Scottish." My constant retort was that it was the only part that mattered.

I remember that, after a show when we had packed away the gear, it was always exactly the same time: Scotch o'clock.

Many a bottle was drained over ruminations and observations. He always wanted to do better and offered keen insights into how to achieve that.

His intellect now belongs to the cosmos, his voice heard only in the wind, the silent moments and our thoughts.

His beloved guitar, Jennifer, sits waiting for her owner, who shall not return.

We rely on good memories and fond recollections and we weep not so much for Bruce, but for his ringing absence in our lives.

Bagpiper's ivory instrument seized at Canada-U.S. border



CAMPBELL WEBSTER'S bagpipes, dating back to 1936, were confiscated by U.S. customs officials because they contain ivory.

HIGHGATE SPRINGS, Vermont – Eighteen-year-old Campbell Webster was all set to compete at the World Pipe Band Championships in Scotland – but just before he was due to fly, his bagpipes were seized by U.S. customs officials because they contain ivory.

Campbell and his friend Eryk Bean had just wrapped up a round of pre-World Championship piping competitions in Canada, and were heading home to New Hampshire when they ran into trouble at the border.

The problem was that their antique bagpipes contain ivory – and were subject to confiscation under newly tightened restrictions aimed at curbing illegal shipments of elephant ivory.

Campbell's pipes date to 1936 and were played by his father, Gordon Webster, who was the 9th Sovereign Piper to Queen Elizabeth II.

Because Highgate Springs is a 'nondesignated' crossing, they needed extra permits and inspection fees totaling \$576 to carry the pipes, with their ivory projecting mounts, across the border.

They didn't have the paperwork and the pipes were confiscated for a day. The boys eventually got their pipes back and travelled to Glasgow where their adventure was the talk of the competition.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will review its rules about ivory imports, said spokesman Neil Mendelsohn.

Ivory harvested since 1976 is banned in the U.S. and Mendelsohn, said customs agents at the Highgate Springs, Vermont, border crossing were following established laws designed to prevent the import and export of illegally harvested ivory.

"Our headquarters is examining this and looking at the policy and the regulations understanding that musicians do have a unique situation," Mendelsohn said.

BLESSING OF THE HARVEST

OUR help is in the name of the Lord who has made heaven and earth, the Lord be with you and with your spirit. Almighty Lord God, You keep on giving abundance to men in the dew of heaven, and food out of the richness of the soil.

We give thanks to Your most gracious majesty for the fruits of the field which we have gathered. We beg of You, in Your mercy, to bless our harvest, which we have received from Your generosity.

Preserve it, and keep it from all harm. Grant, too, that all those whose desires You have filled with these good things may be happy in Your protection.

May they praise Your mercies forever, and make use of the good things that do not last in such a way that they may not lose those goods that are everlasting, through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.



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An exciting collaboration between SFU and the Irish community in B.C.

VANCOUVER – Representatives of various local Irish organizations gathered at Mahony & Sons Burrard Landing on August 30 to meet with faculty members and graduate students of Simon Fraser University.

Organized by Willeen Keough of the Department of History and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies with SFU, the workshop brought together a lively group to discuss possible Irish studies collaboration and community outreach.

It was a highly informative meeting and plans were put in motion for a variety of exciting initiatives.

Among those present at the meeting were: Eilis Courtney, Irish Women's Network; Dara Culhane, SFU faculty, Sociology and Anthropology; Brendan Flynn, Ireland Canada Monument Foundation; Maura De Freitas, publisher of *The Celtic Connection*; Ita Kane, Irish Women's Network; George and Teresa McDonnell, Irish Heritage Society and CelticFest Vancouver Society; Steve McVittie, Celtic Treasure Chest and CelticFest Vancouver Society; Liam O'Flaherty, SFU graduate student, History Department; John O'Flynn, Canadian County Board, Gaelic Athletic Association; and Aaron Windel, SFU faculty, History Department.

Some of the priorities discussed by community members in terms of possible collaborations, include continuing a collection of oral history, especially with the aging immigrants who arrived in the mid-20th century.

Other issues include attracting the "new" Irish to various activities carried out by the Irish organizations here; archiving material such as interviews, *The Celtic Connection*, and Irish book collections; and keeping Irish language, heritage, and culture alive in the province.

Academics suggested a number of ways that they might be able to help to accomplish some of these goals.

Among these are oral history projects with the community. The History Department at SFU houses an oral history



PHOTO: Courtesy of the Ireland Canada Monument REPRESENTATIVES at the initial joint SFU/Irish community workshop (L-R) [Back] Ita Kane, Eilis Courtney, Teresa McDonnell, Willeen Keough, George McDonnell, Steve McVittie, Liam O'Flaherty, and Maura De Freitas. [Front] Dara Culhane, John O'Flynn, Aaron Windel, and Brendan Flynn.



lab, containing audio and video recorders, a transcription machine, computers and software for digitization, and proper archival space for recordings.

A number of SFU faculty members in various disciplines work with oral history and can help train community members to interview effectively and ethically through workshops held either on or off campus.

They can also teach courses that allow students to take on oral history projects with the Irish community.

The university can also help organize lecturers and workshop leaders could include professionals, academics, visiting artists, and community leaders and members.

It was suggested community members could do SFU students a huge service by speaking in classes or being part of podcasts that could be used as course content about the Irish in B.C.

Continuing Studies could also be ap-

proached to offer a course in Irish Studies for community members/seniors.

Graduate students who are interested in Irish Studies could be encouraged to focus their research on the Irish in B.C. and to make available to them the resources that will become available through community collaborations.

Every year, Continuing Studies at SFU helps to organize dozens of informal discussions in various community spaces throughout the Lower Mainland.

The organizers are very open to ideas; all they require is a good subject and a moderator, and they'll arrange the rest.

For more information, see: www.sfu.ca/continuing-studies/about/program-units/philosophers-cafe/about-philosophers-cafe.html.

SFU faculty members discussed working toward establishing a field school in conjunction with a university in Ireland or alternatively a university in another Irish diasporic region.

Willeen has already been having discussions in this regard with colleagues at Memorial University of Newfoundland – a place where Irish immigrants began to arrive in the late 1600s.

Here they have embedded their Irishness in the landscape through material culture and vernacular architecture, and staked out territory symbolically through dialect, customs, and music.

Students would be provided with university credit courses (or continuing studies courses, if they are community members) that would be taught by faculty from SFU and Memorial.

This type of initiative would require long-term planning and funding shared by the universities.

Finally, the ultimate objective would be to establish a Centre for Irish Studies or a Chair in Irish Studies at Simon Fraser University.

There were also realistic discussions about potential funding sources such as grants and other potentially interested community collaborators and partners.

While many of these objectives are long-term goals, some very achievable short-term plans have been initiated to put into action.

The group agreed to meet again in October to move forward on some of the short-term goals, so watch these pages for more updates.



IRELAND PARK was officially opened by Mary McAleese the President of Ireland on June 21, 2007. It was closed shortly afterwards for construction works in the area.

Toronto memorial to Irish Famine victims reopens after 4 years

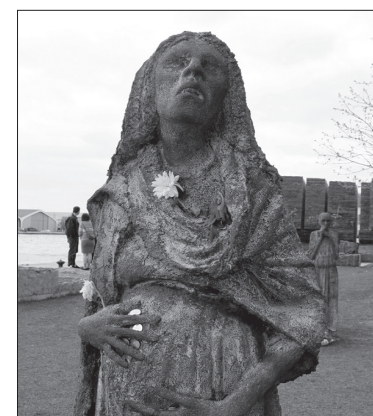
TORONTO – The Ireland Park in Toronto, dedicated to the victims of the Irish famine, reopened to the public this summer after four years of construction works in the area.

The waterfront park along the Portland Slip promenade was built in 2007 in memorial to the 38,000 Irish immigrants who arrived in the city in 1847, more than 1,000 of whom died that summer.

The names of the dead are carved on a wall made from Irish limestone at the park.

A sculptural installation encompassing five bronze figures of famished immigrants by sculptor Rowan Gillespie matches a set of similar sculptures on Custom House Quay in Dublin's Docklands area.

There is a tradition of leaving objects for the sculptures, such as food beside the starving woman curled on the ground, or coins in the hands of the pregnant woman, who is the only individual to feature in both the Dublin and Toronto exhibits.



A SCULPTURAL installation encompassing five bronze figures of famished immigrants by sculptor Rowan Gillespie matches a set of similar sculptures on Custom House Quay in Dublin's Docklands area.

Alongside the bronze figures are large-scale limestone and glass sculptures designed by Jonathan Kearns to reflect the Irish landscape, particularly the cliffs on the western side of the Aran Islands.

Ireland appoints new Diaspora Minister

DUBLIN – Taoiseach Enda Kenny has announced Ireland's first Minister of State for the Diaspora following a recent cabinet reshuffle.

Former Minister for the Arts Jimmy Deenihan will take on the role of Minister for the Diaspora, a position Irish expats and Irish Americans have long been advocating.

The appointment is a huge boost for the Irish abroad, marking the first significant official gesture towards political representation for Irish people living outside the country.

Kenny indicated that one of Deenihan's responsibilities will be to examine whether Irish citizens living abroad should be allowed to vote in presidential elections.

Deenihan, a Kerry native, was a top class Gaelic footballer before entering politics.

He has been a government deputy since 1987. From 2002 to 2007 he was the spokesperson on Tourism, Culture and Sport and was appointed the spokesperson for Defence in 2007.

In 2011 he was elected Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Deenihan said that along with having a say in Ireland's presidential elections, this Senate initiative could be part of a revitalized approach towards representing Irish passport holders abroad and inviting investment.

The National Youth Council of Ireland said they looked forward to working with Deenihan on improving supports for young emigrants and finding ways to facilitate their return to Ireland.

Fianna Fáil spokesman for the diaspora Senator Mark Daly said Deenihan's main priority should be immigration reform for the 50,000 undocumented Irish in the U.S., and the fast-tracking of work visas to the U.S. for Irish people.

He also called for more resources to provide enhanced support services to the older forgotten Irish community in the UK.

He said, "Minister Deenihan's appointment shows the importance of the 70 million people of Irish heritage throughout the world."



TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR SEPTEMBER

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

www.worldbeatcanada.com.

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <i>Chasse-Galerie</i> by MAZ - <i>Chasse-Galerie</i> on Independent. | 6. <i>The Duhks</i> by Lazy John - <i>Beyond the Blue</i> on Compass Records. |
| 2. <i>Say Anything</i> by Young Dubliners - 9 on YD Records. | 7. <i>AD/BC</i> by Saor Patrol - <i>Open Air Asylum</i> on ARC Music. |
| 3. <i>The Glen Road to Carrick</i> - Full Set - <i>Notes After Dark</i> on FullSet Records. | 8. <i>Shady Grove</i> by Socks in the Frying Pan - <i>Socks in the Frying Pan</i> on Independent. |
| 4. <i>Danns' A Luideagan Odhar</i> by Julie Fowlis - <i>Every Story</i> on Machair Records. | 9. <i>I Am Who I Am</i> by Firkin - <i>Finger in The Pie</i> on Pump Jump Records. |
| 5. <i>Saoirse's Heart</i> by Celtic Cross - <i>Saoirse's Heart</i> on Independent. | 10. <i>Dansez (Dance Hey)</i> by Bodh'aktan - <i>Tant qu'il restera du rhum</i> on Go - Musique. |

Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:
MAZ - *Chasse-Galerie* - Independent

Ukraine and ISIS threat dominated talks at Welsh 2014 NATO summit

NEWPORT, Wales – Wales hosted the largest gathering of international leaders ever to take place in Britain at the NATO summit on September 4-5.

All 28 member countries were represented at the summit, including U.S. President Obama, German Chancellor Merkel, French President Hollande, and Canadian Prime Minister Harper.

Over 4,000 delegates attended amid a security operation unprecedented in Britain.

There were 31 arrests as hundreds of protesters arrived at the steel cordon protecting world leaders meeting at the Celtic Manor Resort.

The summit was held as NATO draws down from its longest ever mission in Afghanistan and against a backdrop of instability in Ukraine.

Talks were dominated by discussion on Ukraine and the threat of Islamic State (ISIS) extremists in Iraq and Syria.

The summit was the first time the UK has hosted a NATO summit since Margaret Thatcher was still the British leader in 1990 and the event was covered by 1,500 journalists.



A WORKING dinner hosted by British Prime Minister David Cameron was held at Cardiff Castle during the 2014 NATO summit in Wales.



NEARLY 10,000 police officers from 43 forces across England and Wales are on duty as part of a major security operation at the summit.

Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones said "The NATO Wales Summit is an exciting and historic moment for our country and I am confident we will shine on the world stage."

The summit marked the first time a serving U.S. president has been to Wales. Before the official summit start President Obama and Prime Minister David Cameron visited a local school.

Warships from the 28 NATO member states arrived at Cardiff docks in advance of the summit with the Royal Navy's new Type 45 destroyer HMS Duncan the largest at the gathering.

British anti-terror plans attacked as too 'vague'

LONDON – Government plans to counter the threat from British jihadists have been criticised as "vague" and potentially unenforceable.

David Cameron told MPs police will be given powers to seize passports from UK nationals suspected of going to fight for Islamic State (IS) in Iraq or Syria.

Airlines will also be hit by tougher rules, including providing information on passenger lists, or their flights will be blocked from landing in the UK.

The prime minister said officials were also "working up" proposals to bar British extremists from returning to this country, and signalled he wanted to beef up terrorism prevention and investigation measures.

However, Downing Street later admitted there was as yet no timetable for introducing legislation, and they were not certain excluding Britons from the country would be possible.

Senior coalition figures have been engaged in detailed negotiations about the

package of measures after the UK's terrorist threat level was raised from substantial to severe.

Addressing the Commons, Cameron said thousands of European citizens had gone to fight for IS and there were growing fears about the potential for them to return and wreak havoc.

The PM said it was "abhorrent" that British citizens who pledged allegiance elsewhere were able to return to the UK and pose a threat to national security.

Labour branded the suggestion of barring suspected jihadists from coming back to Britain as "vague" and "unclear."

Former Attorney General Dominic Grieve warned it was "probably impossible" to enforce.

"Whilst the person who goes abroad fighting in Syria may technically commit treason, and indeed should be put on trial perhaps for treason when they come back, nevertheless they are British nationals and excluding them unconvicted from coming to this country I think raises some very severe difficulties," the Tory MP told BBC Radio 4's PM programme.

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Scottish family horrified their daughter has joined ISIS

LONDON – A Scottish woman who travelled to Syria and married an ISIS fighter told her parents she wanted to become a martyr and would see them again on the “day of judgment.”

Aqsa Mahmood left Glasgow last November and called her parents from the Turkish border before entering Syria to tell them of her intention to join the radical Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

In February, Aqsa Mahmood married a fighter from Islamic State (IS or ISIS), the terrorist organisation that now controls swathes of Syria and Iraq, and is behind a series of atrocities including the beheading of two American journalists.

The family had been in contact with their daughter through social media but contact ceased after details of her involvement with the Islamic State was revealed.

Speaking publicly, her father Muzaffar Mahmood wept as he said their daughter Aqsa had “betrayed us, our community and the people of Scotland.”

In a statement read out by the family’s solicitor, Aamer Anwar, her parents said, “Aqsa was always a very sweet, peaceful, intelligent child and inquisitive about everything.

“We had high hopes for her and would have loved for her to be a doctor and to save lives. We dreamed that one day we would see her married with children, but sadly that no longer looks likely.

“As parents, we would have liked her to listen to us but we gave her everything possible in terms of love, freedom and education and she chooses the path which we could never approve of.

“ISIS are killing in the name of our religion and claiming to defend the weak but, by joining with them, our daughter is brainwashed and deluded and helping those engaged in genocide.

“There is no smoking gun, no family member, no fundamentalist preacher that can be blamed for her radicalisation.

“We have spent months asking ourselves the question whether we could have done better and we still do not know the answer.

“Aqsa, like many young people in our community, was naturally angry and frustrated at the loss of innocent life in the Middle East but this is not the way to help.

“If our daughter, who had all the chances and freedom in life, could become a bedroom radical then it is possible for this to happen to any family. But she is our daughter and we still love her, fear for her life and would urge her to return home whilst she still can.”

The 20-year-old former radiography student exhorted Muslims to carry out terrorist attacks, via a Twitter account under the name Umm Layth.

“Follow the examples of your brothers from Woolwich, Texas and Boston,” she tweeted. “If you cannot make it to the battlefield, then bring the battlefield to yourself.” The account has since been deleted.

Melanie Smith of the King’s College International Centre for Study of



AQSA'S FAMILY held a press conference where a statement from her mother Khalida and father Muzaffar Mahmood was read by their solicitor Aamer Anwar.



AQSA MAHMOOD fled from Scotland to Syria in November after she was radicalised online, her parents said.

Radicalisation said around 200 western women have probably been recruited by the extremist group. Through social media accounts, Smith has been tracking 21 British women who have joined ISIS.

Radicalisation of youth both men and women is now becoming one of the most important threats of international terrorism in the world today according to counter-terrorism experts.

The portrayal of a terrorist as a foreigner from a disadvantaged marginalized country, striking at the Western values from abroad, is slowly fading with the latest increase in Canadian, American and British citizens joining the ranks of terrorist organizations.

British Aid Worker Faces Execution by IS

LONDON – Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond has declared that every possible option will be explored to protect 44-year-old British aid worker David Haines who faced execution.

He has appeared in a video released by the same Islamic State (IS) extremists who have already killed two American journalists.

At the end of the chilling film, a masked man holding a knife stands above the captive warning countries entering an “evil alliance” with the United States against IS to “back off.”

Speaking after a meeting of the government’s emergency committee on September 3, Hammond said the latest video – which depicts the murder of American Steven Sotloff by a jihadist with a British accent – appeared genuine.

Hammond said the government was doing everything it could to reassure the family of the Scottish hostage shown in the video.

He acknowledged that an earlier attempt by U.S. special forces to rescue the hostages – thought to be held by IS in Syria – had ended in failure.

Haines, who grew up in Scotland, has 23 years’ experience rebuilding conflict zones and supporting war-hit citizens.

It is understood he was abducted in Syria last year, along with an Italian aid worker and two Syrians, all of whom have since been freed.

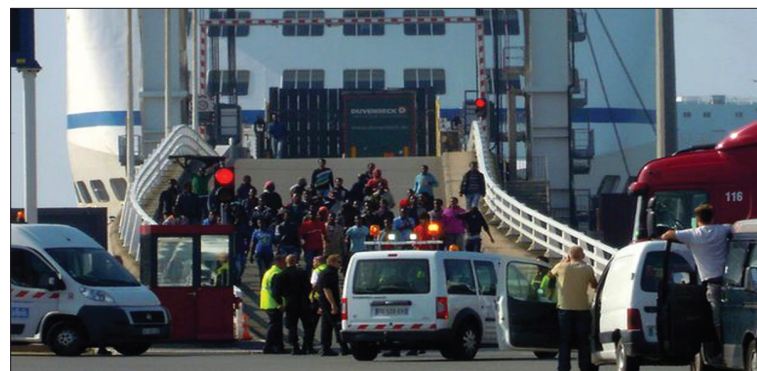


BRITISH AID worker David Haines with his four-year-old daughter. The 44-year-old Scot faces execution from IS militants.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Prime Minister David Cameron said the UK would not be “cowed” by the threats being made by IS.

Denouncing Sotloff’s murder as “sickening and brutal,” he told MPs, “I am sure that the whole House and the whole country will join with me in condemning the sickening and brutal murder of another American hostage and share our shock and anger that it again appears to have been carried out by a British citizen.

“All our thoughts are with the British hostage and his family. Their ordeal is unimaginable.”



DESPERATE migrants were escorted by police off a Dover-bound ferry after failing to board it in Calais on September 3.

Migrants foiled as they try to storm ferry to UK

CALAIS, France – Scores of illegal migrants in the French port of Calais have tried to force their way onto a ferry bound for England, officials and witnesses say.

Anarchy broke out when 250 men burst into the town’s docks and tried to board vessels sailing for Dover on September 3. One gang broke through gates and climbed over fences in a desperate bid to reach a ferry.

Witnesses said the immigrants were not intimidated by police with machine guns guarding the entrance to the ferry, casually running past them as they attempted to force their way on board.

They tried to get access to the vessel by running up the main ramp but were only prevented from gaining entry when the crew raised the ramp and turned a fire hose on them.

Earlier, the mayor of Calais Natacha Bouchart said that her city was being “taken hostage” by more than 1,000 migrants attempting to cross the English Channel from France.

She said she would blockade the port unless Britain helped to control the migrants.

Calais has been a magnet for migrants

hoping to get to the UK for much of the last decade.

It is estimated that there are about 1,300 illegal migrants in Calais, many of whom rely on food handouts.

Lorry driver Lee Croson told ITV, “It’s more like a war zone than it used to be. If you get into Calais or park anywhere in Calais, you can be 99 percent sure you will get the immigrants in your trailer.”

He said many drivers are threatened at knifepoint. Anywhere within three hours drive of the port is considered a risk, he added, saying he had not known a worse situation in 20 years.

If a trucker is caught with migrants in his vehicle it is the driver, not the company, who is liable for a £2,000 fine. The chaotic scenes recall the early 2000s when migrants repeatedly tried to storm the entrance to the Channel Tunnel.

An estimated three million freight lorries, two million cars and 12 million passengers pass through Calais to Dover every year.

Many of the migrants in Calais believe the UK will be a more welcoming place if they can just get there.

Tony Blair award met with mocking disbelief

LONDON – GQ Magazine has defended its decision to name Tony Blair its “Philanthropist of the Year” after the award was widely met with disbelief and horror.

The former prime minister was handed the award at a gathering at the Royal Opera House in central London in recognition of his “philanthropy, establishing three charities”.

Awards producer Richard Dodgson stood by the publication’s much criticised move, telling BBC Radio 5 Live it was “fantastic having Tony,” as the magazine likes to have celebrities at the event who “cause a bit of a stir.”

The magazine certainly achieved that aim, with thousands of incredulous social media users frothing at the mouth over the “jaw-dropping” decision.

The former prime minister who earns millions from his consultancy roles and property empire, was handed the accolade at the ceremony on September 2 to a reportedly “muted” response.

But the timing couldn’t have been worse for the former Labour leader, who is often blamed for the violent insurgency gripping Iraq after toppling Saddam Hussein in 2003, as the prize was handed out on the same night a video was released showing the brutal execu-



TONY BLAIR was named Philanthropist of the Year at the GQ Men of the Year Awards.

tion of a second U.S. journalist by Islamic State militants.

Tory MP Charlie Elphicke pointed out that Blair has advised Kazakh leader Nursultan Nazarbayev, including on how to improve his image after his police killed 14 unarmed protesters.

Gary Lineker tweeted, “Apparently, Tony Blair has won GQ’s philanthropist of the year award. Finally these awards have grasped irony!”

He received the honour for his “tireless charity work across the world” and his name quickly began trending on Twitter with many social media users mocking his award.

Scottish referendum month has finally arrived: 'Scotland will never be quite the same again'



DINBURGH – I am writing this 18 days before the Scottish referendum will take place and 18 months after the date of it was first announced.

The deadline for registering to vote is tomorrow and postal votes are already being submitted. It is hard to find anyone in Scotland who wants to talk about anything else – with the possible exception of football.

Even the Edinburgh International Book Festival had 'Scotland's Future' as one of its themes.

I covered these sessions for a Scottish Sunday newspaper and was generally impressed by the quality of the debate which involved writers, historians, journalists and politicians.

If there was one thing the speakers I heard had in common, it was that they don't want Scotland's political arrangement to stay the way it is.

The cultural sector in Scotland is generally supportive of independence, but even those who aren't presented various visions for the country. These ranged from increased powers for the Scottish Parliament to federalism.

No matter what positions speakers took on independence, it was clear that they were all based on some kind of faith.

Scottish independence is routinely described as requiring 'a leap of faith' but other possible futures need faith too.

Those who want increased powers for the Scottish Parliament, for instance, have to believe the promise of the Unionist parties that they will be delivered, despite some bad experiences in the past.

Others who see a federal future need to get past the fact that the UK Government is showing no sign of embracing it. As former First Minister Henry McLeish put it at his session, "federalism is not even a blink in the eye of the smallest eye at Westminster."

There is also a kind of worst case sequence for Scotland which every speaker had to contend with regardless of which way they intended to vote on independence.

That is Scotland voting No, followed by the UK voting itself out of Europe in 2017 and taking Scotland with it.

Some simply denied that this was ever going to happen despite the continued strengthening of right wing, anti-Europe parties in the rest of Britain.

Scottish historian Christopher Whatley had one of the more intriguing takes. He intends to vote No but recognized that Scotland was in "the last chance salon."

Any failure to look seriously at federalism, he averred, and "I'll be the first to go for independence next time."

Most people in Scotland, however, accept that the independence referendum as it is generally described: a "once in a lifetime" opportunity.

Beyond the book festival, things were moving at pace. Historian Sir Tom Devine, who was involved in a fascinating session with Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond, came out as a Yes soon afterwards.

Next, 130 Scottish businesses declared



By
**HARRY
McGRATH**

for No, closely followed by 200 declaring for Yes. The Yes side revealed that its 'declaration for independence' had reached one million signatures.

SNP leader Salmond, and Alistair Darling, leader of the 'Better Together' campaign, had two televised debates – the first seen as being won by Darling and the second by Salmond.

Nobody seems to really know how these head to head debates work on the public but a poll taken after the second one had the No lead reduced to 53/47.

The most telling part, as it has been so often in the independence debate, was when an ordinary punter got involved.

He asked Darling "If we are better together, why aren't we better together now?" This succinctly identified Better Together's Achilles' heel.

It hasn't been able to explain away Scotland's chronic levels of deprivation, its poor health outcomes or the fact that it has the most inequitable land ownership patterns in the western world.

As a newspaper letter writer subsequently put it, "some places are, in Orwellian terms, 'more better together' than others..."

So Scotland's "biggest decision in 300 years" is upon us. Bookmakers are reporting that the vast majority of bets being laid in Scotland are on a Yes victory.

This may be because Scots like long odds and can still get 7/2 on Yes (though could have got 5/1 a few weeks back).

For those who favour science over gambling, the referendum outcome is hard to read.

Polls have consistently been for No even though the most recent one saw the difference decline to the point where Yes claimed that momentum was with them.

There are, however, unique complicating factors with this vote.

Gordon Brown leads desperate fight as polls confirm Yes vote surge

LONDON – In the two-year Scottish referendum campaign, Whitehall and Westminster have been in denial about the prospect of Scotland voting Yes to independence.

Suddenly, as the opinion polls show it as a very real prospect, the London-based political establishment is anxiously thinking about the implications.

Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown is now leading a desperate fightback against a surge of support for independence in Scotland as he unveiled a proposed timetable for more powers.

Brown, who set out his plans in a speech the Loanhead Miners Welfare and Social Club in Midlothian, said work would begin on the new legislation on September 19.

He revealed a timetable for further powers for Holyrood would begin the day after the vote, with a No vote the "starting gun" for a new Scotland Act drawn up to give the country greater control over finance, welfare and taxation.

Brown said, "The alternative to an irreversible separation is a more powerful Scottish Parliament with a timetable for its delivery.

"Quite simply, Scottish voters deserve to know to the fullest extent possible about how new powers as ambitious as possible will be delivered as soon as possible within the UK."

But his intervention comes as new research published by polling firm TNS revealed the Yes Scotland campaign had closed an eight-point gap in less than a month and are now tied at 41 percent with Better Together among those certain to vote, with a further 18 percent

undecided. TNS has tended to poll support for Yes at lower levels than rivals.

Tom Costley, head of TNS Scotland, said, "This poll reveals a remarkable shift in voting intentions but the signs were evident in our last couple of polls which indicated a narrowing of the No lead, especially amongst those who told us that they were certain to vote.

"It is too close to call and both sides will now be energised to make the most of the last few days of the campaign and try and persuade the undecided voters of the merits of their respective campaigns."

The latest poll findings could provoke yet more volatility in the markets, after the pound slumped to a 10-month low following a weekend YouGov poll which was the first in the campaign to place Yes in the lead.

Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond wants an independent Scotland to continue to use sterling but Chancellor George Osborne is adamant the UK "will not share the pound if Scotland separates".

The pro-union Better Together campaign has denied that it is being forced into panic measures to shore up support and has dismissed claims that a promise to outline the handover of more powers is little more than a "bribe" with just 10 days to go to the crucial vote.

But former Labour First Minister in Scotland, Henry McLeish, criticised the No campaign for failing to reach out to the "heart and head" and said it had been "narrow" and "negative."

Alex Salmond has dismissed the latest devolution pledges as a panicky response by a No campaign in chaos.

The referendum is not a standard election and turnout is expected to be much higher than usual.

Some say that the so-called 'missing million' who don't normally vote (and therefore aren't routinely polled) will appear this time and there are reports today of long line ups for last-minute registration which seem to confirm this.

The Yes side believes that these new voters, primarily from deprived areas

of Scotland, are more likely to vote for them. We shall see.

A journalist from Canadian Press is going to phone me in Edinburgh for a post-referendum reaction on September 19.

I expect he will ask, a la Shakespeare's MacDuff, "stands Scotland where it did?" and I will be able to tell him, regardless of the result, that Scotland will never be quite the same again.

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A wonderful journey to the Maritimes and a step back into Canadian history

IT has always been one of my goals to visit the Maritimes and that wish finally materialized this past July.

My journey began when I flew from Vancouver to Calgary to meet up with my son Pat and granddaughters, Madisson and Kelsey, who live in Calgary.

After an overnight journey from Calgary on a packed WestJet flight, we arrived in Halifax, tired and hungry. We rented a van, checked into a hotel, and slept until late that day.

Since The Old Triangle Irish Alehouse was nearby our hotel, we dropped in and enjoyed a delicious meal while formulating a plan where our visit would take us over the next two and a half weeks...it was exciting.

Halifax is a city with more pubs and clubs per capita than almost any city in Canada. It's also home to the famous Alexander Keith's 1820 brewery and visitors are welcomed by costumed guides and, of course, a taste of the fine ale.

Lobster was in season and we enjoyed it prepared several ways in various dishes ...absolutely, mouth-watering delicious.

This is a very old city with many historic attractions including the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site – visible on the hill from almost any place in the city.

Today, the restored Citadel is a national landmark, commemorating Halifax's role as a key naval station in the British Empire, and bringing history to life in Atlantic Canada's largest urban centre.

There are also some unique shops in the city with beautiful handmade Nova Scotia crafts and jewellery.

Halifax was a key player in many armed conflicts, including the War of 1812.

These struggles hit close to home during the First World War, when a French munitions ship exploded after colliding with a Belgian relief ship.

The Halifax Explosion would be the largest man-made explosion until the nuclear bomb, killing 2,000 and injuring another 9,000 of the city's residents.

For over one million immigrants to Canada, Pier 21, in the Halifax harbour was their first glimpse of the new world and their gateway into Canada.

We spent a pleasant afternoon on a visit to Lunenburg a UNESCO World Heritage Site, situated along the scenic shores of southern Nova Scotia, one hour from Halifax.

It's also where the famous original Bluenose schooner was built and launched in 1921 and raced undefeated in international competition for 17 years. After the Bluenose was sold in 1942, it struck a Haitian reef and sank.

Today, the Bluenose II, a replica of the original Bluenose, is docked in Lunenburg being refitted with a new mechanical and electrical system.

The Confederation Bridge joins the eastern Canadian provinces of Prince



By
**CATHOLINE
BUTLER**

Edward Island (P.E.I.) and New Brunswick.

It's a magnificent curved bridge – 12.9 kilometres (eight miles) long – the longest in the world crossing ice-covered water in winter.

Opened in 1997, it endures as one of Canada's top engineering achievements of the Twentieth Century.

The day we crossed it was foggy and, as we drove through the middle of the ocean, for miles we couldn't see land either behind or in front. It takes 12 minutes to cross the bridge.

Finally, we reached P.E.I. and marvelled at the red soil and fields and fields of potatoes for as far as the eye can see.

About 30 percent of Canada's potatoes are grown on the island. We passed McCain's Frozen Foods plant who are leaders in the frozen food industry and the world's frozen french fries.



PHOTO: Catholine Butler

BREATHTAKING scenery on the Cabot Trail in Nova Scotia – one of the most famous drives in Canada. The route measures 298 kilometres (185 miles) in length and completes a loop around the northern tip of the Cape Breton Island, passing along and through the scenic Cape Breton Highlands.

We also remarked on how neat and tidy the island was, with all the lawns in front of the houses well manicured.

Charlottetown is the capital of P.E.I., and the birthplace of Canada where leaders met in 1864 to discuss the formation of our country.

It's also the home of Anne of Green Gables, the longest running musical in Canada. There is even an Anne of Green Gables chocolate factory where you can watch the chocolates being made.

Our next stop was Cape Breton Island. The scenery is spectacular and it's easy to see why so many world renown artists live and work here.

The cultural roots of early Scottish settlers run deep and you can see it in the names of the areas along the way.

Music is the backbone of the history, culture and everyday life in Mabou. And, with music, particularly fiddle music, there's dance – step-dancing and square dancing.

We were told you can find a ceilidh in the area seven days a week. Mabou is also the hometown of Juno Award winning Celtic pop group, The Rankins.

It's not unusual to hear fiddle music on the radio and songs in Scots Gaelic – many people living on the island can speak Gaelic.

Late one evening, as we drove along the road, it seemed every bed and breakfast where we stopped was fully booked.

For a time we thought we might have to sleep in the van, then someone recommended the Normaway, and sure enough, we were able to stay in one of their cottages.

Watch the October issue of *The Celtic Connection* for an interview with the owner of the Normaway.

He is quite the character and personally knows all the entertainers in Cape Breton. Many have played music in his barn which doubles as a concert hall. It turns out some very well-known and famous people have stayed at the Normaway.

We were informed the drive around the Cabot Trail would take maybe a little over two hours, but that turned out to be more like four.

It was time well spent as we wouldn't have missed the absolutely stunning scenery.

The Cabot Trail is really a feast for the eyes and senses.

As you round each corner, the scenery becomes more breathtaking than the last.

Soon, it was time to bid farewell to beautiful Cape Breton and take the ferry to Sydney, Nova Scotia for another ferry to Port Au Basque, Newfoundland.

Our Newfoundland Labrador journey will continue in the next issue of *The Celtic Connection*.

ST. ANDREW'S AND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

155-year-old Scottish group disbanding in Victoria

VICTORIA – One of Victoria's oldest cultural organizations, the St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society, is disbanding after 155 years.

The decision was based on a declining and aging membership, President Janice Campbell told the *Times Colonist* newspaper.

The society, which is dedicated to keeping Scottish interests and cultures alive, dates back to 1859.

The St. Andrew's Society of Victoria formed in 1859 and held its first meeting in a police courtroom in 1860. The Caledonian Society was formed in 1863 and the two joined in 1870.

Members have hosted Robbie Burns Suppers, Burns Teas, Holly Teas and Tartan Day in Market Square, Campbell said. The society also sponsored the original Scottish games, laying the groundwork for today's Victoria Highland Games Association.

Not all Scottish cultural groups reported drops in membership or interest.

The Victoria Highland Games has seen a steady growth, said President Jim Maxwell.

"I think an association has to have a purpose that people are interested in



TRICIA BARKER, president of Vancouver's St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society.

being involved in, either through their ancestry or interest in the various activities. A lot of Scottish societies were put in place back in the late-1800s to welcome Scottish settlers," Maxwell said.

"Our association was formed in 1938 to manage the Highland Games in Victoria. That gave us a purpose, which we've continued to grow to become the largest Highland Games in Western Canada and the premiere games on the whole circuit in the Pacific Northwest."

The Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society has also experienced an increase in membership recently,

according to Dora Dempster, coordinator of promotions and past president.

She attributed the rise to a more aggressive promotional campaign, especially through Dance Victoria's Dance Days, a festival that gives local dance schools and performers an opportunity to showcase their work.

Scottish groups on the Lower Mainland report a similar drop in membership.

About a dozen groups hosted meetings and ceilidhs in Vancouver's Scottish Cultural Centre, in the 1980s. But it now receives only 10 percent of its revenue from those groups, manager Darryl Carracher said.

The majority comes from venue rentals for weddings, tutoring and language lessons (primarily Mandarin).

"We're finding those people are retiring and they're moving to Langley and White Rock, so there isn't the interest there used to be," Carracher said.

"The second generation, what we've found here, is that they don't recognize themselves as being Scottish – they're Canadian."

Tricia Barker, president of Vancouver's St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society, said her members are forming a revitalization plan. "It's a tipping point, we have to do something, she said.



Scottish Country Dancing for youth in N. Vancouver

Place: Mickey McDougall Rec Centre, 23rd & Lonsdale, North Vancouver

Date: Classes begin Saturday, September 27

Time: Beginners: 9-10 AM, Intermediate: 10-11 AM, Advanced: 11-12:30 PM

Contact: Maureen Hood, (604) 922-4406, Email: delbrookdancers@yahoo.ca.

Hand-carved wood interior, huge waterfront patios featured at new Mahony & Sons False Creek



ANCOUVER – Mahony & Sons has expanded its presence with a new restaurant location that not only offers the brand's unique Irish restaurant experience but also some of the most stunning views of the city.

The family-owned chain has opened its third restaurant location at Stamps Landing on the False Creek South waterfront.

It occupies the entire two-storey building perched over the seawall that once housed Monk McQueen's.

"We have been working flat out to bring this space to life. We can't wait to welcome our guests through the doors and see their reactions," says Chris Mahony, Proprietor, Mahony & Sons Stamps Landing.

"We stripped the old restaurant back entirely and have been rebuilding it to create a welcoming Irish restaurant experience. We now have a stunning restaurant and waterfront patio for both locals and visitors."

The building was acquired early last year and its interior has since been completely gutted and rebuilt. There is a wide use of mahogany, hand-carved wood, Celtic designs, and Irish artwork.

Mahony & Sons Stamps Landing is a 10,000 square foot space with 600 seats spread across two levels – 150 upstairs, 150 downstairs, and 300 on the four waterfront patios.

Key features include an oyster bar, an extensive patio with double-sided fireplace, and a private sunset patio perfect for small groups.

While local diners can easily walk, bike, or take an Aquabus ride from down-

"We stripped the old restaurant back entirely and have been rebuilding it to create a welcoming Irish restaurant experience. We now have a stunning restaurant and waterfront patio for both locals and visitors."

town to the restaurant, Mahony & Sons also provides valet parking. Live musicians will add to the experience on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

The restaurant's transformation has involved a true collaboration between Canadian and Irish craftsmen.

Mahony & Sons hired a Dublin-based company to design the restaurant and produce the millwork, including the soaring two-level back bar, the restaurant's centerpiece.

The final product was shipped to Vancouver and assembled by local tradespeople.



Mahony & Sons Stamps Landing is a 10,000 square foot space with 600 seats spread across two levels – 150 upstairs, 150 downstairs, and 300 on the four waterfront patios.

The overall design is a blend of traditional and contemporary Irish influences with thoughtfully selected materials to create an authentic Irish feel.

The Mahony family, originally from Cork, Ireland, has deep roots in the hospitality industry.

Great great great grandfather Barney ran *The Good Woman Pub* in Australia in the 1870s (after being exiled from Ireland in 1832 for pickpocketing).

The family's maternal grandfather was also involved in the pub business. In the early 1970s, Peter and Leonie Mahony emigrated from Australia to Vancouver and operated a number of pubs around the Lower Mainland.

Chris, Peter, Mike, Gerard, and Paddy (five of Peter and Leonie's 11 children) make up the management team at Mahony & Sons.

The brothers are passionate about sharing their Irish heritage, connecting with their roots, and creating authentic Celtic-inspired pubs.

"Irish social houses are famously welcoming – you always know you can go in, order a pint and start up a conversation with anyone at the bar," says Peter Jr. Mahony, General Manager, Mahony & Sons Stamps Landing.

"Growing up in a large family with lots of friends around, Mum's motto

about dinner was always 'the more the merrier'.

"With that kind of upbringing it was only natural for us to create a space where people can enjoy good food, good drink, good music, and good company."

Mahony & Sons Stamps Landing is located at 601 Stamps Landing in Vancouver. www.mahonyandsons.com. <http://mahonyandsons.com> or Facebook: www.facebook.com/MahonyStampsLanding.

Wild Geese Fly Summer into Autumn

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE

Overhead, geese on the wing tell a tale of autumn. Long before wild geese became synonymous with Irish departing their homeland, the wild goose long roosted in Eire.

The largest stone ring in Ireland, the Lios, rests near Lough Gur in County Limerick. Since approximately 3,000 BC, humans have lived near and about Lough Gur. The mythological abundance of that lake area is evident to those who visit.

Years ago, I visited the place and watched geese wheel over Garret Island, a small island named for an Earl of Desmond who drowned in the lake.

The Earl, later associated with the lough as *Gearoid Iarla*, is the supposed son of the Goddess Aine.

Gearoid Iarla lives on in the form of a goose near the island. Every seven years – even today – Gearoid Iarla takes human form and rides a phantom grey horse in the moonlight on Lough Gur.

As waterfowl, the goose itself has prehistoric associations with early bird goddesses.



Able to navigate land and water, the goose, like all migratory birds, might have stirred divine fascination as it departed and returned from other worlds each season.

According to writer Michael Dames, the bones of a Barnacle goose were



PHOTO: Cynthia Wallentine
GARRET ISLAND, Lough Gur, County Limerick.

excavated from the foundation of a Neolithic house on the shore of Lough Gur. Barnacle geese still migrate in large flocks to overwinter in Ireland.

To later Celtic tribes, the aggressive and watchful nature of the goose lent an easy association to war, warriors and protection.

In our day and age, geese may be hunted by gun or by camera.

Some people, like me, watch them ply the sky and feel the pull of autumn toward winter. On September 22, the night and day again draw even at 7:29 PDT.

On the autumnal equinox, we ourselves migrate back to the darkness of the season of Samhain.

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NEW Festival Director Nicole Sirockman with John Coughlan of the CelticFest Vancouver Society.

New Festival Director at CelticFest Vancouver

VANCOUVER – The Vancouver CelticFest Society has welcomed Nicole Sirockman to their team as the new festival director. She has been involved with non-profits for a number of years in the capacity of project manager for major events.

Nicole has largely focused on sports where she organized events for youth and professional athletes.

These events were based around the Province of British Columbia, and included up to 4,000 participants (hosting regional, national and international events).

In her past experience, Nicole has been responsible for sponsorship, marketing and media, and she is thrilled to be able to utilize some of these skills for CelticFest Vancouver.

Irish actor Gabriel Byrne married to his long-time love in Cork

MIDDLETON, Co. Cork – Irish actor Gabriel Byrne has wed his long-time girlfriend, Hannah Beth King, in a secret ceremony attended by family and friends.

The reception was hosted at Ballymaloe House on August 4 after the couple had spent several days relaxing in Dublin.

The couple maintained a low profile upon arrival at Ballymaloe until their wedding at a strictly private ceremony.



IRISH actor Gabriel Byrne has wed his girlfriend, Hannah Beth King, in a secret ceremony at Ballymaloe House on August 4.

Volunteers and Local Irish Welcome at the Irish Newcomers Seminar

By ITA KANE-WILSON
VANCOUVER –The Irish Newcomers Information and Networking Seminar will be held on September 27.

Going into our fourth year of networking seminars for our new Irish, we're always looking for the more established and settled folk to come and join us and volunteer for the day.

For more details, visit: www.irishinvancouver.com or the Irish in Vancouver Facebook page.

Now that the long summer days are nearly behind us here in Vancouver, it's time to think about the march into fall and winter not far ahead.

For families moving here with children, it's a lively time of the year with trips to the pumpkin patch and visits to local farms a big priority.

It's the countdown to Halloween and already kids are planning their outfits for trick or treating adventures.

Check with your local community centre to see if they are hosting a Halloween party.

Book your tickets well in advance as any events or classes at the community centres tend to book up really quickly.

They are cheap and cheerful and that's very welcome here!

For Irish mummies living in the downtown/Westside area, a small group of us get together for a welcome glass of vino during the week.

We usually meet somewhere in Kitsilano.

If anyone is interested in coming along, please get in touch via the Irish Women's Network on Facebook.

It's a chance to de-stress and have a break from the kiddies for an hour or two!

A group of women from the Irish Women's Network plan to see *Noble*, a new film about the life of Christina Noble at the Vancouver International Film Festival this month.

Noble, a Dubliner, travelled to Vietnam to advocate for street children.

Once we have a date set to watch the film, we'll post it on the IWN Facebook page if anyone is interested in joining us. That's it for now! Happy fall.

THE IRISH CLUB OF WHITE ROCK

A great day with a roaring fire, great music, and special friends

By DEIRDRE O'RUAIRC
President – White Rock Irish Club

WHITE ROCK, BC – The Irish Club of White Rock is a small but vibrant club in White Rock, B.C. only 30 miles east of Vancouver or an hour's drive out, a beautiful location by the sea.

The Irish Club had its third annual picnic at Peace Arch Park and many thanks to everyone who attended to make the event a success.

The Irish Club thought they would try



PADDY TODD, Claire O'Connor, Ann Law, Mary Harrington at the Irish Club of White Rock summer picnic.

something different this year and rented the cottage in Peace Arch Park that came with the use of two big outside barbecues and a warming hall with an open log burning fire.

Unfortunately, this was the only day all summer that poured rain from morning to night – "luck of the Irish" – so it was nice to have the shelter of the hall.

Brilliant evening was had by all and thank you to those who came. There was a big turnout, with a great mix of young and old, beautiful to see.

Unfortunately buckets of rain came down outside for most of the day, but that been said, we had brilliant sunshine inside – Harry, Cheryl, Don, Pride of Erin – Joe, Margaret and Ina were our sunshine.

They entertained us with a great array of Irish music and Harry encouraged many of our own talent to take the mike. It was a very entertaining event.

The backdrop was a roaring open log fire.

Food was cooked and served by Robert and crew – we had many salads, baked salmon, hamburgers, specialty hot dogs, chips and homemade buns and desserts.

I would like to say thank you to Harry, Cheryl, Don, Joe, Margaret and Ina – our sunshine crew the afternoon entertainment.

You made our picnic very special. Thank you everyone for all the organizing, cooking and clean up.

On August 22, we held an event for the young Irish and young at heart in White Rock, another great success with great music, conversation and food. Many ideas were discussed for further events for our young people.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to any new Irish moving to White Rock, please contact us, as there is a very friendly group of Irish here and lots happening.

Pat Chessell will be playing for the Irish Club on October 25, so mark your calendars as the tickets will sell out fast for this one.

Pat is well-known around the Vancouver Lower Mainland and is sure to get any crowd moving around the dance floor with his array of Irish tunes.

On October 29, we have Derek Warfield and the Young Wolf Tones playing at the Blue Frog Studio.

If anyone has any suggestions or concerns please do not hesitate to call me. Working together is what makes this club a big success.

Check out the web site for some of our photos. Enjoy the last few days of summer and look forward to seeing you all in October.

For more details, call Deirdre O'Ruairc at (604) 538-6765, e-mail: shamrockhome@shaw.ca, or www.irishclubofwhiterock.com. You can also follow the club on Facebook.

'A New Vision for Ireland' with Conor Murphy MP

TORONTO – Friend of Sinn Fein (Canada) Inc. has organized a western Canada tour for Conor Murphy MP entitled 'A New Vision for Ireland' and everyone is invited to attend.

Murphy is a Sinn Fein politician elected member to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

In 2005, he made history when he became the first Irish Republican to be elected as Member of Parliament for Newry and Armagh.

He is a key member of the Sinn Fein negotiating team with particular responsibility for institutional issues and has represented the party at the Hillsborough, Leeds Castle and St. Andrew's negotiations and ongoing negotiations since 1998.

The Newry and Armagh MP has in particular highlighted the issues of demilitarisation and collusion.

According to *An Phoblacht*, he became involved with the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) during the 1981 hunger strikes.

In 1982 he was sentenced to five years in prison for IRA membership and possession of explosives.

In 1998 he was elected to the Assembly where he chaired the Assembly Committee, was the Party Chief Whip



PHOTO: Wikipedia
CONOR MURPHY MP MLA with pupils from Keady High School at the Assembly on November 15, 2011.

and also held the position of Group Leader of the Sinn Fein MLAs in the Assembly.

Conor was re-elected to the Assembly in 2003. He has been the Sinn Fein spokesperson on education, equality and international affairs at various times.

Following his re-election in 2007 he was appointed the Minister for Regional Development, a position that he held until 2011. He has since retained the seat in the 2012 elections.

The 51-year-old politician was born in Newry, Co. Down and now lives in Camlough, Co. Armagh with his wife Catherine, his daughter Aine and his son Oisin.

He attended St. Colman's College, Newry, Queen's University of Belfast (QUB), and the University of Ulster.

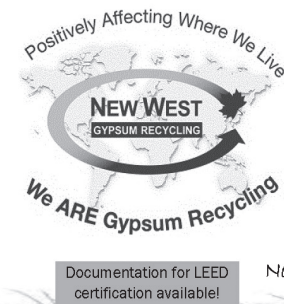
He has a deep passion for the GAA and is an active member of his local GAA Club, involved in coaching and underage football for many years.

Conor Murphy will be speaking on 'A New Vision for Ireland' at the following public meetings in western Canada:

VANCOUVER - 7 PM,
Thursday, September 18
Hyatt Regency Hotel
655 Burrard Street
Information: (604) 785-5030
or (416) 402-3729

EDMONTON - 7 PM,
Friday, September 19
Edmonton Irish Sports & Social Society
12546 126 Street NW
Information: (780) 680-1601

CALGARY
Saturday, September 20
Friends of Sinn Fein (Canada)
Golf Tournament
Tee off 2 PM, dinner 7 PM
Crystal Ridge Golf Club
9 Crystal Green Lane,
Okotoks, Alberta
Information: (403) 969-8855



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An Irish barber shop experience now in the heart of Gastown

By CATHOLINE BUTLER
VANCOUVER – Joseph (Joe) Tadhg Fallon – an Irish barber – arrived in Vancouver a year and a half ago.

He left behind a busy shop in Dublin city centre and arrived here alone with no contacts, having heard of Vancouver's spectacular scenery and quality of life.

Now, just over a year later, he has opened his own shop on Water Street in Gastown called the Gastown Grooming Room.

Joe recently spoke to *The Celtic Connection* about his background and explained how an Irish barber shop offers a unique experience.

"Before moving here I worked in a busy barber shop called Bowlers in Baggott Street in Dublin.

"When I finished college, that was the shop where I got my training and learned my skills as a barber.

"As you probably know the economy in Ireland took a bad turn and with all of my friends leaving, I also got itchy feet and decided to come to Canada."

When he arrived here on his own, Joe found work very quickly.

"I walked around for awhile and got a feel for the place," he said. "I walked into a barber shop on West Broadway and started working right away.

"I got a job there for a few months and a lot of my clients were English, Irish and Scottish, but I kept my eyes on my goal to open my own shop."



JOSEPH (Joe) Tadhg Fallon in his business the Gastown Grooming Room, a traditional Irish barber shop.



LE MAGASIN in Gastown, where the shop is located.

His dream was realized in June when he opened his own shop in Gastown.

He said, "business has been great and everyone is very positive about the results. A lot of Canadians of Irish extraction have also been in and they've been pleasantly surprised."

So, what's the difference you ask?

"The difference," he explains is the method. "We use straight razors, a head massage and hot face towel. It's like a shop back home, where everyone asks

'how're you gettin' on?'

"It's actually a modern shop with all the traditional trappings. Really, in a shop like this, you become half barber and half shrink...something like a bartender."

It's also about the social scene.

"My shop is a great shop to meet people, to chat about the latest football scores, what's happening in the news, both here and at home.

"Also, current events in the city, be it sports or social related. Pretty much as what you would find in a shop in the old country."

Gastown Grooming Room is located near the Steam Clock in Gastown in the Le Magasin Building at Unit 150 - 332 Water Street in Vancouver.

Call (604) 336-6373, or visit: www.groomingroom.ca. The shop is also on Facebook and Twitter.

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A Tale of Two Millionaires

TONY O'Reilly, the dashing figure in London's high society, the mould-breaking businessman in the USA, the valiant rugby try scorer for Ireland, the co-

founder of the International Fund for Ireland, the Dublin-born original poster boy of Irish success here and abroad, is facing bankruptcy.

Newspapers have been filled with laudatory reviews of his life, inaugurating a new category of journalistic column, the commercial obituary; hardly a single critical perspective was printed.

Very right too. Be big about a man's defeat. Leave *schadenfreude* out of proceedings.

O'Reilly succeeded far and wide and finally, aged 78, he has found himself over-extended, over-invested in shaky industries (glass, media) and he seems unable to reach an accommodation with his bank.

Many who clashed with him politically since his dramatic rise to success in the 1960s have kept a decent silence.

Some of his peers, Michael Smurfit for example, publicly expressed hope that Allied Irish Bank, would find an arrangement whereby O'Reilly can avoid bankruptcy.

The coverage of O'Reilly's demise has reflected well on the Irish commentariat.

Normally it is easier to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to receive sympathy from them; for a moneyed man on a downward slide, well, the needle's eye becomes narrower still.

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By
**MAURICE
FITZPATRICK**

In the case of O'Reilly, though, they have held back.

The sympathetic response to the collapse of O'Reilly's estate is at odds with something U2's Bono once suggested about the Irish mindset: "Ireland has a very different attitude to success than a lot of places, certainly than over here in the United States.

"In the United States, you look at the guy that lives in the mansion on the hill, and you think, you know, one day, if I work really hard, I could live in that mansion.

"In Ireland, people look up at the guy in the mansion on the hill and go, one day, I'm going to get that b****d."

So what is it about O'Reilly's economic descent that calls up the better angels of Irish journalism's nature?

A cynic might attribute the kindness towards O'Reilly to his having owned so much of the Irish media for so long: hacks from his news-sheets owe too many debts to him to change horses now. But there is more to it than that.

The style of the man is one factor. Bespoke suits cut in London's Saville Row, a year round tan, sparking gold, a winning smile and hair perfectly coiffured: O'Reilly was always grand and impressive.

While other Irish men were foostering about looking for their caps, O'Reilly was adjusting his bling.

It was not mere affectation either. O'Reilly urged anyone who wanted to enjoy his success to "dress British, talk Irish and think Jewish."

His thinking and talking were on par with his dress code and he bestrode the globe with his business ventures.

While it is true that he could wow audiences from Pittsburgh to the Bahamas, surely it takes more than impeccable style to quell a tendency to throw stones at a rich man?

There is something a tad strange about this episode, and reflective of another mindset in Ireland quite different to the one Bono described.

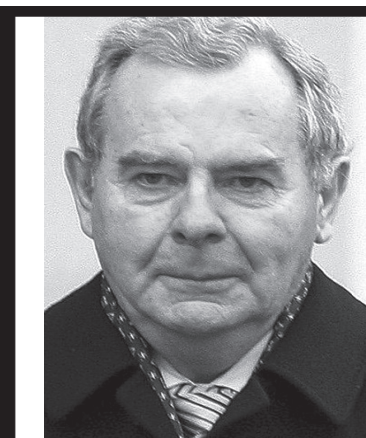
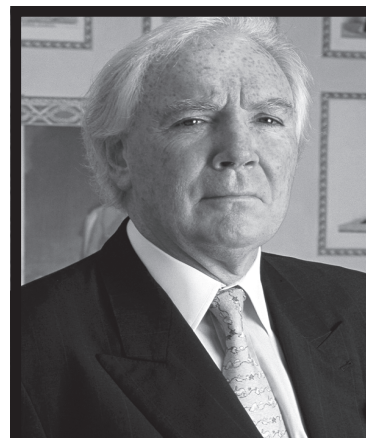
While fellow feeling for a man in trouble is commendable, there is another man, O'Reilly's successor as Richest Man in Ireland, who is fighting to redeem his assets in the High Court just now.

This man enjoyed none, but none, of the gushing praise for his work in the national press that O'Reilly did, despite his having given employment to 5,000 people in one of Ireland's poorest regions. He is Sean Quinn.

Quinn's case is that of a man who found himself wedged too far up the firmament of an exploding bank, with too many assets of his tied to it to extricate himself.

Now officially bankrupt, Quinn has been excoriated by the media.

Take, for example, a *Sunday Inde-*



HAS CLASS distinction played a role in the vastly different public response to two bankrupt Irish businessmen?

pendent journalist, Brendan O'Connor, whose article about Quinn cast him as a plunderer: 'Pot of Our Rainy Day Money Full of Holes'.

And O'Connor's perspective on O'Reilly? 'How Decency was Anthony O'Reilly's Achilles Heel'.

Sean Quinn is the epitome of the self-made man. Of farming stock, he started a quarry at his farm as a young man, worked it with his own hands, borrowed money for a lorry, founded a business and the rest is history.

By the 1990s, the international spread of his business concerns was quite astonishing.

Then came the humiliating bankruptcy which he maintains, in his ongoing court battle, could have been prevented had the disgraced Anglo-Irish Bank permitted him to work his way out of the debt.

He also alleges that they acted illegally – his case has not been defeated yet.

It is plausible that in a few years time Quinn will be back in business and O'Reilly will never recover.

If that scenario plays out, the pundits will have backed themselves into a corner, which is not their style. Yet they persist.

Could class be the nub of this matter,

and the reason for the sharply divided views on the cases?

O'Reilly went to all the right schools and ended up a finely polished gent; Quinn speaks with a gruff Cavan/Fermanagh accent and does not dine out.

And, let's remember, O'Reilly was knighted by the British Queen for his services to Northern Ireland. What those services were exactly was not spelled out during the ceremony.

Sean Quinn, we do know, founded enterprises that provided cross-border employment.

Maybe the answer here is simply the old Shakespearean vexation of what is in a name.

What is it about the name Sir Tony O'Reilly that incites so much more sympathy in Irish people than the name Sean Quinn?

Maurice Fitzpatrick was educated at Trinity College Dublin and holds graduate degrees from Ireland and Japan. He is now a lecturer at the University of Cologne. Fitzpatrick wrote and co-produced the RTE/BBC documentary film *The Boys of St. Columb's* and is the author of a book of the same name. Most recently, he directed a film for the BBC on Brian Friel's play, *Translations* which was released in December 2013.

Albert Reynolds Dead Aged 81: Tributes to 'a courageous peacemaker'

DUBLIN – The body of former taoiseach Albert Reynolds lay in state in Dublin's Mansion House as members of the public filed past his coffin and paid their respects before he was buried with a full state funeral on August 25.

The businessman, showband promoter and politician was remembered as a courageous peacemaker after he died aged 81, following a long illness.

Hundreds of politicians, business figures and dignitaries attended the funeral Mass where tributes were paid for his key role in the Northern Ireland peace process.

"For him, peace was the only battle worth waging," Father Brian D'Arcy told mourners.

"He knew that peace was not achieved only by talking to your friends, you must talk to your enemies and make peace with them."

Reynolds had worked with then British Prime Minister Sir John Major to create the Downing Street Declaration, which effectively set in train the Northern Ireland peace process, including the 1994 IRA ceasefire.

Major, who signed the Downing Street Declaration with Reynolds on December 15, 1993, paving the way for the Good Friday Agreement and lasting peace, remembered Reynolds as the leader who made things happen.

In a heartfelt message, the former UK prime minister described him as a friend and a politician deserving of his place in history.

"Albert Reynolds was at the heart of the success of the Irish peace process. Without Albert, it may never have started – or might have stalled at an early stage – and Ireland, North and South, might still be enduring the violence that scarred daily lives for so long," said Major.

"Albert cared about achieving peace and took risks to deliver a future for Ireland that many thought was impossible. He deserves an honoured place in the history of his country.

"To me, he became a friend I cherish and will miss."

Former U.S. president Bill Clinton said Reynolds worked hard and risked much to advance the peace process.

"His leadership alongside British prime minister John Major was instrumental in laying the foundation for the Good

Friday Agreement, and our world owes him a profound debt of gratitude," he said.

"I will always be grateful for his encouragement, advice, and support in the peace process."

Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams said, "Albert did the right thing by the North when it mattered. A lot of work had been done behind the scenes but no one had seized the moment with the very down-to-earth straight-forward way that he did.

"I think that famously he is depicted as a dealmaker. He understood the North a lot better than a lot of people might have thought."

Reynolds, who had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease, is survived by his wife Kathleen, two sons and five daughters.

Born in November 1932 in Rooskey, Co. Roscommon, he was elected to the Irish Parliament in 1977 and went on to become taoiseach in February 1992.

He served less than three years as leader in Ireland and, after surviving a series of political scandals, it was the mishandling of the extradition of paedophile priest Brendan Smyth that brought his time at the top to an end.



GERRY ADAMS and John Hume flanking Albert Reynolds during peace talks on the North. Reynolds instigated the first hugely symbolic public handshake between Adams, the leader of Sinn Féin, and former SDLP leader John Hume, following talks in Government Buildings in Dublin in 1994.



DEPUTY First Minister of Northern Ireland Martin McGuinness and Sir John Major shook hands at the funeral.

PHOTO: Maxwells/PA Wire



WINNING Rose of Tralee 2014 Maria Walsh with mum Noreen and dad Vincent.

Newly crowned Rose of Tralee Maria Walsh reveals that she is gay

DUBLIN – The new Rose of Tralee has been inundated with messages of support after revealing that she is gay.

After Maria Walsh opened up about her sexuality, messages of goodwill have flooded in for the first gay woman to wear the famous pageant's crown.

The 27-year-old announced she was "gay and proud" and that questions about her sexuality never came up during the Rose of Tralee festival.

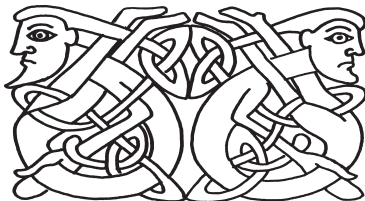
A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Maria (27) moved to Shrule in Co. Mayo with her family 20 years ago, but following her graduation in journalism and visual Media at Griffith College, moved to New York and later to Philadelphia.

She is being applauded for her openness about her sexuality and the Rose of Tralee organisation are firmly backing their girl.

Executive chairman of the Rose of Tralee Anthony O'Gara said he was delighted with the choice of Rose.

He said, "She is a wonderful person, an attractive intelligent woman and a very worthy winner who happens to be gay.

"Her sexuality will no doubt create



some interest, hopefully all positive. She wants to be celebrated as Maria Walsh in the complete sense of her person, and hopefully everyone will respect that."

The 2005 Rose Aoibhinn Ni Shuilleabhain described her as "a wonderful representative for the festival and women everywhere."

In an appearance on the *Late Late Show*, she told host Ryan Tubridy, "I've been openly gay for two years, my family and my friends know it and they support it."

She is now keen to help other young people deal with the challenges of coming out about their sexuality.

"It came after the fact to the Rose of the Tralee committee and they welcomed it even more. It is a part of my identity," said Walsh. "I am a very transparent person and I have nothing to hide.

"If I could even help one person come out and deal with it in a positive way and have positive reinforcement around that, then my year as a Rose of Tralee has already been completed."

Forced C-section case revives Irish abortion debate

DUBLIN – A young woman, who was refused an abortion under the country's new laws, had the baby delivered by Caesarean section after going on hunger strike.

The woman was in the second trimester of the pregnancy when she discovered she was pregnant and requested the abortion, which was refused.

In what is believed to be one of the first cases under the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act, 2013, the woman sought an abortion as she claimed to be suicidal.

The deeply divisive debate on abortion in Ireland was reignited after it was revealed how the young woman had her baby delivered by C-section after staging a hunger strike.

The Health and Safety Executive then went to the high court to prevent the woman from starving herself.

Her case was assessed by a panel of three experts, as set out under the legislation passed last summer.

The psychiatrists on the panel determined her life was at risk as she had suicidal thoughts. But the consultant obstetrician disagreed and said the baby could be delivered as it was far enough into the pregnancy.



IRISH women protest following the death of Savita Halappanavar who died in hospital in Ireland four days after suffering a miscarriage. She was repeatedly denied termination because there was a foetal heartbeat. She died of septicaemia in October 2012.

The panel decided the baby should be delivered. After initially refusing, the woman ultimately agreed to a C-section. The child was born at 25 weeks last month and is understood to be doing well.

The Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill 2013 that came into force at the start of the year set out when abortion is permitted in the Republic for the first time.

The new laws provide for a woman's right to an abortion if her life is at risk.

Women who say they are suicidal are assessed by a panel of three experts to determine if they are at risk. If they agree she is, doctors can intervene and carry out a termination.

The legislation was drawn up amid a public outcry over the death of Savita Halappanavar, who died in an Irish hospital in October 2012. She had been denied an abortion as she miscarried 17 weeks into her pregnancy.

Her widower, Praveen, told an inquest the couple had been told in the hospital that a termination was not allowed because "Ireland is a Catholic country."

A United Nations human rights watchdog has called on Ireland to revise its strict rules on abortion.

In a scathing attack on the country's record on women's rights, the body said that new limits on when pregnancy could be terminated were highly restrictive and lacked clarity on the meaning of what was a real and substantive risk to a mother's life.

The UN said pregnant and suicidal women were put through an excessive degree of scrutiny compounding their mental distress if they sought an abortion.

The hard-hitting review said the government must make these revisions to deal humanely with cases of rape, incest, serious risks to the health of the mother and fatal foetal abnormality

Leader of the Catholic Church in Ireland Cardinal Brady resigns

DUBLIN – Cardinal Sean Brady, the leader of the Catholic Church in Ireland, has confirmed he has offered his resignation.

Amid much speculation that he was to stand down, the senior churchman said he wrote to Pope Francis asking if he could resign as Archbishop of Armagh.

Archbishop Eamon Martin will take over the role as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland as soon as Pope Francis accepts the resignation.

Cardinal Brady has faced calls to stand down from clerical sex abuse survivors.

Pope Francis promised to hold bishops accountable for the protection of children and begged forgiveness from victims after he celebrated a Mass with six survivors at the Vatican in July.

One of the six, Irish woman Marie Kane, said she asked the pontiff to remove Cardinal Brady from his post because of the way he handled abuse allegations.

Cardinal Brady has been heavily criticised for swearing two victims of paedophile priest Brendan Smyth to secrecy during an internal church inquiry in 1975.

Their evidence was never handed over to police, allowing Smyth to continue abusing children before he was finally jailed in 1994.

Last December an investigation by church watchdog the National Board for Safeguarding Children said Cardinal Brady made a "commendable decision to gather and document whatever information was available" about abuse allegations in his own archdiocese on

taking up his role as Primate of All Ireland in 1996.

At the time he said he was truly sorry for the suffering of victims.

Although he has also apologised to the victims of Smyth, he previously said he would not resign over the affair.

Cardinal Brady has led the church in Ireland for more than 17 years during which time a series of investigations exposed shocking levels of clerical abuse.



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LGBT supporters protesting the St. Patrick's Day parade along Manhattan's Fifth Avenue.

New York's St. Patrick's parade cracks open door to first gay group

NEW YORK – For the first time in the history of New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade, an openly gay group will be permitted to march under its own banner.

The New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee, a private organization, said it has approved an application to march in the 2015 parade filed by OUT@NBCUniversal, a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender resource group.

The decision, which was first reported by *The Irish Voice*, is an attempt to quell a storm of political controversy that has surrounded previous parades.

New York Mayor Bill De Blasio boycotted the 2014 parade because of organizers' refusal to allow LGBT groups to march under identifying banners – a privilege enjoyed by the majority of the more than 300 groups that march each year.

Guinness also pulled its sponsorship from last year's parade to protest the exclusion.

The organizing committee said the LGBT group OUT@NBCUniversal could march in the 2015 St. Patrick's Day parade and that other gay groups could apply in future years.

The organizing committee said the inclusion of the group represented a "change of tone and expanded inclusiveness [that] is a gesture of goodwill to the LGBT community in our continuing effort to keep the parade above politics."

However, gay rights activists argue that admitting a single group does not amount to inclusiveness.

Nathan Schaefer, executive of the New York LGBT advocacy group Empire State Pride Agenda, said the decision to include one specific group was "disappointing and self-serving."

"While this development is long overdue, inviting one group to march at the exclusion of all others ... is a far stretch from the full inclusion we deserve," Schaefer said.

When asked by the *Wall Street Journal* if other gay groups may join next year's parade, a spokesman for the organizers said, "They can apply for 2016. OUT@NBCUniversal is the one LGBT group marching in 2015."

"It's about time," said Sarah Kate Ellis, president and CEO of the gay-rights group GLAAD. "Discrimination has no place on America's streets, least of all on Fifth Avenue."

St. Patrick's Day parades in both New York and Boston have become flashpoints for gay rights.

The issue has been simmering for decades, ever since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1995 that the private organizers behind the Boston parade were within their rights to exclude an Irish-American LGBT group.

Gay rights groups in both cities have been pushing for the right to be included ever since.

"Just because the parade organizers still have the right to do this doesn't mean that it's the right thing to do," Kara Coredini, executive director of the Boston-based MassEquality LGBT advocacy group, told the *Christian Science Monitor* shortly after this year's parade.

Organizers of the two parades have consistently argued that people who identify as LGBT have never been prohibited from marching with other groups as long as they are not advertising their sexual preference – a distinction that Coredini sees as "very symbolic of the double standard that LGBT people face in their daily lives about being able to live their lives openly and honestly."



NEW YORK CITY'S St. Patrick's Day parade is a tradition that predates the city itself. It draws more than one million spectators and about 200,000 participants every March 17.

SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

PASSINGS

• Lois Dixon (85), Seattle's longtime Irish Soda Bread Queen, died in Renton on August 26.

• Arthur Lane (84), Honorary Grand Marshal of Seattle's St. Patrick's Day parade in 1978, died in Seattle on August 24.

• Ellen McDevitt Pringle (86), a longtime member of the Irish Heritage Club, died in Seattle August 22.

• Bob Gogerty (74), Grand Marshal of Seattle's St. Patrick's Day parade in 1995, died in Seattle on August 22.

• Annie Bickford (84), a native of Belfast, died in Spokane August 20.

• Leta Connon (83), a native of Belfast, died in Tacoma on August 13.

• Don Purdy, a native of Belfast, died in Seattle on July 22.

• Ned Daly, who died in Co. Laois on July 19, lived in Seattle in the 1960s and 1970s.

• *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dilse* – May their faithful souls rest at the right hand of God.

SUMMER PARTY – This year's Irish Network Seattle Summer Party is Friday, September 12 starting at 7:30 PM at A Terrible Beauty Irish Pub and Restaurant, 1001 Fairview Avenue N, on the south shore of Lake Union.

Admission (\$30-\$45) includes a cocktail and appetizers, catching up with your friends, some great Irish music and great 'craic'.

Special guests include Irish Consul General Philip Grant and Irish glass artist Róisín de Buitléar. Pre-registration and advance ticket purchase is required at IrishNetworkSeattle.org.

SENIORS' LUNCHEON – The Irish Immigrant Support Group has scheduled another Irish senior luncheon at the Wilde Rover Irish Restaurant in Kirkland at noon on Saturday, September 13.

Special guests Irish Consul General Philip Grant and 95-year-old Father Bill Treacy who is celebrating 70 years as a priest.

Anyone interested is welcome to join us to help recognize Fr. Treacy.

Feel free to also invite anyone else who would like to attend. The cost for the buffet lunch is \$10 for seniors and \$15 for non-seniors, but please call (425) 290-7839 for reservations.

70TH ANNIVERSARY – In addition to celebrating his 95th birthday, Fr. Bill Treacy this year celebrates the 70th anniversary of his ordination as a priest in Ireland, and he will be recognized at our Irish seniors' luncheon on Saturday, September 13.

A wonderful Irishman who has left a significant mark on the Seattle area's Irish community, Fr. Bill came to Seattle from Co. Laois shortly after being ordained in 1944, and among his early official appointments was as Chaplain to Seattle's Irish Club, then called the Gaelic Club.

In addition to his parish work and later as Diocesan Chancellor, panelist on the Challenge television show, and founder of Camp Brotherhood in Mount Vernon, he was also the Irish Club Chaplain.



By
JOHN
KEANE



PHILIP GRANT, Consul General of Ireland for the Western U.S., will be in Seattle to attend the Irish Network Summer Party on September 12 and the Irish Seniors' Luncheon on September 13.



AT A PARTY to celebrate Father Bill Treacy's 95th birthday – Jerry O'Leary from Co. Cork (L) and Fr. Treacy (R) from Co. Laois, hold a photo of the two of them taken in Seattle in the 1950s.

This meant he helped organize Irish communion breakfasts, Irish weddings, baptisms, funerals, arranged jobs, references and schools, mediated disputes and provided counseling and other assistance when needed.

To join us at the September 13 luncheon, call (425) 290-7830.

KATHLEEN MADIGAN – Irish-American comedian Kathleen Madigan performs Sunday, September 14 at 8 PM at the Snoqualmie Casino.

Over her 25 year career Madigan has performed on nearly every standup television show including Leno, Letterman, Conan, Ferguson and so on.

One of seven children in a large Irish Catholic family, Kathleen was nominated for a 2014 American Comedy Award for Best Concert Comic. Tickets online at: snotickets.com. Use the code "Irish" to get the Irish discount.

'I AM OF IRELAND' – Original adapter/director Stephanie Shine (whose father is from Co. Kerry) returns to Seattle to helm the production of I AM OF IRELAND: A Celebration in Stories, Song, and Dance.

With performances Wednesday through Sunday, September 17 –

October 12 at the Center Theatre on the lower level of the Armory (formerly Center House), the shows include among others: Frank O'Connor's *The Drunkard*, John B. Keane's and Mary Lavin's *The Living*.

This Emerald Isle gem is a testament to the human spirit and a reprise of a runaway hit originally produced in 1994. For details, visit: book-it.org.

KEVIN BURKE – On September 20 at 7:30 PM at Seattle's Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Avenue N, Kevin Burke, one of the top living Irish fiddlers, will perform with fiddler John Carty, the 2003 Traditional Musician of the Year in Ireland.

Tickets are \$18 (\$20 at the door) at Brown Paper Tickets with discounts for youths and seniors.

IN CONCERT! – Nic Gareiss – percussive dance, bouzouki, vocals – and Simon Chrisman – hammer dulcimer – perform at The Vashon Maury Grange, near the north end ferry dock on Thursday, September 25 at 7 PM.

Nic Gareiss has performed with many of the luminaries of contemporary traditional music and dance, including The Chieftains, The Gloaming, Martin Hayes and more.

Suggested donation \$20. Questions, reservations, e-mail Kat Eggleston at kat@kateggleston.com.

HARP CLASSES – The School of Magical Strings starts its fall term on Monday, October 13 in Seattle and Tuesday, October 14 in Olalla, with beginning and intermediate classes in the Celtic Harp. Harps are also available! For more information about times and locations, visit: magicalstrings.com.

IRISH REELS FILM FESTIVAL – The 2014 Irish Reels Film Festival is October 24-26 at the SIFF (Seattle International Film Festival) Center.

The festival is dedicated to bringing the best of contemporary Irish film to U.S. audiences, providing a platform for Irish filmmakers to showcase their independently-produced feature films, documentaries, short films and animation. More details later or email IrishReels@irishclub.org.

OCEAN SHORES IRISH FESTIVAL – 2014 will herald the 11th year of the Galway Bay Irish Music Festival, celebrating Irish songs, ballads, players and bands in Ocean Shores, WA with music and fun this October 22-26.

An eclectic mix of 30 Irish bands, choirs and dancers hailing from throughout the United States, Canada and, of course, Ireland will be rounding out this year's entertainment performing on 10 stages rotating through three separate venues.

Feature performances by Celtica Pipes Rocks (from Vienna, Austria) and the Young Wolf Tones from Ireland. More information online at: www.galwaybayirishpub.com/irishmusicfestival.

GAA FINALS – The Seattle Gaels were well represented at the North American GAA Championship Finals in Boston on the Labor Day weekend and overall, the weekend

[... Continued on page 17]

SEATTLE IRISH NEWS



IRISH DAY at the Emerald Downs racetrack – (seated from left) Olivia Robinson, U.S. Congressman Jim McDermott, Mary Shriane, Maureen Keane and Nanci Spieker. Standing are PJ O'Donnell, Brendan Shriane and Frank Shriane.



(L-R) JOHN KEANE, Cathryn Quinn, John O'Malley, Danny Quinn and Maeve O'Malley posing with a cardboard cutout photo of Father John Madigan at a party to celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination in Ireland in 1974.



PHOTO: Heather Morris

SEATTLE GAELS player Justin Meaney (R) plays the sliotar during the Seattle Gaels Hurling game vs. the Akron Gaels at the North American Finals in Boston on the Labor Day weekend. On far left is Seattle Gaels player Terry Creighton.



PHOTO: Heather Morris

SEATTLE GAELS players Camille Clarke (R) and Anita Bui-Yu Chen (C), during their camogie game vs. the Washington DC Gaels at the North American Finals in Boston on the Labor Day weekend.



DEBORAH BROWNE and Paul McGarry were married at Seattle's Harbor Club in July. From Co. Antrim, Paul is a star hurler with the Seattle Gaels.

[....continued from page 16]

was fun for the Gaels with some success.

The hurling, camogie and ladies football teams lost in their first round games, but all went on to win their respective shield competitions on Sunday.

This is the second year in a row that Seattle has won shields in multiple codes.

The men's football team also was impressive over the weekend, moving up a division over last year.

They scored a solid victory over Indianapolis in the first round, but ultimately were edged out by Denver in another round.

Altogether, it has been another good season for the Seattle Gaels, with great play by all teams – including the men's football squad winning the first annual Defiance Cup in Tacoma.

The Gaels also had the privilege of a visit and coaching session from legendary Wexford hurling manager Liam Griffin early in the season, and were featured on the first episode of a new Gaelic sports magazine show on RTÉ-TV, *Thank GAA It's Friday*.

For more information, visit: www.SeattleGaels.com.

SISTER CITY TRIP – Almost 80 people from the Seattle area, including Seattle's Mayor Ed Murray, will make a sister city visit to Galway over the next couple of weeks.

Included in the group are members and supporters of the Seattle Police Pipes and Drums Pipe Band who have performances and other activities scheduled in Galway, Dublin, Belfast, Athlone and Rosemount (Co. Westmeath), and Roscrea (Co. Tipperary).

Mayor Ed Murray will be guest of honor and the pipe band will also perform during Galway's Oyster Festival which runs from September 25-28.

For more information, contact: SeattleGalway@Irishclub.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

• Colm Tóibín will be speaking on November 3 at Town Hall as part of the Seattle Arts and Lecture series. For more details, visit lectures.org.

• The next Irish Book Club meeting is Tuesday, October 21, to discuss *The Empty Family* by Colm Tóibín. For more details, contact hudit@comcast.net.



F X MCRORY'S proprietor Mick McHugh (L), Limerick City Official Liz Creamer, and Limerick Mayor Kathleen Leddin (R), at F X McRory's Restaurant in Pioneer Square. The mayor was traveling back to Ireland after visiting Spokane which is a sister city of Limerick.

Quote of the Month

"Develop interest in life as you see it – in people, things, literature, music – the world is so rich, simply throbbing with rich treasures, beautiful souls and interesting people. Forget yourself". – Henry Miller

[Henry Valentine Miller (December 26, 1891 - June 7, 1980) was an American writer. He was known for breaking with existing literary forms, developing a new sort of semi-autobiographical novel that blended character study, social criticism, philosophical reflection, explicit language, sex, surrealist free association and mysticism, always directly about an expressive of the real-life Henry Miller and yet always fictional.

His books were banned in the United States and Britain until 1939, when his first book was published in America.]

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VANCOUVER ISSC's First Dual NACB Winners – Martin Dune (L) and Tommy Bourke (R).



VICTORIOUS North American Intermediate Division Gaelic Football Champions, Vancouver Harps, celebrate with player/coaches Fred Gannon and JP McLoughlin.



THE NORTH AMERICAN Junior A Hurling Champions, Vancouver's Joseph P Ryans. Coach Willie Donnellan, humble as ever hides behind the Martin Dunne's Yellow Helmet, as Dunne takes a short wee lie-down before his second final later that afternoon.



ANCOUVER – Boston, MA was the destination everyone associated with GAA on this continent had been raving about for the year, and sure enough, the numbers present reflected this Labor Day weekend's popularity.

There were three days of games, 120 teams, and 2,500 players competing for North American bragging rights in several grades of Men's and Ladies gaelic football, hurling, and camogie.

President Liam O'Neill, president elect Aogán Ó Fearghail, and camogie chairperson Aileen Lawlor travelled from Ireland to witness the largest Gaelic games event outside of Ireland, and get a first-hand look at the main event in the calendar of the GAA in North America.

To say that the Vancouver ISSC had a successful trip to this prestigious event would be a gross understatement.

Vancouver, appropriately enough, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, went to Boston well prepared and ready to take on the unknown that the North American Championships always represents.

First up were the hurlers, and William Donnellan's JP Ryans team, dispatch-

IRISH SPORTING AND SOCIAL CLUB

By
RONAN DEANE



ing of Indianapolis with minimum fuss.

The Harps footballers then defeated a Boston amalgamated team convincingly to set up the final Vancouver match on the Saturday.

This was an All-Canadian affair with the champions of Toronto squaring off against their western Canadian counterparts.

The Vancouver Ladies showed great strength of character defeating Durham Robert Emmetts, in a high scoring affair. Three games, three wins.

Sunday promised to be great day in this club's history.



ALTHOUGH defeated in North American Intermediate Ladies Gaelic Football Final, the Vancouver Harps did beat Toronto's Champions to confirm their claim as the best Ladies Footballers in Canada. With Coaches Stephen Halpin (L) & Mick O'Shea (R).

WESTERN CANADA GAA CHAMPIONSHIPS



AT THE TOM BUTLER (Western Canada) Championships at Capilano Rugby Club in North Vancouver on August 2. (L-R) George McDonnell (Irish Heritage Society of Canada); Tom Butler (the Men's Western Canada Championship trophy is named in his honour. He is one of the earliest supporters of Vancouver GAA, first with the Sons of Erin and then the ISSC); Harry Cussen, John Coughlan, and Nicole Sirockman (CelticFest Vancouver).

MEN'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

INTERMEDIATE – FINAL
Vancouver Harps Win 2-11 (17) to 2-8 (14) Philadelphia

INTERMEDIATE – SEMI
Vancouver Harps 3-18 (27) - Boston 0-13 (13)

LADIES FOOTBALL RESULTS

INTERMEDIATE – FINAL
Vancouver Harps 3-7 (16) - 7-10 (31) Charlotte LGC

INTERMEDIATE – SEMI
Vancouver Harps 5-9 (24) - 3-8 (17) Durham Robert Emmetts

HURLING RESULTS

JUNIORA – FINAL
Vancouver JP Ryans 2-13 (19) to 0-15 (15) Boston Wexford

JUNIORA - SEMI
Vancouver JP Ryans 4-18 (30) - 0-8 (8) Indianapolis

Bright and early, after a very annoying fire alarm debacle at the hotel in the small wee hours of Sunday morning, it was the Harps Ladies competing against a classy Charlotte team that they had faced in Philadelphia two years earlier in Junior A competition.

Both teams had improved markedly in those two seasons, and unfortunately for Vancouver, the outcome of the tie was the same.

The whole team fought valiantly, but a five minute goal blitz killed off Vancouver, who, all credit to them, never gave up their fight.

The hurlers were up next and they faced a local Boston Wexford club determined to win on home soil.

Willie Donnellan was leading on the field and off it, and with Nicky No Goals Roberts unbeatable in goals, the JP Ryans were able to eke out a narrow, four point victory.

A massive result that set-up the footballers in a classic final.

Vancouver Harps had prepared for the NACB Championship with JP McLoughlin and Fred Gannon at the helm.

This well-drilled team played as just that. Defensively strong and tackling to a man in the front half of the field. John Martyn and Eamonn Quinn kept the score-board ticking over.

Collectively the middle eight put a lot of pressure on their opponents to give the Harps a strong foothold all through the game.

Another narrow victory, with just three points separating the sides at the end.

In all, the teams of the ISSC played six matches at the NACB 2014 Championships in Boston and won five of them. Not a bad return from a club so isolated geographically.

A big push to include hurling in 2015 in the Western Canada Championships formally, which will see the Western Canadian Clubs converge on Edmonton, AB.

With any luck, a successful trip there, sets Vancouver up for another EPIC NACB Championships next Labor Day weekend, 2015, in Chicago.



EDMONTON WOLFE TONES Men, 2014 Tom Butler Cup (Western Canada) Champions.



VANCOUVER HARPS LADIES, 2014 Tom Gibbons Cup (Western Canada) Champions.



CALGARY CHIEFTAINS Men, 2014 Alberta Cup Champions.

Round-up of 2014 Alberta Cup and Western Canadian Finals

By SHARON WHELTON
CALGARY – In this year's Alberta Cup for the men's competition, Calgary retained their title and got off to the best possible start with a strong overall performance in Red Deer on Saturday, June 7.

A nasty leg injury suffered by Calgary's Colm Brosnan resulted in proceedings being grounded to a halt temporarily, but this didn't deter the men in red from producing some impressive individual and team performances.

Not only did we see football throughout the day in Red Deer, but Calgary and Edmonton also partook in a hurling game at the end of the day.

However, things weren't as straightforward in Calgary for their Stampede tournament on Saturday, July 12, where a depleted home team were very lucky to scrape by with the necessary results in order to keep the Alberta Cup in the city for another year.

Edmonton were yet again the team that came ever so close to stealing the title, but it was Calgary's day in the limelight again.

This year's Alberta Cup was a much tighter affair for the women's competition.

In past years, Fort McMurray ladies have been the dominant force in the ladies championship, but the Calgary ladies came within minutes of capturing the Alberta Cup for the first time.

Alas, it wasn't to be for James Doyle's ladies in red, as the girls from the north came up trumps in their final game against Edmonton during the Calgary tournament.

It was a thrilling end to what was a fantastic ladies competition, and undoubtedly already whets the appetite for next season. Overall, this year's Alberta Cup in the ladies competition was quite the mixed bag in terms of results.

The Red Deer tournament on June 7 saw the Fort Mac ladies remain undefeated following tight wins over both Edmonton and Calgary. But the Calgary ladies were outstanding during their home tournament on July 12, remaining unbeaten throughout the day.

It came down to the final ladies game of the day to decide this year's Alberta Cup ladies winners, but Fort Mac ground out a close win over Edmonton to take the trophy back up north for yet another year.

This year's Western Canadian finals were held at the Capilano Rugby Club in North Vancouver during the August

long weekend on August 2 and 3, and what an outstanding weekend of football was witnessed.

The ladies competition on Sunday morning, following an eventful day of football on the Saturday, saw Calgary lose very narrowly to a strong Vancouver A team, with Edmonton unable to prevent an all-Vancouver final after a close battle with the Vancouver B ladies. In the end, after a tight and tense final, the Vancouver A team emerged victorious with a narrow two-point victory.

In the men's competition, Edmonton proved to be the unbeatable force at the end of the weekend, and it was well deserved.

Their performances throughout the entire weekend, both in the group stages and during the finals, were outstanding.

In Sunday's final, Edmonton met the Vancouver Harps and it was a nail-biting conclusion to this year's Western Canadian finals.

After an absorbing hour of football, Edmonton were crowned champions with just a point to spare, much to the heartbreak of the Vancouver contingent.

In the junior final earlier that day, Fraser Valley had a great win over Regina.



EDMONTON'S Ryan Harvey (Capt) accepts the Tom Butler Cup from Kim Budd (WCD Chairperson) and John O'Flynn (CCB Secretary).



VANCOUVER HARPS' ANDREA Brennan (Capt) accepts the Tom Gibbons Cup from Kim Budd (WCD Chairperson) and John O'Flynn (CCB Secretary).



DONAL CONNOLLY (Monaighan GAA) provided fantastic refereeing all weekend, ensuring that the football was played to a very high standard, and his presence on behalf of the Ulster GAA was greatly appreciated by all Western Canada players, spectators and the community as a whole.



THE coveted Western Canada GAA championship trophies on display -- The Tom Gibbons Cup for the women and the Tom Butler Cup for men. This year's winners for the men were the Edmonton Wolfe Tones and for the women, the Vancouver Harps Ladies.

NOVENAS

Novena to the Precious Blood of Jesus

Dear Lord: I need you now because I am full of 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 – CB

Novena to St. Clare

For nine days, pray for one impossible request, two business requests, pray nine Hail Marys for nine days, each day. This novena must be published whether prayers are granted or not. – SVS

Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary

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, CTX

Novena to St. Anthony

Remember, O Saint of Miracles, that you have never failed to help and comfort anyone who has ever sought you in a time of need. I too come to you, who are so rich in graces,

and the favoured friend of the Infant Jesus, confident that I do not pray in vain. Eloquent preacher of the Infinite Mercy of God, do not refuse my prayer, but take my request before the throne of God, so that I may have help and strength in my present trial and necessity. Listen to my voice, together with that of your friars who ask you a grace for me. Amen. – SVS

Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague

O Infant Jesus, I run to you begging you through Your Holy Mother to save me in this need (*name it*), for I truly and firmly believe that Your Divinity can defend me. Full of trust, I hope in you to obtain Your holy grace. I love You with all my heart, I am painfully sorry for my sins and on my knees I beg You, O Little Jesus, to free me from them. My resolution is to improve and never more to offend You. Therefore, I offer myself to You and to serve You faithfully. I will love my neighbour as myself from my heart for the love of You. O Little Jesus, I adore You, O Mighty Child, I implore You. Save me in this need (*you can mention if here*), that I may enjoy You eternally, with Mary and Joseph see You and with all the angels adore You. – SVS

Publication of this prayer is \$25 monthly
(Canadian residents include 5% GST)

Actor Russell Roberts to Highlight Dylan Thomas Centenary Event

By EIFION WILLIAMS

VANCOUVER – Dylan Thomas was born in Swansea on October 27, 1914.

A large number of celebratory events marking the anniversary of his birth have been held throughout this year.

Most of the events have been held in the city of his birth and in communities associated with his life in Wales, especially the villages of Laugharne and New Quay.

Dylan's international fame and influence are also being celebrated in cultural festivals in several parts of the world, including England, the United States, Australia, Argentina and India. Toronto will host a Dylan Thomas-inspired program featuring a number of Welsh writers.

Lower Mainland Dylan Thomas enthusiasts will have an opportunity to celebrate the poet's centenary when the Vancouver Welsh Society presents 'An Evening with Dylan', starring Russell Roberts, on Saturday, October 18 at the Cambrian Hall.

Russell will present a program entitled *Though I Sang in my Chains Like the Sea* which he devised and has performed frequently.

Russell Roberts is well-known to members of the Vancouver Welsh Society and the Dylan Thomas Circle for his frequent readings of *A Child's Christmas in Wales* at the Cambrian Hall and other local venues.

He is recognized as a popular and accomplished presenter and interpreter of the Welsh poet's works. His profes-



RUSSELL ROBERTS

sional career spans 30 years and over 200 theatre, film, television and radio productions across North America.

Roberts has performed locally at the Vancouver Playhouse and the Arts Club Theatre, and appeared for five seasons in prominent roles at Bard on the Beach, including an acclaimed lead role in *Titus Andronicus*.

In 2009 Russell won a Jessie Award for his role in Rumble Theatre's *Blackbird* and also won critical praise for his performance as Captain Smith in the Theatre under the Stars production of *Titanic*, where he shared the stage with his two sons, Gower and Sayer.

Russell is married to actor Colleen Winton and the couple and their two sons live in New Westminster.

'An Evening with Dylan' will be held in the Red Dragon at the Cambrian Hall, with doors open at 7 PM for a 7:45 PM performance.

For tickets and further information, call Gillian Rogers at (604) 742-1378 or Sue Wagner at (604) 736-5406. Admission is \$10.

Roll out the barrel, we've got a barrel of fun

LONDON – It appears that our illustrious members of parliament are having a grand old time.

The prices of alcoholic drinks in their Westminster bars and restaurants are subsidised by the taxpayer to the tune of £7 million per year!

The *Daily Mail* revealed that it is political party, party, party time in the House of Commons as 65,770 drinks were served last year, including 15,075 pints of ale, 9,504 pints of lager, and 9,484 glasses of Sauvignon Blanc.

The prices on average are 30 percent cheaper than in a London pub. I often wondered how apparently well-educated and supposedly intelligent people could make such a mess of things, but now the mystery is solved, it is obvious: they are all half cut on cheap booze.

John Bercow the "Speaker" at the House of Commons complained about the so-called Commons drinking culture as it led to the arrest of Labour MP Eric Joyce for head butting two Conservative members declaring, "There are too many.....Tories in here."

He obviously was struggling to get served.

Understanding the causes, I have adopted a more benign attitude towards politicians.

When it is revealed that yet another MP has been fiddling their expenses, or a minister is quoted saying something monumentally stupid, I will not get irritated but will assume it is just a little mistake being made when perhaps the brain was not quite up to the mark, and passing a breathalyser test would be a problem.

All in all it has been a pleasant couple of months. On the weather front we have actually had a warm summer.

I have spent time, in the sunshine, on the beautiful Bournemouth beach, and have even ventured into the sea. It wasn't quite the Caribbean but I didn't instantly turn blue either.

Billy Connelly famously joked that it was harder for people from Aberdeen to get a suntan because it is so cold there. He said while most people turn from white to red to brown, Aberdonians start at blue, but this year we have all had sunshine.

This summer we viewed the football World Cup finals in Brazil, where England made an early exit (Oh dear, how sad, never mind) and team USA made many friends with their refreshingly honest endeavours in a professional sport that is becoming cynically unsporting.

In sharp contrast were the Commonwealth Games in Scotland which were truly wonderful. I confess, I found it a tad strange to witness a Glaswegian crowd smiling and encouraging English athletes, instead of throwing chips at them and shouting "Go home you bastards."

I had particular interest in the rugby sevens where a Scottish crowd supported the English team against the Australians, and even the commentator wondered if he was in the right country.

My favourite moment was seeing the enchanting smile on the face of 13-year-old Erraid Davies, from the Shetland Islands, when she realised she had won

POSTCARD FROM LONDON

By
ELFAN JONES



a bronze medal in the women's 100-meter breaststroke Para-sportSB9 final.

The little youngster had not told her classmates she was competing in case she let them down. Scotland's youngest ever competitor just radiated happiness.

Even the cricket has been good. My English wife cannot understand why a Welshman, who would rather support Libya than England in rugby, can be glued to the radio willing England to win in cricket.

I have never played in a proper game of cricket because as a schoolboy had the choice of golf or cricket, and I chose golf. I have been happily hacking away for 60 years now, and despite all evidence to the contrary I still believe I will master it one day.

England, a team of underperforming losers who had not won a game for a year, have been thrashed by Australia, beaten by Sri Lanka, suddenly emerged as super heroes defeating India with masterly displays of batting and bowling.

But the attraction is the commentary on Cricket Test Match Special, BBC Radio 5 live extra. It is brilliant. So good that knowledge of the game is totally unnecessary.

The commentary team of Jonathan Agnew (Agers), Henry Blofeld (Blowers), Phil Tufnell (Tuffers), and others, squabble and ramble on about life, with intermittent references to what is occurring on the cricket pitch.

Blowers must have swallowed a dictionary because his vocabulary is remarkable. Geoffrey Boycott, a famous English batsman who, as an authentic Yorkshire man, is only truly happy when he's being miserable, pops in and out to criticise and suck the happiness out of the studio.

Members of the public send in homemade cakes for the commentary team and occasionally you could think you were tuned into a cookery programme. Tune in if you can.

And next I have the Ryder Cup to look forward to. Boy, oh boy, the fun goes on and on.

Best wishes,
Elfan

'Robin Williams was a unique comic genius'

By EIFION WILLIAMS

There was apparently a mutual admiration for each other's manic comedic style between Robin Williams, who committed suicide last month, and Britain's Monty Python group.

Python member Terry Jones, originally from Colwyn Bay, North Wales, directed Robin Williams in his last movie, a forthcoming animated sci-fi movie called *Absolutely Anything*, which is yet to be released.

The film is about a teacher who is suddenly granted unlimited God-like powers by a troupe of visiting aliens, played by the Welshman's fellow Pythons Michael Palin, John Cleese and Terry Gilliam.

The teacher uses his new-found gift to grant his dog, played by Robin Williams, the gift of speech.

According to Jones, Williams, in his own inimitable style, nails the part of Dennis the Dog perfectly.

In an interview published in the British newspaper *Observer* and widely circulated in the British media, Terry Jones said, "He was just brilliant and will really steal the show when the movie finally comes out next spring."

Jones goes on to describe Williams as "a unique comic genius...He was just a sweet, very humble man who was a complete dream to work with – it's a shame he's gone."

In addition to his Python years, Terry



ROBIN WILLIAMS

Jones has been a successful film director, starting with the financially successful but controversial *The Life of Brian*.

Robin Williams also appeared in movies directed by other members of the Python group.

He starred in two films directed by Terry Gilliam – *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* and *The Fisher King*, for which he won a Golden Globe. He also collaborated with another Python, Eric Idle, on *The Tale of the Frog Prince* for U.S. television.

In his tribute after Williams' death, Terry Jones spoke of his sadness that the Hollywood star's turn in *Absolutely Anything* would be the last time fans would be able to enjoy his on-screen talents.

"Above all, what I remember about Robin was his humility. He could be funny – like he had another monumental voice telling him to be funny, to let it rip!"

Ancient skeleton to return to Wales

THE skeleton of a Neolithic woman is to return to north Wales over a century after she was discovered.

"Blodwen" was found on Little Orme in Llandudno, Conwy county, in 1891.

Carbon dating revealed she died around 3,510 BC. She was in her late 50s or early 60s and was about 5ft (1.52m).

It is hoped Blodwen could form the centrepiece of a renovated Llandudno Museum, if an application for funding is successful.

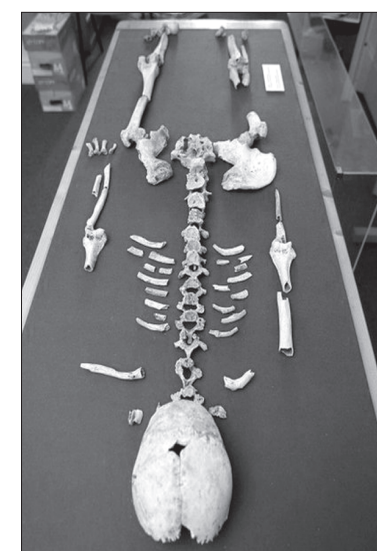
The engineer who stumbled across Blodwen while excavating quarry works donated her to the Bacup Natural History Society in Lancashire where he lived, and she has remained there ever since.

Blodwen has been loaned to Llandudno twice for exhibitions, but reaching an agreement for her permanent return has taken careful negotiation.

Dr. Sian James from Llandudno Museum said, "The recent rekindling of the story has come about from the interest in the subject by Paul Lydiate, a masters student making a film about the skeleton called *Bones of Contention*.

"Both societies have visited each other and a productive relationship and discussion regarding the skeleton has resulted.

"On the two occasions Blodwen has been loaned to the Llandudno Museum, the last being in 2010, she's brought cultural, historical and economic ben-



BLODWEN is making a permanent return to Llandudno.

efits to the town."

Orthopaedic examinations show that Blodwen was powerfully built, and her bone structure suggests she was accustomed to carrying heavy loads, both on her head and in her arms.

She had severe arthritis in her neck and knees.

At the time of her death she was also suffering from secondary cancer.

The examination of the bones also suggested she was from a farming community. Experts believe she would have been an elder of her community, due to her unusually advanced age for the time.