

the celtic connection

ISSUE 24 VOLUME 3

Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991

APRIL 2015



GALWAY Mayor Donal Lyons stops during Seattle's St. Patrick's Day parade to say hello to some "dressed for the occasion" revelers on the sidewalk. The mayor was a guest of honor during Seattle Irish Week festivities.

[For more about Seattle Irish Week, see pages 20 & 21]



THE NEW Western Canada Rose Cassandra Sampson of Fort McMurray, Alberta with RCMP Constable Scott Kirychuk (L) of the Jasper detachment and Constable Andrew Brock (R) of the Fort McMurray detachment. Cassandra was selected as the new Western Canada Rose at the Edmonton Irish Centre on Saturday, March 28.

[For more, see page 13]



THE RCMP 'E' Division Pipes and Drums and the Buffalo Celtic Music Society will present their annual Tartan Day concert/ceilidh on April 25.

[Read more inside on page 6]



JACK OF THE GREEN by Amanda of Sacredpathart. [For more about the artist, see page 2]

*The living mythology of the Green Man found
in the story of Gawain and the Green Knight*

READ ABOUT IT INSIDE ON PAGE 2

WIN FREE TICKETS

Win free tickets to the **RCMP E Division Pipes & Drums - Tartan Day Ceilidh** at the Riverside Palace Banquet Hall, Richmond, on April 25 (see pages 5 & 6 for details). Entry by: April 17. Mark your entry: Tartan Day. Entries by e-mail only. Mark the name of the event on your entry, including your name and daytime telephone number. (*Only one entry per person.*) Send to: cbutler@telus.net.



MAURA De Freitas publisher of *The Celtic Connection* newspaper was honored as the 2015 Celtic Person of the Year by the Vancouver Celtic Festival Society. She was also this year's Honorary Grand Marshal at the 10th annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Vancouver.

[For more about Vancouver CelticFest and the St. Patrick's Day parade, see pages 16 & 17]

The story of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

By GARY R. VARNER

When we hear the word “mythology” we think of stories, fables, fairy tales. But myth is not make-believe. Myths have been used to transmit oral history, natural phenomenon, to tell of important people – they are based on fact and are as important and valid as any “history” we fill our libraries with today.

The mythology of the Green Man is a living mythology. The “meaning and value” it gives to our lives continues to unfold and evolve for us.

One of the best-known stories of the Fourteenth Century is that of the nephew of King Arthur, Sir Gawain.

The story of Gawain and the Green Knight was written during the peak of popularity of the Green Man stone and wood carvings. The author of this famous poem remains unknown but is believed to have been a resident of north-western England.

The poet is also a sophisticated and talented alliterative stylist, which was a common style during the older Anglo-Saxon period. The poetic story, as summarized by Richard Cavendish:

“At Camelot on New Year’s Day there rode into Arthur’s hall a gigantic green warrior on a towering horse, holding a holly branch in one hand and an immense battle-axe in the other.

“His skin was green, his hair was green, and even his horse was green. He had come to play what he called a game.

“Any champion who dared could strike him one blow with the axe, on condition that a year later the champion submit to a return blow from the green knight.

“Gawain took up the challenge and struck the green knight a blow that cut his head clean off his shoulders and sent



it rolling to the floor.

“The green knight calmly picked up his head by the hair and turned the face towards Gawain. The eyelids opened and the mouth spoke, telling Gawain to meet him for the return blow a year later at the Green Chapel.”

“Eventually the year passed and Gawain set out on his journey to the Green Chapel to meet the gigantic green knight.

“After a long journey he came to a noble castle, where he was welcomed by the jovial Sir Bercilak and his lovely young wife.

“He stayed there until New Year’s Day, royally entertained by Bercilak and, though sorely tempted, resisting the persistent attempts of Bercilak’s wife to seduce him.

“On New Year’s Day Gawain went as he said he would to the Green Chapel. There the green knight appeared and Gawain bravely bared his neck for a stroke of the axe.

“The green knight raised the axe high, but struck Gawain only a glancing blow, which nicked his skin.

“He then explained that he was Sir Bercilak, transformed into the green knight by the magic of Morgan le Fay, who had planned the whole adventure in the hope of discrediting the Round Table.

“Gawain had been spared because he had honourably refrained from making love to Bercilak’s wife and had shown himself to be the most faultless knight in the world.”

An interesting note about the Green Chapel, according to J.D. Wakefield, is that it was not a structure but rather a green mound situated in a valley beside a stream of bubbling water.

Wakefield believes that the Green Chapel was, in reality, Silbury Hill – a sacred man-made mound in Cornwall not far from West Kennett Long Barrow and Avebury – two other ancient sacred sites.

How do we associate the green knight to the Green Man? This was obviously a test for Gawain, and one he passed, but this is also a story of “truth-bringing” through a mixture of pagan ritual and the confused teachings of medieval Christianity.

The poem also is an alliterative telling of the turning of the year, taking place at a time between two winters, which signifies a time of death of vibrant vegetation, and then a changing back to life through renewed growth, and then again, returns to death.

The green knight is beheaded and through his sacrifice he shows that life still goes on and, as John Matthews notes, “he challenges us to honour the sacrifice he makes every winter.”

In addition, according to Matthews, the poem tells us that “one of the gifts of the Green Man is that he instructs us in how to face our deepest fears and conquer them. In this way he becomes a companion as well as a challenger, a dual role that is present in the archetype in virtually all of its manifestations.”

[An excerpt from *The Mythic Forest, the Green Man and the Spirit of Nature*, published by Algora Publishing.]

Gary Varner is a folklorist with a background in archaeology and anthropology. He writes of the continuation of ancient traditions into contemporary society. To read more about his work, see: <http://www.freewebs.com/garyvarner>.

Season Passing from Spring into Summer



etween March and May comes April, the blush of spring that carries us toward Beltaine on May 1.

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE

Like all months, April is also a state of mind. It is a time when green shoots spring from concrete and creative thought plays upon a once-blighted landscape. In the deep of time, our ancestors gave thanks for survival and sowed the ground for seed.

A measure of greatness is the ability to live with ambiguity, or so they say. Surely the uncertainty of daily life, or a lifetime, constitutes living with ambiguity. We all carry a measure of greatness in our willingness to wake to each day, and to hope each night for another just like it.

What began with Imbolg on February eve ends with Beltaine on May eve. Flowing through it are markers of emergence at St. Patrick’s Day, the Vernal equinox, and Easter.

No other season strings its message in such a way, from festival to festival, telegraphing the importance of the new, rising from the old.

Where are you at this time? In your day

and in your life? Long before a seedling pushes up, roots go down.

Underway somewhere, the circumstances of your life are growing near. Can you feel or see them? Where are your challenges, what is your hope?

In your marvelous body, how can you attune what you see without, with how you feel within?

In the Old World, April brought a lightening of days and a slightly more plentiful food supply. Chronic hunger remains part of the human condition. Hunger for food, safety, health, and stability.

Maturing but still quixotic, April offers time to change a step or two, plant a different seed – reap a different harvest.

By Beltaine, seed, thought, and effort entwine with life and love.

New in the old, hope in the cold. Onward to Beltaine.



A BLESSING OF SOLITUDE

May you recognize in your life the presence, power and light of your soul.

May you realize that you are never alone that your soul in its brightness and belonging connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe.

May you have respect for your own individuality and difference.

May you realize that the shape of your soul is unique,

that you have a special destiny here,

that behind the facade of your life there is something beautiful, good and eternal happening.

May you learn to see your self with the same delight, pride and expectation with which God sees you in every moment.

— By John O’Donohue
Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom

ABOUT THE ARTIST

THIS month’s featured cover artist is Amanda of Sacredpathart who primarily uses the medium of acrylic to produce images of Myth, Magick, Gods and Sacred Places. She is a self taught artist, who lives in Reading, England. For more information about Amanda, or to view more of her exquisite artwork, visit: <http://www.sacredpathart.com>.

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Tel: (604) 434-3747 • www.celtic-connection.com

Maura De Freitas - Publisher • E-Mail: maura@telus.net

Catholine Butler - Advertising • E-Mail: cbutler@telus.net

Colleen Carpenter • Copy Editor • Ainsley Baldwin • Ad Production

Distribution: Arlyn Lingat • Tom Butler • Allison Moore • Linda Robb • Kathy Griffin and Frank Dudfield in Surrey • Neville Thomas in Burnaby & Coquitlam • Eifion Williams in Burnaby & Coquitlam • Doug Medley in North Vancouver • Gabriel Clark in Coquitlam & Port Moody • Joanne Long in Mission • Bill Duncan in Maple Ridge • Nanci Spieker and Heather Murphy in Seattle • Oliver Grealish in Edmonton.

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Let the music keep your spirits high this spring



By
STEVE
EDGE

THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB

VANCOUVER – At the end of last month we thought St. James Hall was going to be sold to developers and we would lose not only The Rogue's "home" venue, but also all the other wonderful programs that take place there every week would be lost.

The Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra, Phoenix Gymnastics, St. James Daycare, Japanese Preschool, and all the other choirs and AA meetings and Contra Dances etc. would be homeless.

We organized a petition to rally local support and put pressure on the building owners and the city to save it. We are very pleased to report that it looks like the building will be saved!

However, there is a lot of fundraising required and a lot more effort is needed to persuade the city to help **St. James Community Square Society** to purchase the building.

The society has run the building at break-even for the past 21 years – with no operating funds from any level of government.

Now they / we must come up with a huge amount of money to keep the building and to preserve all those marvelous programs. We need your help. Please visit www.sjcommunitysquare.org to see how you can help save this amazing venue!

The big news for Celtic music fans is the impending concert by Co. Clare fiddler **Martin Hayes** and his guitar-toting buddy **Dennis Cahill** on Sunday, May 3 at St. James Hall in Kitsilano.

Many of you will have seen them in their new "supergroup," **The Gloaming**, at the Chan Centre in November.

Many more of you will have seen them at The Rogue down the years, dating back to Martin's first solo gigs in 1993.

In all, Martin has played 13 times at The Rogue since then! Most recently in 2012.

He was also at the Mission Folk Music Festival a couple of years ago with John Doyle and Kevin Crawford (in a trio called **The Teetotallers**. None of them drink!).

While recordings by **Hayes and Cahill** are rare as hen's teeth – just three since 1996 – they are both kept incredibly busy with other projects, including **Masters of Tradition** and **The Gloaming**.

There is something truly magical about Martin's music. Some of their pieces are rambling medleys of traditional tunes which start with a slow air or a moody



THE big news for Celtic music fans is the impending concert by Co. Clare fiddler Martin Hayes and his guitar-toting buddy Dennis Cahill on Sunday, May 3 at St. James Hall in Kitsilano.

slip jig and build in intensity and speed until they hit top gear in a blinding flash of reels, driven by Martin's pounding feet and illustrated by his flying curls as he conjures breathtakingly beautiful notes out of his fiddle.

Dennis propels the rhythms with the most tastefully understated yet supercharged guitar and mandolin chords and picking.

This is not your everyday Celtic music; this is more like a musical trip on hallucinogens or tantric sex or transcendental meditation!

Exhilarating and consciousness-altering music played by two of the most gifted musicians around.

To get you in the mood why not check out the local debut of the amazing sisters **Cassie & Maggie MacDonald** from Nova Scotia.

These young women have come on leaps and bounds since I first encountered them at a Folk Alliance Conference in Memphis a few years ago.

Their latest CD, *Sterling Road*, is quite wonderful, featuring some very spritely medleys of polkas, jigs and reels and a few songs in English and Gaelic.

Since its release last year they have gone into musical overdrive! Recent reports on their concerts are progressively more replete with praise. They perform at The Rogue on Friday, May 1.

Speaking of young innovators in Celtic music, I must say I thought **Goitse** were absolutely incredible last month!

There was a good crowd at St. James to witness their local debut, and it really showed them to be right at the forefront of Irish music.

If you don't believe me listen to their new CD, *Tall Tales & Misadventures*.

A few days earlier we saw the return of Donegal quintet **Altan** after around 10 years away. (I can't remember when they were last here; some time in the mid *noughties*. Their last Rogue show was in 1999!)

Instrumentally they were absolutely fabulous, with their twin fiddles and new accordionist Martin Tourish in especially fine fettle.

Vocally it seemed that **Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh** was struggling a bit, and

Daithi Sproule wasn't quite as convincing as is his norm.

Perhaps this was more to do with the sound system and / or operators at The Centennial. Apparently they were having problems with their monitors and there was some horrendous feedback in the first half.

Strange, because they tour with their own sound engineer and the theatre has a fabulous new sound system.

Anyhow, musically they were great, and the dancers were incredible! The turnout was OK, with the venue around half full.

With another 50 tickets sold we would have broken even. Disappointing to lose money on such a fine band with such a great new album, but that's life.

There are some great shows coming up. On Friday, April 10, **Pharis** and **Jason Romero** launch their new CD, *A Wanderer I'll Stay*, with a concert at St. James Hall.

Their music is a sumptuous blend of original songs in trad. style, Appalachian ballads and folk blues, and Old Time banjo tunes.

Their harmonies are simply gorgeous, and the songs are so atmospheric and mesmerizingly beautiful!

Pharis used to front a fabulous band from Victoria called **Outlaw Social**.

Now married to **Jason Romero**, one of the most in-demand banjo makers in the world, she lives in Horsefly, B.C.

Her sister, **Marin Patenaude**, will open for them. The show will very probably sell out, so get your tickets now!

Next up we have two quite different approaches to acoustic Blues. On Saturday, April 11 New York's **Guy Davis** plays a Rogue gig for the first time in six years.

This compelling singer and storyteller is the son of actors and civil rights activists **Ossie Davis & Ruby Dee**.

He has presented one-man shows on Broadway and has a string of superb albums to his name – most recently *Juba Dance* (Red House Records).

He was a big hit at last summer's Mission Folk Festival and travels around the world bringing his music and message to the people just about every day.



TWO amazing sisters Cassie & Maggie MacDonald from Nova Scotia have just released a new CD *Sterling Road*. It features some very spritely medleys of polkas, jigs and reels and a few songs in English and Gaelic. Since its release last year they have gone into musical overdrive and they perform at The Rogue on Friday, May 1.

While recordings by Hayes and Cahill are rare as hen's teeth – just three since 1996 – they are both kept incredibly busy with other projects, including Masters of Tradition and The Gloaming.

We are so happy to welcome him back to The Rogue!

On Sunday, April 19 Montreal's **Michael Jerome Browne** brings his new CD, *Sliding Delta* – an homage to the Blues legends of the 1920s and 1930s who inspired him to pursue a musical career when he was growing up in Quebec, the son of English professors at a local university.

Michael is a superb player on six and 12 string guitar – with and without slide. He is also a fine singer and songwriter and plays gourd banjo, Cajun fiddle and harmonica.

He is often seen accompanying his good friend **Eric Bibb** (who is also a long time musical partner of Guy Davis.)

Michael and Guy will deliver two of the finest Blues concerts you could ever wish to hear.

Tickets for all Rogue shows are on sale at Highlife Records, Prussin Music, Red Cat Records, Rufus' Guitar Shop and online at www.roguefolk.bc.ca.

April is a great month to be in Paris. Not everyone can manage to get there this month, so Paris is coming to Vancouver in April by way of the Rogue's 9th annual **April In Paris Festival of Gypsy Jazz**, Friday, April 24 to Sunday, April 26 at St. James Hall (3214 West 10th Avenue).

There are plenty of Celtic connections between gypsy jazz and the west coast acoustic music scene, notably fiddle players **Cam Wilson** (Mad Pudding)

and **Tom Neville** (Fear of Drinking) and flute / sax / harmonica "windgod" **Mark Dowding** (The Wheat In The Barley).

Cam Wilson will bring his amazing string quartet **Van Django** on the Sunday night, and will also guest with **Marc Atkinson** (The Bills) and his trio on the Saturday.

Mark Dowding and Tom Neville will perform with **Deanna Knight & The Hot Club Of Mars** on the opening night, which is the big cabaret / burlesque night with magicians and swing dancers and a chorus line – and a vivacious burlesque dancer – weaving in and out of the music provided by Deanna and the boys.

Parisian guitar goddess and singer **Christine Tassan** returns with the outstanding combo **Les Imposteures**, so named because gypsy jazz is a notoriously male-dominated genre, but these incredible women from Montreal are more than a match for any gypsy jazz combo on the planet!

Vancouver's **Company B Jazz Band** were such a big hit last year that we have invited them back for the Sunday show, which starts a little earlier than the usual start time (7 PM instead of 8 PM). Full details of the event can be found on www.roguefolk.bc.ca.

It's a great life if you don't weaken – and the music at The Rogue will definitely keep your pecker up as spring fills the air!

*Slainte,
Steve*

Tributes after Cynthia Lennon dies

LONDON – The surviving Beatles have paid tribute to John Lennon's first wife, Cynthia, who has died from cancer.

Her family said she died on April 1 at her home in Spain with her son Julian at her bedside. A message on Julian's website said the 75-year-old died "following a short but brave battle with cancer."

Born Cynthia Powell, in Blackpool, she met Lennon at art school in Liverpool in 1957 and the couple married just before Beatlemania transformed her husband from a jobbing musician into one of the most famous men in the world.

At the height of The Beatles' early success, she was kept so far in the background that many of Lennon's female fans were not even aware of her existence, and she stayed at home bringing up Julian while the Fab Four toured the world and topped the charts.

The couple divorced in 1968 after Cynthia discovered her husband's relationship with Japanese artist Yoko Ono.

Lennon's second wife, and widow, Ono, said in a statement, "I'm very saddened by Cynthia's death. She was a great person and a wonderful mother to Julian."



JULIAN LENNON was by his mother's bedside in Majorca, Spain when Cynthia Lennon passed away on April 1.

"The news of Cynthia's passing is very sad. She was a lovely lady who I've known since our early days together in Liverpool." – Paul McCartney

"She had such a strong zest for life and I felt proud how we two women stood firm in the Beatles family. Please join me in sending love and support to Julian at this very sad time. Love, Yoko."

Lennon's former bandmate, Sir Paul McCartney, said, "The news of Cynthia's passing is very sad. She was a lovely lady who I've known since our early days together in Liverpool."

"She was a good mother to Julian and will be missed by us all but I will always have great memories of our times together."

The Beatles' drummer, Ringo Starr, tweeted a message from him and his wife Barbara Bach, which read: "Peace and love to Julian Lennon God bless Cynthia love Ringo and Barbara xx."



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Saturday, APRIL 11
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Sunday, APRIL 19
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Friday, APRIL 24
April In Paris Cabaret / Burlesque
HOT CLUB OF MARS

April In Paris festival of gypsy jazz pt. 2&3

Saturday, APRIL 25
Christine Tassan & les Imposteures
Marc Atkinson Trio w/ Cam Wilson

Sunday, APRIL 26
Van Django, Company B Jazz and Christine Tassan & les Imposteures

Friday, MAY 1
Sisters of fiddle / piano from N.S.
CASSIE & MAGGIE

Sunday, MAY 3
Sublime Celtic fiddle / guitar duo
Martin HAYES & Dennis CAHILL

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



IRISH NEWCOMERS INFORMATION AND NETWORKING SEMINAR

When: Saturday, May 9, 2pm – 5pm

Where: BCIT Downtown campus, 555 Seymour St, Vancouver

Free seminar for all Irish Newcomers; learn from a HR consultant about job hunting, making your Irish CV into a Canadian resume, information interviews and tips for finding a job. Network with established members of the Irish community; make new friends and pick up other useful tips about settling in Vancouver.

Social gathering afterwards (venue TBA).

To register for this free seminar, go to:
www.surveymonkey.com/s/May9event

Sponsored by the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Program



NOTICE OF AGM

Notice is hereby given that the

Annual General Meeting

Of the CELTIC FEST VANCOUVER SOCIETY

Will be held on **Monday June 8, 2015**

At The Belmont

1006 Granville St. Vancouver (below Doolin's Irish Pub)

5:30 PM registration 6:00 PM Meeting to commence

We are looking for new Board members to help guide the direction of the annual CelticFest Vancouver event. Help us celebrate Celtic culture in Vancouver! Memberships are available at the door or on our website.

Nominations to the Board

Please contact Board Chair John Coughlan- john@celticfestvancouver.com

www.celticfestvancouver.com



The Buffalo Celtic Music Society
Proudly Presents a fundraiser for the

RCMP 'E' Division Pipes & Drums

Tartan Day Ceilidh

Saturday, April 25th 2015, 6:00 PM

Enjoy... Dinner, Dancing, Piping, Drumming,
Scotch Tasting and Silent Auction

Featuring: Shot of Scotch Highland Dancers

Location: Riverside Palace Banquet Hall, 14431 Knox Way, Richmond, BC

Tickets \$60

For Tickets and Information Contact Brent Jette: 604-308-1424

Dress: Formal, tartan encouraged
(wear your tartan kilt, tie, scarf or sash)



www.rcmppipeband.com

'The Sinclair Set': Fallen VPD Police Officer Remembered as a Gifted Piper and Drummer

It was an early December evening in 1955 when Vancouver police constable Gordon Sinclair finished his supper, kissed his family goodbye and began his regular evening shift patrolling the city.

A call came in to investigate suspicious men lurking in a back alley near West Third Avenue.

As it turned out, the two men were casing the area for a potential theft when Constable Sinclair showed up.

Within minutes of arriving, Sinclair was dead from two fatal gunshot wounds. A massive manhunt that lasted two months eventually snared the perpetrators, one of whom was hanged for pulling the trigger.

Gordon Sinclair was more than just a family man and Vancouver police officer. He was also a gifted and skilled bagpiper, teacher, drummer and a former president of the B.C. Piper's Association.

His daughters were Highland dancers and his son, now retired VPD Inspector Ian Sinclair, a piper.

Today, Gordon Sinclair is not only remembered by his colleagues in the VPD honour rolls, but also in a pipe tune written by well known VPD pipe sergeant and composer Jim McWilliams.

That two-part march is the opening tune of what the RCMP E. Division Pipe Band now calls its "Sinclair Set."

"In formulating our new pipe band medley, I came across a great tune written by Jim McWilliams, a former band colleague in the Vancouver Police Pipe Band," says RCMP E. Division Pipe Major Hugh Peden.

"The tune is very melodic and struck a

By MIKE CHISHOLM

nerve with me. As a police band, we honour both his sacrifice and his commitment to the pipe band world as president of the B.C. Piper's Association."

On Saturday, April 25, 2015, the RCMP E. Division Pipe Band, under Pipe Major Peden, a former VPD pipe sergeant himself, will open their 2015 Tartan Day Ceilidh medley set with the march *Constable Gordon Sinclair*.

It is one of a number of tunes that the pipe band has been practicing during the past several months as it prepares for its now annual spring concert.

On April 25, 2015, the Buffalo Celtic Music Society and the RCMP E. Division Pipe Band will present their annual Tartan Day concert/ceilidh at the Riverside Palace Banquet Hall, 14431 Knox Way in Richmond.

The event will showcase the music the band has been working on for the past year, along with old favourites familiar to most people.

The band will be led into the venue by Drum Major Mike Guillemin and joined by new lead drummer Sgt. Gregor Merry.

Also joining the band will be the Shot of Scotch Highland Dancers of Vancouver and other performers.

The evening begins at 6 PM with a silent auction and scotch tasting prior to a full meal and performances.



PHOTO: VPD Memorial: Saluting the Heroes

VPD Constable and gifted piper Gordon Sinclair was killed in the line of duty on December 7, 1955. He is memorialized in a pipe tune written by VPD pipe sergeant and composer Jim McWilliams. That two-part march of what the RCMP E. Division Pipe Band now calls its "Sinclair Set" is the opening tune at the annual Tartan Day concert/ceilidh on Saturday, April 25.

"Last year was our first Tartan Day event and it was a resounding success," says Tartan Day chair and tenor drummer Brent Jette.

"This year we intend to improve upon that with a great show, great dancing and music and of course, a fantastic meal. It's a great opportunity to dust off your kilt and tartan, don a plaid tie, scarf or sash, and celebrate with great

friends and music the tartans that are so unique to Scotland and those of Scottish ancestry."

International Tartan Day is recognized annually in April and is held to commemorate the repeal of the Act of Proscription of August 12, 1747.

The Act had a devastating effect on the Scottish community after the rebellion of 1745. It disarmed the Scots, forbade

them from wearing their clan tartan or "Highland clothing," banished the pipes and required school children to pray for the English king and royal family.

The Act was one of many draconian laws imposed on the Highlanders after an uprising against the English crown by the Jacobite clans under "Bonnie" Prince Charles Stuart, and the devastating defeat of the clans at Culloden Moor in 1746.

The imposition of the Act of Proscription was one reason for the collapse of the centuries old clan system in the Highlands which prompted huge waves of emigration from the Highlands over the next 100 years to the New World.

It took a while, but 230 years later, someone finally decided to celebrate the repeal of the Act.

One of the first Canadian Tartan Day events was held in Nova Scotia (New Scotland) in 1986 after descendants of Scottish Highland immigrants convinced the Nova Scotia Legislature to recognize April 6 as Tartan Day.

It has since spread around the world and is celebrated in many countries like the United States and Australia with a large Scottish Diaspora.

The Tartan Day ceilidh will also include collaboration on an Irish air, called *Inisheer*, with a fiddle and keyboard player.

The tune is a beautiful air that was originally played by the Scottish Youth Pipe Band and will be performed by the band for the first time. The event concludes with pipes, drums and the communal singing of *Flower of Scotland*.

Tickets to the Tartan Day ceilidh are \$60 and can be obtained by contacting Brent Jette, phone: (604) 308-1424 or e-mail: bjette@shaw.ca

Epic battle to star in Bonnie Prince Charlie film

EDINBURGH – The biggest battle scene ever shot in Scotland is to be the bloody centrepiece of a new movie about Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Dumfries and Galloway is to be the setting for the Battle of Culloden for the new £6.5 million film and the prince's subsequent flight to Skye.

Already actors Peter Mullan – the award-winning Peterhead-born star who appeared in *My Name is Joe*, *War Horse* and *Neds* – and Brendan Gleeson, who starred in *Braveheart*, *Gangs of New York* and the *Harry Potter* films – and won an Emmy Award in 2009 for his portrayal of Winston Churchill in the film *Into the Storm* – have been lined-up.

The part of Flora MacDonald, who helped the Young Pretender escape to Skye, has been offered to Kristen Stewart, who played Bella Swan in the internationally successful *Twilight* films.

The prince has not yet been cast.

Negotiations are continuing with the "Hollywood A-Listers" who have been earmarked for the key roles as well as that of Culloden victor the Duke of Cumberland.

Filming on *The Great Getaway* will

begin at the end of June with the battle scene involving more than 500 extras.

The Battle of Stirling Bridge which involved 2,000 extras in Braveheart was ironically filmed in Ireland.

Dumfries and Galloway has been chosen by producers of *The Great Getaway* because the topography resembles Culloden. The historic protected battlefield cannot be used for such a major re-enactment.

The battle will be constructed by Seoras Wallace, who shot to fame when he directed the fight scenes in *Braveheart*. He has worked on more than 100 major films including *Gladiator* and *Saving Private Ryan*.

The new film is the first major movie on Charles Edward Stuart since *Bonnie Prince Charlie*, the 1948 production starring David Niven and Margaret Leighton – legendary for its nightmarish shoot and catastrophic box-office takings.

The Great Getaway has been written by Glasgow-born Robbie Moffat (60), who said it will not be "anti-English in any way."

"Even the bad guys are Scottish. It was Scot against Scot. There will be no anti-English feeling or sentiment in the film,"

said Moffat, who has worked on 24 feature films, including *Red Rose*, about the life of poet Robert Burns.

"This film is more about being British – it was a civil war. It was about either being British or Jacobean. There's a lot of politics going on in the film. The British Empire started with Culloden and it was the battle that in the end united Britain."

He added, "I have had the idea of making this film for 15 years and have had it in development for three. I think this story has everything. It will have romance too."

"The fight scene will be the biggest ever shot in Scotland. It will be spectacular."

"The Prince is very much a spoilt brat initially who knows nothing about Scottish culture until after he goes native."

"The 1948 film was too sweeping in the story and more about romance. This will help correct some of the myths."

Scenes will also be shot in Skye and South Uist – the route followed by the fleeing Prince – as well as the remote Knoydart peninsula, the mountains where Bonnie Prince Charlie is supposed to have taken refuge after Culloden. Lewis will also be one of the locations.

The Skye Boat Song

"The Skye Boat Song" is a Scottish folk song, which can be played as a waltz, recalling the escape of Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) from Uist to the Isle of Skye after his defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

The song tells how Bonnie Prince Charlie, disguised as a serving maid, escaped in a small boat after the defeat of his Jacobite rising of 1745, with the aid of Flora MacDonald. The song is a traditional expression of Jacobitism and its story has also entered Scotland as a national legend.



TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR APRIL

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>What You Do With What You've Got</i> by Kristina & Quinn Bachand - <i>Little Hinges</i> on Independent. | 6. <i>Tired Of Your Tears</i> by Feufollet - <i>Two Universes</i> on Feufollet Records. |
| 2. <i>Length of Space</i> by Kila - <i>Suas Sios</i> on Kila Records. | 7. <i>The Tin Key</i> by Altan - <i>The Widening Gyre</i> on Compass. |
| 3. <i>Nunca Jamas</i> by The Paperboys - <i>At Peace With One's Ghosts</i> on Independent. | 8. <i>Ta Se na La</i> by Goitse - <i>Tall Tales & Misadventures</i> on Independent. |
| 4. <i>The Hunger & The Fight</i> by The Mahones - <i>The Hunger & The Fight</i> (Part 1) on Whiskey Devil Records. | 9. <i>Chasse-Galerie</i> by MAZ - <i>Chasse Galerie</i> on Independent. |
| 5. <i>Leaving of Liverpool</i> by Homeland - <i>That Show</i> on | 10. <i>The Ferryman</i> by Basco & DR Big Bad - <i>Live at DR Byen</i> on Go! Danish. |

Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:
Kristina & Quinn Bachand - Little Hinges (Independent)

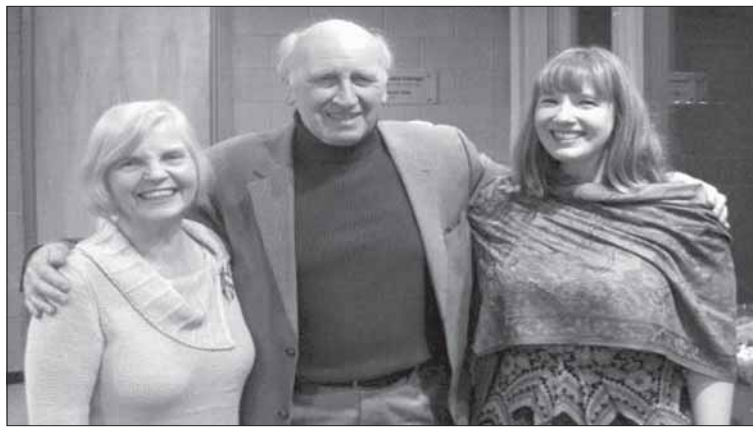
Two worlds connect at acclaimed Celtic Connections concert

VANCOUVER – The recent concert at the Chan Centre in Vancouver featuring Zakir Hussain's acclaimed Celtic Connections: The Pulse of the World project was especially meaningful for Donald and Wilma Paton of West Vancouver.

Appearing on the programme was the Scottish traditional fiddle player Patsy Reid whose home in Perth, Scotland is only a few steps away from Donald and Wilma's Scottish home.

Indeed Patsy, Donald and Wilma all performed on the same programme in January of this year at the Annual Dinner of the Perth Burns Club (one of Scotland's leading Burns Nights) when Patsy was the fiddler, Wilma was one of the singers and Donald gave a candlelit rendition of 'Tam o' Shanter'. See www.perthburnsclub.org.uk.

At the Vancouver concert, part of a two-week North American tour, the Chan Centre was filled to capacity as Zakir Hussain again displayed his masterful talent and showed why he is rec-



WILMA and Donald Paton with Patsy Reid at the recent Zakir Hussain's Celtic Connections concert at the Chan Centre in Vancouver.

ognized as one of the greatest musicians of our time and a classical tabla virtuoso of the highest order.

He was joined by Rakesh Chaurasia (bansuri player) and Ganesh Rajagopalan (Carnatic-style violinist) in an outstanding programme of Celtic and inter-cultural music.

In addition to Hussain, Chaurasia and Rajagopalan, the performance featured a wonderfully talented group of Celtic musicians.

Making their Chan Centre debuts, in addition to the aforementioned fiddle player Patsy Reid, were Ireland's famed John Joe Kelly (bodhran); fiddle player Charlie McKerron of the Scottish band Capercaillie; Scottish piper Fraser Fifield; Dublin guitarist Tony Byrne and French flautist Jean-Michel Veillon.

It was truly a performance which highlighted the distinctive percussive sounds of regions worlds apart, a mesmerizing collaboration between lively table beats and ethereal Celtic tunes.

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Welsh Society to hold annual spring sale at Cambrian Hall

By EIFION WILLIAMS

VANCOUVER – The Vancouver Welsh Society will hold its annual spring sale at the Cambrian Hall on Saturday, April 18 from 10 AM to 2 PM. This is one of the most successful fundraising events in the society's calendar.

Proceeds from the sale help defray the costs of maintaining the 87-year-old Cambrian Hall, a Grade 2 listed Vancouver heritage building.

The Welsh Society has faced increasing maintenance and repair costs to the building in recent years.

Last year, spring sale customers lined up outside the hall before the 10 AM opening and for the first hour the hall was packed with buyers, resulting in brisk sales.

The Cambrian Hall is located at 215 East 17th Avenue, just off Main Street, which has become a popular and trendy thoroughfare for Vancouverites, boasting a variety of boutiques, antique shops, cafes and vintage stores.

The Cambrian Hall's spring sale offers a convenient stopping place for the many shoppers on Main Street.

On the day of the sale, customers and visitors can enjoy home-made cakes and sandwiches in the tea room set up in the Cambrian's lower hall.

As in past sales, many potential customers first head to the homemade baking and preserves table where traditional Welsh fare such as *bara brith*, a loaf liberally infused with dried fruit, and the ever-popular Welsh cakes sell out quickly.



JANE BYRNE and Pat Morris serve at the baking and preserves table.



GILLIAN ROGERS is the main organizer of the annual spring sale.



Last year, spring sale customers lined up outside the hall before the 10 AM opening and for the first hour the hall was packed with buyers, resulting in brisk sales.

As an added touch, the ladies who bake and sell these items are dressed in traditional Welsh costume.

Other items for sale include collectibles, china, books, kitchenware, toys and electronic goods. The 'White Elephant' and 'Things Welsh' tables have also proved popular in past years.

During the sale there will also be a silent auction of goods valued over \$25.

Last year over 50 businesses and individuals donated items for the silent auction. Prospective buyers can place their written bids throughout the day of the sale.

Further information on how and when to donate items or contribute to the silent auction (items over \$25) can be obtained from Gillian Rogers at (604) 742-1378, or contact the Welsh Society's online at: www.welshsociety.com.



THE CAMBRIAN HALL has been home to the Vancouver Welsh Society since 1929.

A Warm Welcome at the Cambrian Hall

By EIFION WILLIAMS

VANCOUVER – A large gathering of members and guests enjoyed a pleasant social evening in the Cambrian Hall's Red Dragon Lounge on Friday evening, March 20.

The event was held to welcome new and potential members to the Vancouver Welsh Society.

A convivial mix of current members and visitors enjoyed socializing in a pub atmosphere with many vowing to return and participate in future society events.

A particularly gratifying aspect of the evening was the substantial number of young people in attendance, largely due to the efforts of society member Neville Thomas.

Neville has campaigned vigorously in favour of encouraging an infusion of younger members to assure the society's future. He introduced the visitors and ensured all were warmly received.

During the evening a video recording of the previous Saturday's Ireland-Wales international rugby game, which Wales won, was viewed with great enthusiasm by the many rugby enthusiasts present. (Their enthusiasm was no doubt dampened the following day when Ireland emerged as the Six Nations Champions).

Refreshments were served by the Welsh Society's social committee, led by Gillian Rogers, together with a very large welcoming cake donated by Jane Byrne.

Musical accompaniment throughout the evening was provided by Ray Batten, who attracted many of those present to sing some traditional Welsh tunes around the piano.

The next social event at the Red Dragon will be a trivia night in the near future. The society's trivia nights have proved popular in the past and guests are welcome to test their knowledge and win "fabulous" prizes.

Welsh Society member discovers family roots in Welsh settlement

By EIFION WILLIAMS

VANCOUVER – In recent years there has been a great upsurge in the number of people seeking to discover their family roots. A major reason for this increasingly popular pastime is that researching one's ancestry has become one of the more positive benefits of the Internet.

Vancouver Welsh Society member Lynn Owens-Whalen has used the Internet and other tools to search for her paternal roots on Canada's east coast.

In the process she has reminded us of the founding in New Brunswick of the Cardigan settlement, the first Welsh settlement in Canada.

Almost 50 years before the much celebrated 1865 voyage of the *Mimosa*, carrying 153 Welsh migrants to Patagonia, several groups of Welsh migrants sailed from the west coast of Wales to the east coast of what was

then British North America.

These immigrants braved the long and dangerous ocean crossing to an unknown land for basically the same reasons as those that motivated the people on the *Mimosa* – the dream and promise of owning their own land, the preservation of their language and culture and the freedom to practice their own dissenting religions.

Lynn Owens-Whalen has a special interest in the story of the Welsh immigration to the east coast as she believes that among them were several of her forebears. Lynn's paternal grandfather was born on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia.

In his book *Strangers from a Secret Land*, published in 1986, the late Peter Thomas, an English professor at the University of New Brunswick, documented the origins and destiny of the passengers on these little ships on their voyages from communities around the

Teifi Estuary in Wales to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Thomas describes them as "a little cluster of Welsh emigrant sailings from Cardigan and Carmarthen between 1817 and 1822."

Lynn was particularly interested in the voyage of the brig *Albion*. She found that among the many Welsh names listed in the passenger list was an Owens family that disembarked in Shelbourne, Nova Scotia in 1819.

Lynn surmises that this may very well explain her Owens family link with Wales.

Also during her research, Lynn discovered that a direct ancestor, Richard Owens, sailed from the port of Newport, Pembrokeshire in 1822, probably on another brig called *The Active*.

At the age of 14, along with many others, he jumped ship in Halifax and settled in Shelbourne, which later became



CARDIGAN in New Brunswick is the first Welsh settlement in Canada. It was founded in 1819.

known as Welshtown.

According to Peter Thomas, most immigrants on these ships sailed on to St. John and then up river to Fredericton and finally to what became known as the Cardigan settlement.

Last fall, Lynn and her husband Wilf decided to visit the Cardigan settlement. Following the road north from Fredericton they eventually arrived at a white clapboard chapel and a graveyard.

The names on the chapel grave stones and those in a church cemetery further along the road matched the names on the passenger list of the *Albion*.

She and Wilf then knew that they had found the Cardigan settlement. A plaque in the cemetery commemorates these settlers who established the first Welsh settlement in Canada.

By a fortunate coincidence, Lynn and Wilf happened to arrive at the chapel on one of the two days in the year when descendants of the Central New Brunswick Welsh community held a church service to celebrate their Welsh heritage.

Lynn and Wilf were delighted to be invited by members of the congregation to join a potluck dinner where they shared their Welsh roots with one another.

Summing up their visit to Cardigan, Lynn wrote, "After almost 200 years, we were a gathering of Canadian-born Welsh from coast-to-coast who, on this day, celebrated our Welsh roots together."

"And in finding Cardigan and its Welsh community we may very well have discovered more of our Owens roots too."

Fraudster conned his way out of UK prison

LONDON – A serial fraudster managed to con prison guards into letting him walk free from jail by sending them e-mails from the 'courts service' demanding his release.

Neil Moore (28) set up a fake website and sent e-mails purporting to be from the courts service to trick Wandsworth Prison into thinking he had been freed on bail by a judge.

However, the 'consummate and practiced' conman appeared to have a 'change of heart' just three days after his release and was re-arrested after informing his solicitor of his actions.

Moore was on remand at Wandsworth Prison in south west London, when he sent a letter to wardens posing as the court service.

In it he claimed that he had been granted bail, ensuring he was able to walk out of prison, London's Southwark Crown Court heard.

But according to Chloe Gardner defending, Moore had "a change of heart" around three or four days later. "He spoke to his instructed solicitor and surrendered himself."



NEIL MOORE walked out of Wandsworth Prison after faking a letter saying he had been released on bail.

Judge John Price said, "He does it and then regrets it – realizes it is a silly thing to do."

Moore had been on remand accused of five counts of fraud, before he made his escape.

He posed as bank staff from Barclays,

Lloyds and the Bank of America to dupe major organizations such as Cambia Autos and Thomas Global Exchange into handing over between £1.5 million and £2 million between February 2012 and November 2013.

Moore was remanded in custody in relation to these offences on January 21, 2014, but by March 10 had set up a website and corresponding e-mail account purporting to be the prison service.

Ian Paton, prosecuting, told London's Southwark Crown Court, "He acquired bail forms that he adapted for his purposes."

But within a week of his escape he was back before a judge remanded in custody and sent to a high security wing at Belmarsh Prison.

Detectives initially believed the frauds had been committed by Moore's transgender partner, Kristen Moore, and she was also charged with fraud, but the charges against her were later dropped.

Free movement between Commonwealth Countries

VANCOUVER – James Skinner is the founder and executive director of the Commonwealth Freedom of Movement Organization.

He is calling on politicians in Canada, the U.K., Australia and New Zealand to loosen restrictions on visas and work permits between the four countries.

Skinner says citizens within the European Union can work and reside indefinitely in each of the 28 member states, and a similar policy occurs between Australia and New Zealand.

There's no reason why something similar can't happen between Canada, the U.K., Australia and New Zealand, he argued.

When Skinner moved from the UK to Australia, he fell in love with Melbourne, landed a great job, met a great group of friends, settled down in his new home – only to leave because permanent residency was much harder to obtain than he anticipated.

Skinner fears the same experience could happen again. "We are virtually the same people," he told Rick Cluff of *The Early Edition* on CBC radio, referring to countries within the Commonwealth. "The only thing that divides us is the cover of our passports.

Tartan Pride Host Annual Celtic Ceilidh Night

SURREY, BC – Tartan Pride Highland Dance Team will host their annual Celtic Ceilidh Night on Saturday, April 25 at the Cloverdale Catholic Parish Hall in Surrey.

After a short concert with the Joan Murray dancers, everyone is invited to sing and dance along to the rousing music of Blackthorn and special guests the Vancouver Police Pipe Band. There are games, door prizes, silent auction, bar and concession.

Tickets are \$10 and \$15. For more information, call (604) 576-1619 or (604) 513-8407. E-mail tpride@shaw.ca or info@tartanpride.ca.

UK election guidelines in case of hung parliament

LONDON – Following the General Election of May 2010, the United Kingdom found itself with its first hung parliament since 1974.

This result was widely expected, but also feared across the political establishment, the media and the wider public as having the potential to lead to political and economic chaos.

How to transition to a stable government, in a country with little recent experience of hung parliaments was unclear.

Now, the Political and Constitution reform committee has recommended Whitehall should urgently set out the constitutional principles over which leader holds the key to Number 10 if no party wins an overall majority at the May 2015 general election.

The Cabinet manual, which sets out the "rules of the game," must address the convention that the need for a prime minister to be in place at all times is "unambiguous," the Political and Constitutional Reform committee insisted.

Labour's Gordon Brown ordered the document to be drawn up in the months before the 2010 poll as civil servants turned their attentions to how to respond if a coalition had to be formed.

In the days after the result, the former prime minister found himself branded a "squatter" when he remained in office as the parties held talks to strike a deal.

Since then the draft Cabinet manual has been refined but MPs called for more revisions to be made.

Committee chairman Graham Allen said, "We are aware that there is very little understanding of what the Cabinet manual is or does, but it actually performs a central constitutional function in our democracy. As such, the public should be better informed about it and it should be improved to fulfil this role better."

The manual also deals with wider constitutional issues, such as the decision to go to war, and acknowledges that a "convention had developed in parliament that before troops were committed the House of Commons should have an opportunity to debate the matter."

But the committee said the document must go further to "fully and unambiguously reflect the scope of uncertainty over the use of the convention."



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Pipers in the Sand: My Extraordinary Experience as an Ex-Pat in the Desert

KLOWNA, BC – In 1971 after I'd left the British Royal Air Force, I joined an aviation company in Britain. The next year I was asked if I would be interested in a contract in Abu Dhabi in what is now the United Arab Emirates.

Abu Dhabi in 1972 was nothing like the luxurious splendor that exists there today. There were very few roads, paved or otherwise, only one hotel, and a *souk* (market). In the height of summer there were long power outages.

The only entertainment was provided by the various ex-pat camps on the island. Very few ex-pat families lived there.

During my time there I made friends with John, a staff sergeant in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME), British Army, seconded to the Trucial Oman Scouts, who was based at Fort Al-Jahili, Buraimi Oasis, 120 kilometres (74 miles) south of Abu Dhabi.

John looked after the army's vehicles along with a British major who ran the infantry training. John invited me and a few friends to come and spend the weekend.

In Abu Dhabi the Muslim weekend consisted of Thursday afternoon and Friday. He advised that we would need a Land Rover or Toyota Land Cruiser to get to the fort.

I talked to a few friends and the four of us arranged a weekend out with John.

On arriving at the fort, we thought we were back in Algeria at the Beau Geste Fort (PC Wren's story of three brothers joining the French Foreign Legion), and we expected at any minute to see Gary Cooper appear at the gate in his legion uniform.

It was a beautiful old fort that was built in 1891 to protect the Oasis' precious palm groves. John took us in and showed us around; it was quite a place and he did have a big supply of cold beer in the fridge.

The ex-pats could get alcohol from a special liquor store with the correct permit but locals were not allowed alcohol and woe-be-tide any ex-pat caught selling it to the locals. We had a good evening with a few other ex-pats joining us.

They lived in the town of El Ain and were eager to meet any new face.

I do remember late in the evening all of us sitting out in the desert looking up at the clear starlit sky and singing *Hey Jude* at the top of our voices along with the Beatles.

The desert is an amazing place at night.

John had a large collection of military 4x4s and trail bikes in his charge that were used for moving army patrols around the desert during the week.

We loaded up a cooler of cold beer, crash hats, goggles, and water and off we went.

John took us to see some of the archaeological ruins dating back 4,000 years and to an interesting natural mineral spring which led to the *aflaj*, an ancient underground water system that irrigates the oasis and surrounding farms.

By DOUG GRANT

The underground water system dates back to 500 A.D. but it is thought that there are ones in very arid areas that may date from 2,500 B.C. This system runs anything from ground level to 65 or 200 feet below in channels into deep caves.

We left the oasis and headed out into the desert – luckily John knew his way around because taking a wrong turning could have sent us into the Empty Quarter.

This runs down through Saudi Arabia to the Dhofar region of southern Oman, a distance of about 1,200 kilometers (770 miles).

We set off into the desert to try the bikes in the sand dunes which created quite a few spills, luckily on soft sand, and then it was time to stop for a drink and bite to eat.

Laying there in the peace and tranquility of the desert a sound on the wind caught my ears.

I turned around to the others and said, "You are not going to believe this, but I can hear bagpipes."

They responded as you would expect, "Oh sure Doug, and we can hear Big Ben chiming away in London."

"No listen very carefully," and sure enough the distinct thump of a bass drum and bagpipes could be heard somewhere in the distance.

John told us that there was an Abu Dhabi Defence Force (ADDF) camp about two miles away, so we set off following John.

We came over a ridge and there below us was an army camp and on the parade square was a pipe band marching up and down.

We drove to the gate entrance and once John had shown his military ID the guards let us past the barrier.

We went over to the square and watched as the band did counter-marches, playing old favourites like *Heiland Laddie*, *Bonnie Dundee*, *Cock of the North*, *Skye Boat*, and a few unrecognizable tunes which were probably local compositions.

You could tell that their bagpipes were made in Pakistan because of the distinctly higher pitch compared to the Scottish pipes. After about 10 minutes they stopped for a break so I thought I would go over and introduce myself.

Their pipe major told me that each piper had been a pipe major in a Pakistani army regimental band and was retired.

In 1971 Sheikh Zaid, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, decided that he wanted a pipe band in the Defence Force.

Colonel David Murray, who had commanded the Queen's Own Cameron Highlander until its amalgamation with the Seaforth in 1961 to become the



AN ILLUSTRATION by British military and wildlife artist, David Shepard, and shows the front of Jahili Fort at Buraimi Oasis. It depicts the last camel corps patrol with three armed Trucial Oman Scouts on their camels looking across at a Land Rover.

Queen's Own Highlanders*, commanded the training regiment of the ADDF.

On retiring from the British Army, he was very prominent in the piping circles both in Scotland and overseas. An accomplished piper, he had judged many solo piping competitions as well as pipe bands.

Abu Dhabi had strong ties with Pakistan and Colonel Murray knew that the country would be a good source of retired ex-army pipers, so he went on a recruiting drive coming up with a pipe band whose pipers were all well accomplished.

Some of these pipers had attended a short pipe majors' course at Edinburgh Castle in the Fifties and Sixties under Captain John McLellan, MBE, who was head of the Army School of Bagpipe music from 1959 until 1977.

He had taken over from the great piper, Willie Ross who had founded the school in 1919 and ran it until his retirement in 1958.

One of the older pipers told me that he had also taken Pibroch (Ceol Mar) instruction from Willie Ross in the early 1950s. I had a grand time talking to these gentlemen and could have spent all day with them listening to their stories.

I did some research recently and found that the Pakistan Army has a piping school in Abbottabad in northern Pakistan.

This was the city where a notorious person lived until a few years ago but he clearly wasn't interested in the bagpipes.

The school run courses for pipers, drummers, and drum majors. The pipe major's course is 21 weeks and they have had British Army pipe majors seconded for a year to help with the organization.

The Pakistani Army holds a pipe band competition in Lahore with as many as 28 bands participating each year.

The Queen's Own Highlanders individual piping trophy and the Duke of Edinburgh's pipe band trophy are awarded annually.

The judges are flown out from the UK and are usually senior pipe majors and drum majors from the Royal Regiments of Scotland.

I never thought that I would hear the

sound of the pipes in the middle of the desert or that I would meet such interesting pipers.

I still have a print given to me by John when he returned to the UK. It's by a British military and wildlife artist, David Shepard, and shows the front of Jahili Fort at Buraimi Oasis.

It depicts the last camel corps patrol with three armed Trucial Oman Scouts on their camels looking across at a Land Rover.

I also have the red and white chequered *shemagh* (head dress) with the Trucial Oman Scout's regimental badge of crossed *jambiyas* (Arab daggers).

I feel quite privileged having had the opportunity of staying in this magnificent fort. According to the website, it has been totally renovated and does not look like the fort I stayed in 44 years ago.

[*Note: The Delta Police Pipe Band played at the Edinburgh Tattoo in 1994 when the Queen's Own amalgamated with the Gordons to become the Highlanders and today is known as the Highlanders 4th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.]



HIGHLAND dancers compete at the annual BC Highland Games held in Coquitlam, B.C. The date this year date is June 20.

B.C.'s largest celebration of Scottish culture

By MIKE CHISHOLM

COQUITLAM – Planning for B.C.'s largest and most colourful Scottish Highland Games and festival in June is well underway.

The B.C. Highland Games and Scottish Festival is an opportunity to celebrate Scottish and Celtic culture in British Columbia and to commemorate great Scottish individuals who have played a pivotal role in the history of British Columbia.

From explorers Simon Fraser and David Thompson to first governor James Douglas and Vancouver's first mayor, Malcolm Alexander MacLean, Scots have been a major influence on the province, providing political, religious, musical and business leaders for centuries.

This year, Simon Fraser University celebrates its 50th anniversary at the Highland Games, with special events on the field, in the cultural tent and even a special beer to commemorate the occasion.

New events include non-competitive band performances from the Vancouver Police Pipe Band, the Irish Regiment of Canada, and the RCMP E.

Division Pipe Band.

Tossing the caber, Highland dancing, playing strathspeys and reels on the bagpipes, tasting great whisky, enjoying the camaraderie of the beer garden and engaging children with special events are just some of the activities at the B.C. Highland Games.

An all-day family event, the B.C. Highland Games conclude with the stirring sounds of the largest massed pipe band performance in British Columbia, a competition between two of the best pipe bands in the world today, and a grand finale showcasing some of the best Scottish entertainment in the province.

Access is easy via Skytrain and bus, with plenty of free parking at the Coquitlam Mall and a free shuttle to the B.C. Highland Games field. Gates open at 9 AM.

The B.C. Highland Games and Scottish Festival will be held on Saturday, June 20 at the Percy Parry Stadium in Coquitlam.

More information is available on the festival website: <http://bchighlandgames.com>.

Revived interest in Boswell in his homeland



DINBURGH – James Boswell's name isn't on many 'top ten famous Scots' lists. Perhaps that is not surprising with competition like Watt, Hume, Bell, Smith and Carnegie.

More surprising is the fact that he doesn't always appear on lists of great Scottish literary figures either. He's not only eclipsed by Burns and Scott but also modern Scottish writers like Ian Rankin and Alexander McCall Smith.

And yet Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson*, in which he faithfully records the wisdom and foibles of the great writer, poet and lexicographer, is generally regarded as the greatest biography written in English.

In recent years, however, there are signs of renewed interest in Boswell. One of these is the Boswell Book Festival which started five years ago.

"The World's Only Festival of Biography and Memoir" is the brainchild of the Boswell Trust whose trustees include Margaret Boswell Elliott, a direct descendent of the great man.

The festival was previously held in the grounds of Auchinleck House in Ayrshire which was Boswell's childhood home, but it proved so popular that it is moving to nearby Dumfries House to accommodate more sessions and larger crowds.

The success of the festival has been matched by the publication of an increasing number of books about Boswell, the most recent being *Boswell's Enlightenment* by American academic Robert Zaretsky.

Zaretsky's book initially sounds rather high brow as he intends to "trace one particular aspect to the Scots life: his struggle with the great questions dealing with the sense and ends of life brought into being by the Enlightenment."

However, any worries about Zaretsky drying out Boswell are assuaged by a colourful prologue when the author follows young James and his friend William Temple down Edinburgh's High Street.

The invisible companion is a device much favoured by American academics when describing Eighteenth Century Edinburgh and Zaretsky uses it to fall



By
**HARRY
McGRATH**



PAINTING of James Boswell of Auchinleck [1785] by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

in step with the two young men and describe the tumult that was Scotland's capital: sellers and sewage, cathedral and tenements, Kirk and brothels.

Boswell and Temple are on their way to ascend Arthur's Seat where, on reaching the summit, they yell "Voltaire, Rousseau, immortal names!"

Boswell is clearly in a state of high excitement but this is only one of several examples of his use of spontaneous declamation.

On approaching London for the first time, for instance, he surprised his fellow travellers in the stagecoach by loudly expressing his pleasure.

In Utrecht, however, he "went out to the streets and even in public could not

refrain from groaning and weeping bitterly." Even when crying out, Boswell dealt in extremes.

Zaretsky reminds us what a piece of work Boswell was; a natural subject for modern psychoanalysis.

His father, Lord Auchinleck didn't rate him, objecting to his incessant journaling in particular and his mother was prone to mollycoddling and strict Calvinistic doctrine in equal measure.

The son they raised was a welter of contradictions: vain and self-doubting; restrained and debauched; high spirited and prone to debilitating melancholy; physically courageous and terrified of ghosts. This, of course, is why he is so fascinating.

Boswell's contact with great men was not restricted to Johnson or to yelling names from the top of Arthur's Seat.

On his grand tour of Europe, which Zaretsky examines in detail, he met Voltaire, Rousseau, Hume, Wilkes, the Corsican freedom-fighter Paoli and others.

Whenever possible he made copious notes on their appearance, personal characteristics and conversations.

It was Johnson who inspired him to self-improvement through journalizing (his father was, an improver of a different order who, when Boswell was in Utrecht, wanted "to be informed of the method by which they [the Dutch] keep their cows so clean").

Johnson also instructed his young friend on the task of the biographer which, he believed, is to lead the reader's mind "into domestic privacies and minute details of daily life." It was advice that Boswell put to good use even before he employed it on his mentor.

The secret of Boswell's remarkable access to great men is difficult to pin down. His explanation was that "I have the art to be easy and chatty" but there is surely more to it than that.

He declared on several occasions, that he was "no bigot" as far as religion was concerned (Boswell was drawn to Roman Catholicism much to his father's horror) and he was liberal in his approaches to men of contending ideas.

This was a stark contrast to his mentor Johnson who hated the very idea of Wilkes and considered that Rousseau and Voltaire were indistinguishable in their iniquity.

One thing that Boswell and Johnson had in common was the black dog of depression which, in turn, was fuelled by a mutual fear of death or "annihilation."

Zaretsky's book leaves Boswell after the death of David Hume in Edinburgh when he [Boswell] "drank himself nearly blind ... and took a prostitute to the top of Castle Hill."

Boswell had previously visited the cancer-stricken Hume in the hope that he would renounce his scepticism in the face of death, but the philosopher confounded him with his good cheer.

Boswell himself would die at 54, reduced by the long term effects of gonorrhoea and drinking.

But by then this romantic, rational, sceptical, believer had already ensured his own immortality. Not bad for someone that Horace Walpole once dismissed as "the quintessence of busybodies."

This year's Boswell Book Festival takes place May 8-10.

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AND NEIL CONNELLY



DAVID AND PATRICK GALLAGHER
WITH UNCLE SHAUN HARLEY



MIKE COUGHLAN, DAVID ROWLEY, DIANNE O BYRNE
AND SEAMUS TRACY



ULTAN PETERS
AND DAUGHTER AOIFE



JEN AND MATHEW MARTIN WITH PATTI BELL

Edmonton's Irish Centre celebrates St. Patrick

By **BILL MORRIS**

EDMONTON – The Edmonton Irish Centre was a green hive of activity around the St. Patrick's Day weekend.

On Saturday, March 14, their annual St. Patrick's dinner and dance was held.

The full house were treated to a double tonic of Irish dancing with spectacular performances by the Knock and Matterin dancers, many of whom were heading to compete in the World Championships in Montreal.

A delicious meal was followed by dance music until the wee hours, supplied by The Celts.

On Sunday, March 15, an open house again saw a capacity crowd of all ages, who enjoyed the music of new local

group Grace O Malley and some more spectacular dancing.

It was a great opportunity for young and old to get together and enjoy their heritage.

On Tuesday, March 17, the day began with Irish breakfast and Gaelic games.

Throughout the day the centre saw a steady stream of people who just wanted to be among the Irish on this special day.

The president of the Irish Club, Martin Doyle, said it was a special day for the Irish, but it was also a day when all Canadians were invited to enjoy the hospitality and friendship of the Irish community.

There was a full day of entertainment from artists Peter Kelly, Brian Maxwell,

Rinnce Mahony dancers, and once again, as they so generously do every year, the Knock and Matterin dancers made the day a complete cultural experience.

The ever-popular group The Chancers rounded out the entertainment for the evening with their rousing and cheerful repertoire.

The busy month ended with the Rose of Tralee selection on March 28, and the following day with the selection of a new executive at the AGM.

April offers a quieter schedule, and time to recover from a hectic month.

On May 6 the Irish Centre is proud to feature in concert Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill. An evening of top class traditional music, not to be missed.



THE NEW Western Canada Rose Cassandra Sampson (L) with 2014 Rose Catharine Joyce (R).

Double Western Canada Rose Win for Fort McMurray

By **BILL MORRIS**

EDMONTON – For the second year running, a Fort McMurray girl has been chosen as the Western Canada Rose for the 2015 Rose of Tralee Festival.

This year, 26-year-old Cassandra Sampson was selected at the Edmonton Irish Centre on Saturday, March 28.

Cassandra is a Bachelor of Arts Psychology graduate from the University of Alberta. She also holds a diploma in physical/occupational therapy and works as an injury prevention educator.

Last year's Rose, Catharine Joyce, also from Fort McMurray, was proud to present the winner's sash to her former schoolmate.

Cassandra will now go forward to the regional selection in Portlaoise on May 31 and, if successful, will represent Western Canada in Tralee on August 17 and 18.

Addressing the large crowd, Catharine said her year as 2014 Rose was an unforgettable experience that has forever enhanced her life.

She thanked everyone at the Irish Centre, the past Roses, Moira Quirke, her family and friends for their tremendous support.

Cassandra is active in running, yoga and recreational sports, and intends to hike

the West Coast Trail this summer.

"I'm excited and humbled to be selected Western Canada Rose, and being involved has already provided me with a more in depth understanding of my family and their history."

She was inspired by the successful young women she met at the event in Edmonton and is looking forward to meeting some more remarkable young women in Portlaoise.

Cassandra is also looking into possibly researching her 'Malone', 'O'Brien' and 'Bruce' ancestors, and her ties to Kilfinnane Co. Limerick.

"I have only been the 2015 Western Canada Rose for a short period of time, but I have already met such a lovely and encouraging bunch of people.

"I can't wait to represent our beautiful country and our breathtaking western provinces in Ireland."

Cassandra is the ninth Rose selected to represent Western Canada, and plans will soon be under way planning the 10th anniversary event. All eligible young ladies are encouraged to get involved in what could be a great experience.

For more information, visit the official Rose of Tralee website at www.roseoftralee.ie. Alternatively, call the Irish Sports and Social Society at (780) 453-2249, or Moira Quirke at (780) 918-6331 or e-mail: moira.quirke@gmail.com.



GARY O BRIEN, MIKE QUIRKE AND RAY HAMILTON



SEAMUS DONAGHY



MURRAY CONNOR, BERNIE DEVEREUX AND SUSAN MCKENNA



JESSICA BELL AND CHRIS NIXON



UNA BRADY, JENNIFER DE FORREST, LINDA INGRAM AND DON LECKY



ANITA NIXON AND FRIEND

Landlord takes out an ad over lack of support

DONEGAL – A pub landlord has caused outcry in a seaside village after publicly slating locals who failed to drink in his bar.

William Flood took out an advert in his local newspaper thanking customers for not drinking in his pub, Big Paddys.

The bar opened 18 months ago in Rathmullan in Co. Donegal. However, the bar was forced to close its doors recently because of a lack of trade.

Flood, who leased the premises, was so incensed at the failure of the business that he decided to get it off his chest. So he contacted the Tirconail Tribune newspaper and paid for an advert of a very different kind.

Instead of thanking his customers for

their business, he thanked them for not coming through the doors.

The advert read "Big Paddy's Bar has closed its doors. I would like to take this time and personally thank the people of Rathmullan for supporting me in this venture over the last 18 months NOT!! Thanks."

Locals have been left bemused by the advert and the sudden closure of the bar.

One said, "I was in it a couple of times but I don't go out a lot these days and I don't think most people do.

"I'm sorry his business has failed but I don't think he can slag off an entire village because they choose not to drink in his bar."

Ceremonies in Dublin to mark 99th anniversary of the Easter Rising

DUBLIN – Ceremonies to mark the 99th anniversary of the Easter Rising took place around the country on April 5.

It was on Easter Monday, April 24, 1916, when Padraic Pearse stepped outside the General Post Office, headquarters of the Rising, to read the Proclamation of the Irish Republic.

After six days of fighting, heavy civilian casualties and great destruction of property, Pearse finally issued the order to surrender.

Pearse and 14 other leaders, including his brother Willie, were court-martialled and executed by firing squad.

Thomas Clarke, Thomas MacDonagh and Pearse himself were the first of the rebels to be executed, on the morning of May 3, 1916.

Pearse was 36 years old at the time of his death.

Roger Casement, who had tried unsuccessfully to recruit an insurgent force among Irish-born prisoners of war from the Irish Brigade in Germany, was hanged in London the following August.

Following his execution, Pearse came to be seen by many as the embodiment of the rebellion.

The ceremony in Dublin to mark the 99th anniversary of the Rising was attended by President Michael D. Higgins, Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Minister for Defence Simon Coveney.

Earlier in the day, wreaths were laid by Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys, and British Ambassador Dominick Chilcott at Glasnevin Cemetery.



COMMEMORATION celebrations for the 1916 Rising were held in Dublin on Sunday, April 5 as President Michael D. Higgins led a ceremony on O'Connell street.

CEO of Glasnevin Cemetery George McCullagh said several countries were represented at the event – the French ambassador because of their connection to the tricolour, and the British ambassador because of the history between the two countries.

Members of the Defence Forces paraded through Dublin in the country's centrepiece event marking the anniversary of the Rising.

The parade went from Dublin Castle to the GPO, where the tricolour was lowered and President Higgins laid a wreath. A minutes silence was also observed to remember those who died in the Rising.

Speaking in Fermanagh at an Easter 1916 Commemoration Gerry Adams said, "Ireland today needs another Rising – a peaceful rising to take control of the ideals of the Proclamation and to put them into practice."

"Partition has retarded and distorted the political, social and economic life of this island. But politics in both parts of this island is now in flux."

"The message of the Proclamation, the symbolism of our national flag and the challenge for republicans today is to unite Orange and Green in equality and mutual respect."

"I would appeal directly to working class unionists and loyalists to examine the economic and social price now being paid for the union."

"Austerity policies imposed by an Eton-educated English elite is no more in the interests of people of the Shankill Road than it is for residents of the Bogside."

"I believe next year's Centenary events should be a catalyst for a national conversation on these issues," he said.

For more information, see the official Ireland 2016 website at: <http://ireland.ie>.



THE HONOURABLE Rob Nicholson (R), Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charles Flanagan (L). The two ministers met in Toronto to discuss bilateral relations and to officially launch the James M. Flaherty Scholarship Program.

Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs meets with his Irish counterpart

TORONTO – During the St. Patrick's Day global outreach initiative, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charles Flanagan met with Rob Nicholson, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs on March 13.

The meeting was aimed at bolstering commercial relations between the two countries and this was Minister Flanagan's first official visit to Canada.

The two ministers discussed a number of topics of mutual interest, including the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, the threats posed by the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, Russia's provocations in Ukraine and the nuclear threat posed by Iran.

The ministers also announced the establishment of an educational scholarship program, developed by the Irish and Canadian Governments in partnership with the Ireland Canada University Foundation, to support an academic exchange between the two countries.

The James M. Flaherty Scholarship Program was named in honour of the late Jim Flaherty, Canada's minister of finance from 2006 to 2014, in recognition of his considerable work in supporting Canada's relations with Ireland during his lifetime.

Canada and Ireland share deep historical ties, with over 4.5 million Canadians claiming Irish heritage.

In recent years, there has been a growing dialogue and increased co-operation and sharing of best practices between the two countries on development assistance, education, parliamentary reform, health care and other social and economic policies.



The James M. Flaherty Scholarship Program is a premier international exchange program developed by the Irish and Canadian Governments in partnership with the Ireland Canada University Foundation.

The James M. Flaherty Scholarship Program is a premier international exchange program, designed to stimulate and support educational exchange and partnership between Canada and Ireland at the highest level of academia.

Canada has committed \$150,000 annually for five years, while the Government of Ireland has committed EU100,000 annually for three years, with the option of extending funding for the fourth and fifth years, in order to make this scholarship available.

A centrepiece of the James M. Flaherty Scholarship Program will be a high-profile annual lecture, to be given in Ireland by a leading figure in the Irish-Canadian field.

The speakers, selected in conjunction with Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD), will speak on a subject of interest to both countries.

Liam Neeson to narrate TV series to mark centenary of Easter Rising

ACTOR Liam Neeson will narrate a new three-part documentary television series, produced by the University of Notre Dame's Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising.

Directed by Pat Collins and written by Professor of Irish Studies at Notre Dame Briona Nic Dhiarmada, 1916: *The Irish Rebellion* will follow a chronological narrative while presenting the historical, political and cultural events of the uprising and the new and lasting relationships among the United States, Ireland and Britain that it brought about.

Airing on American Public Television (APT) in the United States and Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ) and the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) in Ireland, the series also is intended to air on other broadcasters in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, India, Canada and Europe.

A 70-minute film version of "1916" will be screened globally to the world's Irish embassies during the centenary celebrations as part of the Irish Government's outreach to the 70 million people of the Irish diaspora.

According to Christopher Fox, director of the Keough-Naughton Institute, "1916" is an unprecedented attempt to present the Easter Rising as a pivotal event in world history before a global audience.



LIAM NEESON in the 1996 biopic film *Michael Collins* which was written and directed by Neil Jordan.

"We have the unique talent, expertise and connections with scholars worldwide to tell this story in a way it has not been told," Fox said. "For more than 20 years, the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies has been bringing Ireland to Notre Dame and Notre Dame to Ireland. This project allows us to bring Ireland to the world."

"1916" will be featured in a series of international academic events sponsored by Notre Dame in cooperation with Irish embassies and consular services during Ireland's centenary celebration. Collectively titled *Reframing 1916*, the series will bring several Notre Dame faculty to speak at universities

worldwide, screening and discussing the documentary.

"We look forward to being an integral partner in Ireland's celebration of the centenary," Fox said. "With the world's leading program of Irish studies, and Notre Dame's global recognitions and networks, we can help Ireland reach and educate her diaspora."

Neeson is originally from Northern Ireland. The 62-year-old actor has a past associated with the portrayal of Irish history in the media as he starred as the Republican leader Michael Collins in the 1996 historical biopic of the same name.

Planning Underway in Vancouver for 1916 Centenary Celebrations

VANCOUVER – A small group recently gathered in downtown Vancouver to discuss how to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising as members of the Irish diaspora.

At the inaugural meeting, John Coughlan, Bernard Ward, George McDonnell and Pat Chessell discussed possible venues and events such as sporting activities, Irish music and dance, and a reading of the Proclamation of the Republic of Ireland.

Bernard Ward said, "If it wasn't for the men and women of 1916, we wouldn't have the right to vote, to own property or even the right to speak. We need to plan a cultural event for this celebration."

John Coughlan said, "we need to set-up committees and we need a secretary."

The group was in agreement, and George McDonnell said, "there are no naysayers here, everyone wants to see it go."



PAT CHESSELL, John Coughlan, Bernard Ward and George McDonnell are on the planning committee for the 1916 Rising commemorations in Vancouver.

Pat Chessell spoke about an album recorded by Danny Doyle which has a lot of the songs on it about the 1916 Rising. He said it would be a good reference point for music for the planned celebration.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting planned for April 21. For more information, or to help in any capacity call Bernard Ward at (604) 929-7607 or e-mail: bernardward@shaw.ca.

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April 29 – Western Canada Rose fundraiser - Party Lite Candle party @ 7:00 pm
May 6 – Martin Hayes & Dennis Cahill in concert - tx's early bird \$25 until April 18th, after that \$30 – call the club
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IRISH IN VANCOUVER

Welcoming Irish Newcomers on May 9

By MAIREAD FOLEY

VANCOUVER – Organizers with Irish in Vancouver are pleased to announce the date for their next Irish newcomers information and networking seminar – Saturday, May 9.

Sponsored by the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Program, this seminar provides advice to Irish newcomers on job hunting, preparing resumes and information interviews as well as information about networking and settling into Vancouver.

On the day there will be some established members of the Irish community in attendance to provide advice and connections for the newcomers.

These events have been very popular in the past and organizers have received some very positive feedback from previous attendees.

Among the comments are: "the presentation on resume tips was extremely helpful," "the atmosphere was so relaxed and friendly," "very helpful and practical information about job hunting, as well as hearing stories from others who have come to Canada and what they learned along the way."

The event will take place at BCIT

Downtown campus, 555 Seymour Street from 2 to 5 PM. Following the seminar, there is usually a social gathering in a pub close by so that more informal networking can take place!

An outline of the afternoon will be posted closer to the day on the Irish in Vancouver Facebook event page. For a link, see: www.irishinvanancouver.com/whats-on.html.

All Irish newcomers are welcome to attend this event – please register at www.surveymonkey.com/s/May9event.

Registration is vital not only for space but so organizers can do their best to link you up with others from the same profession or line of work.

All members of the Irish community are invited and encouraged to attend the networking part of the afternoon (3:30 PM onwards) – please register as a resource person at www.surveymonkey.com/s/May9event.

Meeting people who are already established in the Lower Mainland helps our newcomers feel connected and supported.

For more information, contact Geraldine at megannety@hotmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing you all on May 9.

Top Irish dancers in Montreal for the 45th World Championships

MONTREAL – Traditional Irish dancers from around the world invaded the Palais des Congrès in Montreal over the Easter long weekend. It was the first time the championships have been held in Canada.

Dearbhla Lennon, former professional dancer with *Riverdance*, said most of the 5,000 competitors train as much as world class athletes. "They practice up to two, three, or four hours a day," she said.

"Irish dancing is really different because we have two different types shoes," said Alliyah O'Hara from England, who won the title of world champion in the under 12 category. "Hard shoe which is all rhythm and light shoe which is more athletic."

A group of girls from Boston hoping to make it to the podium said their secret to success is nothing but hard work. "It's hard at first but once you get the hang of it, it's really fun!" said Maddie Ryan from Boston.

Organizers are thrilled with the turnout. The event has attracted an estimated 20,000 people, and it's expected to generate millions of dollars for the city. It also gives young local talent a chance to win the world title.

"This is fantastic, particularly for my school here," said Bernadette Short, "because we have lots of children who may never get the opportunity to travel to a world championship so we're really pleased to give that opportunity to our teams!"

This year, eight Canadian members of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha, the Irish Dancing Commission, will be honored at the event. They are Mary Bryan, Brigid Grant, Paula Woodgate, and the Butler Family from eastern Canada. Sally Houston, Finuala Irwin, Violet Moore and Margaret Mullen from western Canada.

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THIS ILLUSTRATION shows a benevolent attempt to mitigate the suffering in Cork City by the Society of Friends' Soup House. There were many similar establishments in operation throughout the country.

'Famine Soup' featured on CBC Rewind

VANCOUVER – Interesting piece about Ireland's Great Hunger on a segment about recipes on CBC's *Rewind* series.

James Bannerman on assignment in 1959 discusses the work of French chef Alexis Soyer who created a "Famine Soup" to help ease the suffering of the Irish during the Great Hunger.

In his report about Soyer, who is described as a flamboyant character, Bannerman recounts how the benevolent chef took up the cause of the London poor, particularly the Huguenot émigré silk weavers in Spitalfields and the starving millions in Ireland.

When the British Government sought him out in 1847 to deal with the starving Irish, he stepped up to the stove and doled out 6,000 meals a day in less-than-ideal conditions.

Making the most of the media of the day, Soyer wrote copious letters to *The Times*.

He tried to create nutritious food, using some of the nutritional knowledge emerging from the work of scientists like Justus von Leibig, who touted the benefits of beef extract and who proposed its use for labourers and people suffering from illnesses.

Thus was born Soyer's famous "Famine Soup." Soyer claimed that this soup could sustain a healthy working man.

Ingredients for Famine Soup:

12-1/2 lbs leg of beef
100 gallons of water
6-1/4 lbs drippings
100 onions and other vegetables
25 lbs each of flour (seconds) and pearl barley
1-1/2 lbs brown sugar
9 lbs salt

Ideally, in looking at the ingredients, the drippings, sugar, flour, and barley would provide energy and spare the protein in the beef from being used as energy.

Depending upon what types of vegetables the cooks threw into the pot, the soup also likely provided vitamins and minerals in some quantity.

Unfortunately, many critics pounced on Soyer and upbraided him for misrepresenting the nutritional value of his soup. Twelve pounds of meat to 100 gallons of water *does* make a pretty "skinny" soup.

"It is to be regretted that men of science do not interest themselves more than they do on a subject of such vast magnitude as this; for I feel confident that the food of a country might be increased at least one-third, if the culinary science was properly developed, instead of its being slighted as it is now," wrote Alexis Soyer.

2015 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE IN VANCOUVER



THE VANCOUVER Police Department mounted squad.



IRISH HERITAGE Society of Canada entry.



CARRYING the banner for the B.C. Genealogical Society.



AN ENTRY with the Welsh contingent.



THE IRELAND CANADA Monument parade entry.



MARCHERS with the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club.



POLICE marching band reaching the finish line.



THE CELTIC CONNECTION entry distributing copies of the March 2015 issue along the parade route.



Plans for Epic Ireland in Dublin

DUBLIN – Neville Isdell, the former Coca Cola chief executive who owns the CHQ building in Dublin has revealed plans for a diaspora-themed visitor attraction in the vaults beneath the building.

Formerly known as Stack A, the CHQ building was built in 1820 as a wine and tobacco warehouse with vaults beneath to store wine. It was made famous when it hosted the Crimean War Banquet in 1856 celebrating the return of 3,000 Irish soldiers.

The building has been magnificently restored and revamped and offers a location like no other in Dublin, overlooking the River Liffey and George's Dock.

The new EU12 million Epic Ireland project will target 400,000 visitors a year which would make it the sixth most popular paid tourist attraction in Ireland. It will include a genealogy exhibition sited close to the river end of CHQ and an interactive multimedia exhibition.

2015 CELTICFEST VANCOUVER

Working to keep the vibrant Celtic spirit alive in Vancouver

VANCOUVER – It was a glorious day in downtown Vancouver as the annual St. Patrick's Day parade kicked off down Howe Street on Sunday, March 15.

Thousands of colourful spectators lined the streets to watch pipers, drummers, dancers and Celtic groups from far and wide proudly wave their flags and celebrate their heritage.

The 11th annual parade is the jewel in the crown of the annual CelticFest Vancouver festivities – a 10-day event filled with music, dance, and family fun.

The festival ran from March 6-17 and offered a celebration of traditional and contemporary Celtic culture with great concerts and performances, workshops, special events, and, of course, the wildly popular Celtic Village and St. Patrick's Day parade.

One of the highlights for *The Celtic Connection* newspaper on Friday, March 13 was an award presented to publisher Maura De Freitas.

She was awarded the 2015 Celtic Person of the Year and Honorary Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day parade by John Coughlan, president of the Vancouver Celtic Festival Society.

The event was held in the historic 125-year-old Christ Church Cathedral on Burrard Street and featured entertainment by the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir and dancers with the Scoil Rince de Danaan.

A huge thank you to all the organizers and volunteers who worked so hard to present this year's Vancouver CelticFest.

This important annual event helps keep the vibrant spirit of Celtic culture alive in our city and it is a credit to all those who made it another resounding success.



ST. PATRICK (aka Mark Keane) with that mischievous leprechaun (aka Deirdre Keohane).



CELTICFEST Vancouver festival director Nicole Sirockman (L) with Maura De Freitas (centre) and John Coughlan at the Friday, March 13 concert at Christ Church Cathedral featuring the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir and dancers with Scoil Rince de Danaan.



TRANSPORTATION for the Honorary Parade Marshal was a vintage 1928 Ford Model A provided compliments of Gerry O'Neil of Stanley Park Horse Drawn Tours.



THE CELTIC CONNECTION banner at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Vancouver on Sunday, March 15, 2015.



THE PARADE route was awash with green, white and gold during the 11th annual CelticFest St. Patrick's Day parade. The parade kicked off on Howe Street and turned onto West Georgia as thousands of spectators waving flags and dressed for the occasion cheered from the sidelines.



ENDA KENNY presented President Obama with the traditional bowl of shamrock at the White House on St. Patrick's Day.

Immigration reform top of the agenda at St. Patrick's Day meeting

WASHINGTON – Taoiseach Enda Kenny told U.S. President Barack Obama that Ireland will be heavily involved in lobbying for reform of the American immigration system.

He made the pledge at the St. Patrick's Day reception at the White House, where he made the annual presentation of a bowl of shamrock.

Both leaders discussed the issue of undocumented Irish in America and the president said he wished he had the luck of the Irish in finding agreement with Republicans in Congress.

Obama said nobody has contributed to the American economy more than Ireland and he still wants to push for immigration reform.

"The great strength of the United States

has always been the willingness to welcome immigrants to our shores. That's what's made us unique and special," he said.

"And no-one has contributed more to growth and dynamism than Ireland."

Kenny said he would like to see undocumented Irish immigrants have the ability to travel in and out of the United States.

He said such a proposal could only be dealt with if politicians took a leadership role.

Echoing earlier remarks by Vice President Joe Biden, Obama also said work to solidify the peace process in Northern Ireland is not yet finished – but commended the efforts of the taoiseach and the Irish Government.

Alongside the shamrock, the taoiseach also gave the president a book of poems from Yeats, some of whose poetry was inscribed in the bowl of shamrock.



Enda Kenny's attempted handshake with Obama goes sideways

WASHINGTON – Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Barack Obama met for their annual St. Patrick's Day festivities in the White House on March 17.

The two men chatted in front of the cameras at the Oval Office.

Enda Kenny went to shake the hand of the U.S. president for the cameras, but Obama was looking away and didn't see Kenny extend his hand.

Realizing he had mis-timed his approach, Kenny quickly took back his hand, extended his fingers outwards and looked at his nails.

The moment was caught by an NBC News camera who put the footage up on their website.



BOTH of these guys know a good photo opportunity when they see one – and yet it still went wrong.

Enoch Powell implicated in Westminster pedophile ring

LONDON – Enoch Powell, one of the most controversial British politicians of the Twentieth Century, has been implicated of involvement in child sex abuse dating back to the 1980s, the British press has reported.

Powell's name was handed to police in 2014 by Bishop of Durham Paul Butler, an event which was only made public on March 29 this year.

"The name Enoch Powell was passed to Operation Fernbridge on the instruction of Bishop Paul Butler," the Church of England said in a statement, referring to the police operation into suspected Westminster child abusers.

Powell, who died in 1998, was one of the most divisive politicians of the late Twentieth Century.

A powerful orator, Powell's time as a frontline politician came to an abrupt end when he was sacked from the Shadow Cabinet in 1968 the morning after the "Rivers of Blood" speech.

His name is the latest in a string of senior parliamentarians accused of being involved in alleged Westminster child sex rings in the 1980s.

The scandal has shaken Britain's political establishment to its core.

'Leave no stone unturned'

In July 2014, Home Secretary Theresa May launched an inquiry into the extent public institutions, such as the police, National Health Service and the BBC, failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse.

British Prime Minister David Cameron promised shortly afterwards that the inquiry would "leave no stone unturned."

New Zealand judge Dame Lowell Goddard was selected to head the inquiry. She had previously been appointed chairwoman of New Zealand's Independent Police Conduct Authority in 2007.

A core part of her inquiry into historical sex abuse in England and Wales will be the purported Westminster pedophile ring, whose activity is thought to date back to the 1980s.

At least three members of parliament were questioned in 1982 after a police raid on Elm Guest House in Barnes, south-west London.

The house was reported at the time to have been used as a brothel for at least two years before the operation.



ENOCH POWELL who died in 1998 is being investigated as a member of an alleged Westminster pedophile network.

Children as young as 10 were thought to have been abused and officers at the time said they found whips, chains and ropes.

In 1983, Geoffrey Dickens MP, a Conservative, handed a 40-page dossier, brimming with information with regards to establishment child sex abuse, to then-Home Secretary Leon Brittan, who suggested the police had been informed.

Dickens, a renowned anti-child abuse campaigner, told his family that the dossier was "explosive" and would "blow the lid" on establishment figures, including politicians, engaged in child sex abuse. He died in 1995.

Following the fallout from the Jimmy Savile child sex abuse scandal in 2012, Labour MP Tom Watson claimed during Prime Minister's Questions that there was "clear intelligence suggesting a powerful pedophile network linked to Parliament and Number 10." He was referring to the so-called Dickens dossier.

In late 2012, police launched Operation Fairbank as a "scoping exercise" into politicians and other public figures to determine whether there was sufficient evidence for an inquiry.

In February 2013, the Metropolitan Police launched Operation Fernbridge to investigate allegations of abuse in the early 1980s at Elm Guest House, claims which arose from Operation Fairbank.

Operation Fernbridge has since closed but the investigations into a pedophile network at Elm Guest House have been taken up by a new operation, called Operation Athabasca, and police are still appealing for information — hence the tip-off regarding Enoch Powell.

In 2014, Mark Sedwill, the Home Office's most senior civil servant, announced the result of a 2013 Home Office review, saying that the so-called Dickens dossier had "not been retained."

His review also found that 114 documents went missing between 1979 and 1999, though he claimed there was no evidence that they had been destroyed "inappropriately."

In July 2014, Leon Brittan denied any wrongdoing, pointing to the Sedwill Home Office review that claimed, "appropriate action and follow-up happened." Brittan died on January 22, 2015.

On March 16, 2015, the Independent Police Complaints Commission, the police watchdog, launched an investigation into alleged corruption over claims the Metropolitan Police covered up child sex offences due to MPs and police officers being involved. These allegations also arose from Operation Fairbank.

'Rivers of Blood'

Enoch Powell was a member of parliament for the Conservative Party between 1950 and 1974.

His political career was dominated by a speech he made in 1968 on the topic of immigration.

In what became known as the "Rivers of Blood" speech, he decried unchecked immigration from Commonwealth countries and attacked recently proposed anti-discrimination legislation.

"We must be mad, literally mad, as a nation to be permitting the annual inflow of some 50,000 dependents, who are for the most part the material of the future growth of the immigrant descended population," he said at the General Meeting of the West Midlands Area Conservative Political Centre in Birmingham. "It is like watching a nation busily engaged in heaping up its own funeral pyre."

In his infamous closing segment, the firebrand politician said, "As I look ahead, I am filled with foreboding. Like the Roman, I seem to see 'the River Tiber foaming with much blood.'"

Following the allegations of abuse by Powell, Peter Saunders, CEO of the National Association for People Abused in Childhood in the UK said, "The establishment in this country is renowned for protecting itself and this issue is an issue that it never, ever wanted to come out the world of politics, the world of the establishment."

"Nothing would surprise me in terms of cover-ups or files being destroyed or lost. It stinks, I have to say."

Commenting more specifically on the accusation leveled against the deceased anti-immigrant firebrand, Saunders adds, "Powell's been dead a long time and I have not heard his name being implicated before, but anybody who is implicated and who does have a credible allegation made against them — whether they are alive or dead — I think they should be investigated to the full extent of the law."

With regards to claims that Powell was a man of honour, Saunders said, "Many child abusers throughout our history have been upstanding members of the community and they have a dark side... I am not saying that is the case with Powell, because I do not know."

"I think any credible accusation should be pursued and investigated for the purposes of both the victims and for future child protection because this issue of abuse of children has been swept under the carpet, has been kept at bay, has been denied for far too long," he said.

Irish police save six-year-old boy who was sold for sex by his own parents

DUBLIN – A six-year-old boy who was being prostituted by his parents has been rescued after an EU-wide investigation into pedophilia.

Detectives raided a house in Tipperary and placed the child into the care of the State on April 2.

Gardaí were acting on information received by European police agency Europol last December, after communication was made with the Garda Pedophile Investigations Unit.

Video footage of the abuse was discovered online. It is believed the parents were prostituting their son online to be sexually abused, according to an informed source.

"This is the worst case we've ever dealt with," the source said. "It involves the absolutely horrific treatment of a child."

The rescue came as a result of an emergency care order being granted at a district court hearing in Tipperary.

Detectives who had examined the online images and were involved throughout the investigation identified the rescued



boy as the child who appeared in a number of disturbing pictures and videos online. Gardaí believed there was an immediate risk to the child's safety and put him into foster care.

A month before contact was made between the two agencies, Europol hosted a Victim Identification Task Force to harness international co-operation.

Over 12 days, experts in victim identification from 11 police agencies in nine countries worked together at Europol in an attempt to identify victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.

This Europol-coordinated effort led to 240 new collections of material being uploaded to Interpol's computer database and additions were made to more than 100 collections already present there.



ELAINE O'HARA



GRAHAM DWYER

Dublin architect guilty of woman's murder

DUBLIN – A successful architect with a deep-rooted sexual desire for stabbing women is facing life in prison after being found guilty of an "almost perfect" murder.

In a sensational case that has revulsed Ireland for months, Graham Dwyer (42), a married man from Kerry, will serve a mandatory life sentence for knifing to death mentally-ill childcare worker Elaine O'Hara (36), in the Dublin mountains on August 22, 2012.

At the end of a harrowing trial, with unprecedented graphic evidence that forced the trial judge to clear the courtroom on several occasions, the jury took seven hours and 33 minutes to unanimously accept a prosecution case that has unnerved the country like no other in recent memory.

O'Hara was only released from psychiatric care in hospital hours before the murder. Her remains were found in a forest on Killakee Mountain on September 13, 2013.

She had been reported missing 13 months earlier after being last seen visiting her mother's grave in Shanganagh cemetery in Shankill, south Dublin.

The nine week trial was an endurance

of graphic, chilling and disturbing evidence of sexual deviance in what the prosecution claimed was "nearly the perfect murder."

Only for a near drought in the summer of 2013 vital evidence linking the couple including keys, phones, sex toys and rope may never have been found in the Vartry reservoir 20 kilometres from the murder scene — a stunning coincidence in the days around the discovery of O'Hara's body by a dog walker.

Crucially, mobile phones, dubbed "master and slave" revealed text messages between O'Hara, who had a history of self-harm going back to her troubled teens, revealed a manipulative, abusive BDSM affair between the pair.

State lawyers claimed Dwyer toyed with the idea of three potential victims including Darci Day, a young, previously suicidal woman from Maine in the U.S. who also met Dwyer on the Internet.

Others, the prosecution alleged, were O'Hara and an auctioneer who at one time worked near Dwyer's former workplace, A&D Weichert in Baggot Street, Dublin.

O'Hara's father Frank embraced relatives in the packed court after the verdict was delivered and said justice had been done.



LONDON Metropolitan Police have several ongoing investigations relating to claims against suspected high profile abusers, including the former Liberal MP Cyril Smith. Detectives are also investigating allegations against former Home Secretary Leon Brittan.

Young GP and her husband killed in plane crash

OBAN, Scotland – An Easter holiday trip turned to tragedy when a young couple's private plane crashed into a hillside during bad weather in the Scottish Highlands.

Engineer David Rous and his wife Margaret Ann, a doctor, of Newport-on-Tay, were flying from Dundee to spend the weekend with family on the isle of Tiree when the accident happened on Saturday, April 4.

Their PA28 Piper Cherokee light aircraft crashed into a remote hillside at Bein Nan Lus, Glen Kinglas, above Loch Etive south of Oban.

The plane went off radar at 1:50 PM and a huge air, land and sea search for the missing aircraft led to the discovery of the couple's bodies just over six hours later.

Margaret Ann (37) was the daughter of Catriona Maclean, a widow, and had a sister, Joanne MacLean, who both live on Tiree.

John Macaskill, vice-convenor of Tiree Community Council, said, "It's absolutely tragic what has happened. It's

very sad, especially with them coming home for Easter.

"It's a major blow for the community. Family and friends."

Dr. John Holliday, the island's doctor for almost 30 years and convenor of Tiree Community Council, said, "I had known Margaret Ann since the 1980s. She captivated everyone that knew her; she was absolutely gorgeous in every way.

"She became a much-loved GP in Dundee and I have no doubt that she was a wonderful doctor with her charm and great empathy. She immediately touched the hearts of everyone who came into contact with her."

Dr. Holliday added that he had also met David Rous (28) when he had visited Tiree.

He added, "He was a really nice man and a very talented structural engineer with a bright professional career ahead of him.

"Together they made a fine couple. We can only imagine what the family must be suffering. A cloud has fallen over Tiree, but the island community will come together as it always does at times like this."



DR. MARGARET ANN and David Rous died when their light aircraft crashed into a Scottish hillside while flying from their home in Dundee to see family on the Hebridean isle of Tiree.



SEARCHING after radar contact with the plane was lost.

'71 – A new film set in Belfast at the height of the Troubles

A new film set in Northern Ireland takes place over a single night in the life of a young British soldier accidentally abandoned by his unit following a riot on the streets of Belfast at the height of the Troubles in 1971.

Unable to tell friend from foe, and increasingly wary of his own comrades, he must survive the night alone and find his way to safety through a disorientating, alien and deadly landscape.

'71 has received positive reviews and with the critics consensus: Powerfully directed and acted, '71 stays true to its fact-based origins while remaining as gripping as any solidly crafted action thriller.

The film is directed by Yann Demange and stars Jack O'Connell, Sean Harris, David Wilmot, Richard Dormer, Paul Anderson, and Charlie Murphy.

From the start, the film grips and never loses that grip throughout. It crackles along at a terrific pace and we are with the leading character every inch of the way.

The film isn't flippant about the events of the time either. Although it never rams down our throats the political ramifications, it does lay out the power struggle within the factions, whether it be the army or the people of the city. The IRA are after the Provisional IRA, the army are bickering among themselves, neither one helping the situation.

At the heart of the film isn't a story about the Troubles, not in the same way that Jim Sheridan's *In The Name Of The Father* was, but a well executed chase film that wouldn't look amiss among *The Warriors* or *Escape From New York*.

The performances from the strong cast are excellent, with Sam Hazeldine's



JACK O'CONNELL stars as a British soldier in '71

commanding officer being particularly impressive but it is rising star Jack O'Connell who, once again, steals the limelight.

After his career making performance

in the superb prison drama, *Starred Up*, he brings a sense of vulnerability to the role of a man lost and afraid in an unfamiliar world and yet we can still believe he can fight his way out of a situation if need be.

Prince Andrew sex claims struck out by U.S. judge

A judge in Miami has ruled that sexual allegations made against Prince Andrew should be removed from the court records.

The allegations – which have always been denied by Buckingham Palace – were made by a woman who claimed she had been forced to have underage sex with the prince.

Judge Kenneth Marra said the "lurid" claims were "unnecessary" to decide the civil case.

Andrew was named in a lawsuit against the wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein, who still faces claims by two other women – named as Jane Doe No. 1 and Jane Doe No. 2.

The developments in the case have put an end to allegations against Andrew made by Virginia Roberts (Jane Doe 3) and another woman, Jane Doe 4.

They said they were among dozens of women sexually abused by Epstein as teenagers at locations ranging from a Palm Beach mansion to a private Caribbean island to a sprawling New Mexico ranch.

NOVENAS

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, CTK

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE

Most holy apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings, particularly - (Here make your request) and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever. I promise, O

blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen

– PMC, MJF, CB

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 OF CHILDLIKE CONFIDENCE

O Jesus, Who has said, ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you, through the intercession of Mary, the Most Holy Mother, I knock, I seek, I ask that my prayer be granted. [Request] O Jesus, who has said, all that you ask of the Father in my name, He will grant you through the intercession of Mary, the most Holy Mother, I humbly and urgently ask Thy Father in Thy Name that my prayer be granted. [Request] O Jesus, who has said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but My word shall not pass," through the intercession of Mary, Thy Most Holy Mother, I feel confident that my prayer will be granted. [Request] – SVS

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BEFORE the start of Seattle's St. Patrick's Day parade – [Rear] Parade Honorary Grand Marshal Cathryn Quinn, Galway Mayor Donal Lyons, parade Grand Marshal Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, and parade Honorary Grand Marshal Danny Quinn. [Front] The children are the Quinn grandchildren: Fiona Quinn, Siobhan Shannon, Stella Quinn and Danny Quinn.



MEMBERS of the Seattle Police Explorer Unit carrying a giant Irish flag in Seattle's St. Patrick's Day parade followed by a vintage police car dating from the 1950s.



By
JOHN
KEANE



MIKE McQUAID, one of the judges at the Irish soda bread contest, shows off one of the winning loaves.



BLOWING the Ceremonial Whistles to signal the start of Seattle's St. Patrick's Day parade – (L-R) Seattle Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, Galway Mayor Donal Lyons, and Seattle Mayor Ed Murray. At right is Seattle's First Gentleman, Michael Shiosaki.



RYAN GALLAGHER, the incoming president of the Friends of St. Patrick in Seattle, holds the official shillelagh as he assumes the presidency of Seattle's oldest Irish organization from outgoing president Don Luby (R). The shillelagh is reported to have been brought from Ireland to Seattle in 1856.

PASSINGS

- Kevin Moriarty (61) president of the Irish Heritage Players, died suddenly in Seattle on March 28.
- Fr. Gerry Lovett (79) a native of Co. Kerry who served as a priest in Seattle since 1960, died in Seattle on March 21.
- Megan Tormey (44) wife of Galwayman Mark Tormey and daughter of Dónal and Mary McKeivitt, died in Seattle on March 5.
- Ed Moriarty (81) "an Irishman by birth, Italian by marriage," died in Seattle on February 28.

1916 TALK AT UW – UCD historian and lecturer, Dr. Conor Mulvagh, who is coordinating the Decade of Commemoration Centenary for University College Dublin, will give a 1916 lecture at the University of Washington in Seattle on Monday, May 4, 7 PM, in the UW's Allen Library.



JANE SEPEDE (L) with Seattle's Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole at the Mayor's Irish Week proclamation luncheon.



A LEPRECHAUN with his pot o' gold marching in Seattle's St. Patrick's Day parade.

[Continued next page...]



THE SEATTLE Police Pipes and Drums performing on stage at the Irish Festival.



CHEF DON TREMBLAY and Mary Shriane at the Irish soda bread contest at T S McHugh's.



HISTORY Lecturer Conor Mulvagh will give a talk at the University of Washington on May 4 about the 1916 Rebellion. The talk is entitled *Intellectuals and Insurrectionists: Reasons for Rising in 1916*.

SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

Admission is free but, because of limited space, reservations are advised by e-mail to: lecture@irishclub.org or call (425) 290-7839. The title of the talk is: *Intellectuals and Insurrectionists: Reasons for Rising in 1916*.

Dr. Mulvagh is a lecturer in Irish History at University College Dublin (UCD) specializing on commemoration and the Irish revolutionary decade (1912-23).

He has previously lectured on the Irish revolution, the Northern Irish Troubles, and Irish Studies at UCD.

He holds an MPhil in modern Irish history from Trinity College Dublin and is a history and policy editor at www.HistoryHub.ie.

The website which makes the most recent academic research available online to everyone who loves history. For details on the talk, e-mail: lecture@irishclub.org.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP MEETING – An informational meeting is being organized in the next few weeks for those members of the Irish community who want to find out what's involved in becoming a U.S. citizen.

The purpose is to answer questions, outline the pretty simple application process, how to apply, what documents are required, what's involved in taking the "test," the ramifications of dual Irish-US-citizenship, etc.

A date or location has yet to be determined, but if you're interested in attending, e-mail citizenship@irishclub.org, or call (425) 290-7839.

MEMORIAL DAY MASS – An open-air Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated at the Seattle area's Irish Pioneer Cemetery, St. Patrick Cemetery in Kent, at 10:30 am on Monday, May 25.

The four and a half acre cemetery is located one mile east of I-5 on Orillia Rd at 204th Street, just east of Sea-Tac Airport.

Founded by Limerick-man Richard O'Connell in 1880, the cemetery is the resting place for numerous Irish-born Seattle pioneers and they are especially remembered on Memorial Day in addition to remembering those who have given their lives in service to this country.

All are welcome but bring a lawn chair! For information, e-mail: Mass@irishclub.org, or call (425) 290-7839.

ST. PATRICK STATUE – The six-foot high statue of St. Patrick has arrived and is being erected on a two-foot base at St. Patrick Cemetery in Kent.

Funded by the Irish community and the Knights of Columbus, the statue will have a formal unveiling ceremony later this year.

The Seattle area's only Irish pioneer cemetery was started in 1880 by Richard O'Connell from Co. Limerick when he set aside four and a half acres on his farm to be a cemetery for the local Irish families. St. Patrick Cemetery is now administered by Catholic Cemeteries.

IRISH NIGHT – Irish Night at the Seattle Mariners is Wednesday, June 17, 7:10 PM, for the game vs. the World Series Champs, the San Francisco Giants.



CAST MEMBERS dressed as 1798 Pikemen from the musical *Guns of Ireland* march in Seattle's St. Patrick's Day parade. The musical will be performed at Columbia Basin College Theatre in Pasco between April 30 and May 10. More details are available at gunsofireland.com.

The reduced price tickets include a free Irish Night Mariners Cap, Irish entertainment in center field before the game by the Tara Academy Irish Dancers and the Seattle Police Pipes and Drums, and Seattle's Irish Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole throwing out the First Pitch. Visit www.mariners.com/Irish for details.

OUTSIDE MULLINGAR – Seattle's Repertory Theatre performs an Irish play from April 24 – May 17, *Outside Mullingar*, a Tony Award nominee for Best Play that was written by John Patrick Shanley.

It is a romantic comedy set in rural Ireland about two lovelorn farmers who haven't got a clue when it comes to love.

These hopeless singletons will need to overcome a bitter land feud, familial rivalries and their own romantic fears to find happiness.

Full of dark humor and poetic prose, the tenderhearted portrait reminds us that it's never too late to take a chance on love. For tickets, call (206) 443-2222.

GALWAY TRADERS – Seattle's Irish import store, Galway Traders, is still operating at its current location at 7518 15th Avenue NW in Ballard, even though the Seattle Globalist (www.seattleglobalist.com under Arts & Culture) recently wrote about plans to tear down the building and replace it with a new housing complex.

Eveline Murray, who started the store in 1983 with her late husband Hugh, is looking for a buyer and hopes to find someone to continue the tradition of serving the area's Irish community.

The store is a tremendous resource for anyone looking for information as well as for authentic Irish goods, whether it's music, books, clothing, food (rashers & sausages), etc. Visit www.galwaytraders.com for more details.

PINT FOR SINÉAD – If you have been to Seattle's Fadó Irish Pub at 1st and Columbia in the past 10 years, or the Owl n' Thistle or the Irish Emigrant in the years before that, you have probably come across bartender Sinéad Cadden.

Sinéad, a native of Co. Clare, and currently a bartender at Fadó, has been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and her friends are trying to raise money to help cover her medical expenses and to provide support.

A fundraising auction and raffle is being held on Thursday, May 28, at Fadó, with live music from The Kennedy Brothers.

Check the event out on Facebook (search under 'A Pint for Sinéad') or donate at: www.gofundme.com/qeeaa88.

BELLEVUE IRISH CLASS – A class in simple Irish is being offered at Bellevue College Continuing Education.

The class is most suited for students with no or a little Irish and will be using *Buntús Cainte*, Part 1 as the text. No exams or worries, only good craic.

The class continues for nine Mondays through June 1. For more information or to register, call (425) 564-2263.

NORTHEND IRISH CLASSES – New Irish language classes start in a home on the border of Bothell and Mill Creek on Sunday, April 12.

The class will offer two levels, Level 1 for total beginners.

Level 2 for those with about a year of Irish already (can put simple sentences together, has some vocabulary and understanding of basic sentence structure, may be lacking in confidence in speaking or writing). For times and details, e-mail: caerasinger@gmail.com.

RANT & RAVE – For those who missed it when it was published on March 17 in *The Seattle Times*, the Rant & Rave item had the following:

RAVE To the Irish Heritage Club organizers of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Saturday, one of our annual family traditions that we enjoy very much (though we were disappointed that the Seafair Pirates didn't participate this year).

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Emerald City Feis at the Washington State Convention Center at Convention Place on April 18 and 19 – visit www.emeraldcityfeis.com.

- The next Irish seniors' luncheon is Saturday, June 20 at 12 noon at the Wilde Rover Irish Restaurant in Kirkland. Seniors and their guests are welcome to attend at \$10 pp for the buffet lunch. Reservations are required, call (425) 290-7839.

- Irish Day at the Races at Emerald Downs is Sunday, June 28, 2 PM. E-mail: Races@irishclub.org for free admission tickets.

- Irish Community Picnic at Lake Sammamish State Park, Sunday, July 19, noon-dusk. Free admission. E-mail: Picnic@irishclub.org for details.

- Ceol Cascadia's Irish Music Week is July 19 - 25, 2015, at The Evergreen State College in Olympia. Early registration has been strong and if you're thinking of registering don't delay. Visit cascadiairish.org for details.

- Join the Irish language choir which will be singing in October for the Mass in Gaelic. E-mail: miriamjdoyle@gmail.com.

- Congratulations to John Lenth of Magnolia who won the Irish Festival raffle drawing for two round trip tickets to Ireland. His daughter dances with the Tara Academy Irish Dancers.



ON STAGE at the Irish Festival for the St. Patrick's Day parade closing ceremony – (L-R) Nanci Spieker, Ryan Gallagher, Danny and Cathryn Quinn, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, Galway Mayor Donal Lyons, Galway Chief Executive Brendan McGrath, and Melissa Ryan.

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PRESIDENT'S CUP Winners Club Ireland Celtic – The team defeated Elegant Flooring in the Richmond Adult Soccer League President's Cup 3-1 to go along with their Chinese New Year tournament victory.

A Puff and a Bluff: Ireland vs Big Tobacco

ARTHUR COX, one of the biggest legal firms in Ireland, was the cat that got the cream back in 2008.

While most of Ireland was collapsing in a heap, Arthur Cox was charged with the administration of NAMA (the National Asset Management Agency) property holdings.

NAMA, the Irish equivalent of TARP in the U.S., was the Irish Government's desperate attempt to salvage what revenue it could after the property bust in 2007/8.

And wherever there are torturous legal debates, there are lawyers at hand with their fee structures. Given how much shrapnel that needed to be pieced together after the Irish property explosion, NAMA was a very lucrative portfolio for the firm.

You would think that a legal company on such a roll would be mindful of keeping in with one of its best clients.

But Arthur Cox has other clients too. Just now, Arthur Cox has threatened legal action against the Irish Government on behalf of Japan Tobacco International.

This action may see our Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, James O'Reilly, in the High Court to answer for a legislative bill that the Irish Government passed last year.

At issue is the government's move to impose a ban on any other than bland packaging for cigarettes. Arthur Cox, representing Japan Tobacco International, claims that such a move contravenes fair competition law.

O'Reilly, whose new ministerial portfolio still entails a strong involvement with the bill, disagrees: "As Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, my responsibility is to progress measures that will protect children and stop them from taking up smoking in the first place...not to protect the profits of tobacco companies."

So the battle-lines would seem to be drawn between the government and Big Tobacco? Not quite. The government is fervently supported by the Irish public in this case, in a way that it would not have been in the past.

The year is 2015, not 1985: Incontrovertible medical proof has shown the connection between smoking and cancerous, cardiovascular and lung diseases.

When Japan Tobacco International

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By MAURICE FITZPATRICK

threatens to issue court proceedings against the Irish Government, Irish citizens realise that JTI is in fact threatening their loved ones. Public opinion is implacably against JTI on this question.

So hang on a minute, Arthur Cox is willing to stake its reputation on the tobacco giants and risk losing the goodwill of the Irish public?

Well, Arthur Cox is itself an international concern with offices in New York and Silicon Valley.

And JTI, worth 55 billion euro, would seem to have enough grease to turn Arthur Cox's wheels, even if that potentially means alienating the Irish Government and Irish people.

But there is something more complex involved here. Japan Tobacco International, an enormous conglomerate, is taking two Irish Government ministers to court lest a bill the government passed last year be rescinded?

This would seem to be a very disproportionate response. But when JTI deigns to swat the Irish fly, there is more to play for than meets the eye; it is contagion.

If Ireland sets a European Union precedent – not quite a world precedent as plain packaging of cigarettes has been in force in Australia since 2012 – of a government repulsing the threat of tobacco companies over their claim to equal advertising rights, and if that precedent is upheld, then it will become a trend that will undoubtedly spread in Europe and beyond.

JTI is almost certainly bluffing. Importantly, their bluff comes against the backdrop of huge legal defeats for tobacco giants.

In the U.S., for example, the almost half century of struggle of both individuals and collective groups culminated in the historic Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement in 1998, in which Big Tobacco paid over \$200 billion to victims, the U.S. medical system and also accepted that its marketing power be cur-

tailed.

That precedent greatly undermines JTI which is really hoping that the Irish Government will relent, and that this issue will blow over with one threatening letter.

Wouldn't it be great to see their hopes dashed? When the health of young Irish people's lungs is at stake, and the lungs of young people beyond our shores, every mechanism available to discourage people from starting a potentially fatal habit should be deployed.

It is a zero sum game for the tobacco industry that still mourns the loss of the extraordinary power it used to wield in peddling its wares.

Plain packaging really is the final assault on Big Tobacco's vestigial advertising might. JTI will cite freedom to advertise, but there is no good reason why it should work this time.

O'Reilly had moral justification in passing the bill last year; he still has it, and he will win for as long as he sticks by it.

As soon as the threatening letter leaked to the press in mid-February, agencies that take legal advice from Arthur Cox but also receive Irish Governmental support clarified their positions.

Chris Macey, head of advocacy for the Irish Heart Foundation had this to say, "We adopted a standard operating procedure in the last few weeks that we wouldn't use the services of companies that further the aims of the tobacco industry in relation to the influence of public health policy."

Macey, unlike JTI, is not bluffing. Stronger still, the Irish Cancer Society, previously a beneficiary of financial donations from Arthur Cox, averred: "Because Arthur Cox are now leading a legal action, which has the clear aim of preventing the enactment of legislation which we consider crucial to the prevention of cancer, we will therefore now decline any offer of a corporate donation from Arthur Cox."

And Minister Varadkar chipped in, "I do think it would reflect well on Arthur Cox if they didn't represent tobacco companies."

So, to Arthur Cox and JTI: less puffing and less bluffing please.

If the government does not capitulate and manages to ride out what could end up involving years of legal pressure to uphold this principle, it will make for a proud day to be Irish. *Sláinte mhaith* / good health to you!



JASON KYLE, founder of Micro Footie in East Vancouver at the renowned International Coaches Convention in Glasgow, Scotland. He is pictured above holding the Canadian flag while Willie McNab of Celtic is in the forefront.

East Van soccer club joins Celtic FC's international club

VANCOUVER – An East Vancouver soccer club has joined Celtic Football Club's international club partnership programme.

Micro Footie was established in 1993 as a grassroots soccer program for players of all level ages in East Vancouver.

Jason Kyle who founded Micro Footie was coaching inner city elementary schools at the time.

He felt there was a need for a soccer league where each game and practice took place on one field, thereby limiting any kind of complicated travel.

Registration in the first year was 36 inner city youth players, and the league quickly became a community institution with 1,500 players and growing.

The league now boasts over 200 coaches and ex-players of the program are becoming co-ordinators, referees, and coaches. Three graduates of Micro Footie have signed professional contracts.

Jason is absolutely delighted to have Celtic FC, a team he supported as a wee boy, as an official partner.

The partnership with Micro Footie will involve sharing club methodologies, coach education and coaching camps. It will also present Micro Footie with the opportunity to visit Glasgow, Scotland to experience what life is like for an academy player at Celtic Football Club.

Micro Footie will also have the chance to send their coaches to Celtic Football Club to attend the renowned International Coaches Convention in Glasgow and receive a behind the scenes look at how Celtic develops young players to reach their potential.

Celtic Football Club is one of the biggest and best-supported teams in the world.

Wearing their iconic green and white hoops, Celtic are instantly recognizable when they play and are renowned for playing attractive football, their passionate fans and their many successes on the field of play.

They are currently champions of Scotland and regularly compete in the UEFA Champions League, where they recorded one of their most famous victories by defeating FC Barcelona 2-1 at Celtic Park in 2012.

Celtic are previous winners of the competition when in 1967 they became the first British team to be crowned Champions of Europe.

Founded in 1887, the club was formed as a means to alleviate poverty in the East End of Glasgow.

The club now boasts 40,000 season ticket holders and millions of fans worldwide. Its stadium, which is also known as "Paradise," has a capacity of 60,506, making it the second largest club stadium in the UK.

The club remains true to its charitable roots via the outstanding work of the Celtic FC Foundation which aids local charities and global appeals.

Through the Celtic Soccer Academy the club has many official partner clubs across the globe, taking the ethos of talent development, fair play and social interaction through sport into many communities worldwide, teaching kids how to play "The Celtic Way."

For more information about Micro Footie online, see: <http://micro-footie.com>.

RANGERS DE-LISTED FROM STOCK EXCHANGE

GLASGOW – Scottish club Rangers has been de-listed from the stock exchange after failing to secure a broker.

Trading in shares was suspended following the resignation of its former broker, WH Ireland, before a general meeting on March 6. The club hasn't found a replacement within a 28-day deadline.

Rangers, a 54-time league champion in Scotland, was demoted to the bottom tier of the country's football pyramid in 2012 because of financial problems.

The club is currently in the second division after back-to-back promotions.

Rangers said "failings in corporate governance" by previous regimes made it difficult for it to find a new broker, adding that "there is no reason why de-listing should adversely impact on the value of the company's shares or on the company's financial condition or prospects."

Legal action has been threatened by deposed Rangers directors who claim cessation of listing is a blow to all serious shareholders



THE SEATTLE Saracens team which recently beat James Bay Athletic Association.

PHOTO: Judy Teasdale



THE LONDON Irish Rugby Club team - The London Geese - will be in Seattle to play their first U.S. match in over 20 years. They take on the Seattle Saracens on May 23.

Irish at the Forefront of Rugby in Both Seattle and the USA



By
CATHOLINE BUTLER

The Seattle Saracens Rugby Club have built a fierce reputation as the reigning U.S. champions.

They also recently won a game against the James Bay Athletic Association in Victoria, B.C., who were last year's Premier League champions.

On May 23, the venerable London Irish Rugby Club will be in Seattle to take

on the Saracens for an unprecedented exhibition game.

This will be the first match in 20 years played by the London Irish Rugby Club in the United States.

So how did Seattle manage to make such a scoop? The connection is two key members of the Saracens club who played for the London Irish Club before moving to Seattle.

Saracens club president Kevin Flynn, and Justin Fitzpatrick, director of rugby, helped build the rugby program in the Emerald City after moving from London.

Kevin Flynn was born in Wexford and Justin Fitzpatrick in Belfast, and both played for the London Irish Rugby Club before moving to Seattle.

Justin Fitzpatrick recently spoke to *The Celtic Connection* about his club and their upcoming history-making exhibi-

tion game with the London Irish Rugby Club.

He said, "I moved to Seattle, just over two years ago. Over the past 12 months we have affiliated with the London Saracens, which is one of the biggest rugby clubs in the world.

"The Seattle Rugby Club has been here since the 1960s when several smaller rugby clubs amalgamated and took the name Saracens.

"Both Kevin Flynn and I played with the London Irish Club as young men. One of our old teammates is now the head coach with the London club and he is bringing his side across to us."

Justin explained that while several of the players in their club are Irish, it's mostly American players.

He said, "We're very proud of the amount of American players that we have been able to introduce in the last two years."

There are two distinct parts to the Saracens season. They play fifteens from September through until May, and then from June through to August, they play sevens.

In Vancouver they play against the James Bay, Burnaby Lake and Capilano clubs.

"Every time we play the British Columbia teams, it's so amazing for me to hear so many Irish accents from home," he said.

"We don't have that many Irish on our side, but it seems on the clubs in Vancouver it's easier to emigrate to Canada.

"It's good for the clubs in Vancouver that so many Irish are taking part in the games, but it's a sad indictment of what's going on at home.

"In the summer we do play some B.C. teams but generally we play American teams and compete in the U.S. National Championship of which we are the champions."

Justin reflected that from an Irish standpoint it's interesting to know that there are two Irish guys working at the club and at the forefront of rugby in Seattle and rugby in the USA.

Both Kevin Flynn and Justin Fitzpatrick are a key influence and part of USA World Cup.

The exhibition game with the London Irish Rugby Club will take place at Magnuson Park in North Seattle, South Shoreline on May 23. This is also where the Gaelic football games are played in Seattle.

Kevin said, "We're hoping to see a good contingent of the Irish attending from Vancouver." For more information about the Seattle Saracens Rugby Club, check out their website at: www.seattlesaracensrugby.com.

SIX NATIONS 2015: Ireland win title from England & Wales

DEFENDING champions Ireland celebrated retaining their Six Nations title on points difference after an extraordinary final day on Saturday, March 21.

The last round of games concluded with England falling agonisingly short of the 26-point winning margin they needed as they beat France 55-35 in an epic.

The day had started with Wales annihilating Italy 61-20 in Rome.

Ireland needed a huge win and their 40-10 demolition of Scotland was enough to both pass Wales and set a target just beyond England.

With three teams on three wins apiece going into the final round of games the stage was set, and what followed was one of the most incredible days in the tournament since it was first played in 1883, with 221 points scored in the three matches.

England started as leaders – just – from Ireland on points difference with Wales some way further back, and they would play in reverse order to decide who would become champions.

In the opener, Wales only led Italy by a point at half-time in Rome but cut loose in the second half, with George North's hat-trick ensuring Ireland needed to beat Scotland by 21 points to take the lead on points difference.

The champions duly hammered Scotland by 30 points in Edinburgh, meaning Wales was out of contention and



IRELAND players celebrate at a presentation after the Six Nations international rugby union match at Murrayfield in Edinburgh, Scotland on March 21. Ireland won the game 40-10 – their first back-to-back title wins since 1948/49.

that England needed to beat France by 26 points to take the title.

In a see-saw encounter at Twickenham, England pulled steadily clear but never managed to get into a lead that would have denied Ireland the title.

However, Jack Nowell's try with five minutes remaining put them 20 points ahead and meant a converted try would have given them the championship.

They spent the closing moments hammering away at the French line in search of the winning points, and came within a foot of scoring, but in their desperation they infringed and the final whistle meant that although they had won handily, it was Ireland who are 2015 Six Nations champions.



PHOTO: Judy Teasdale
JUSTIN FITZPATRICK Director of Rugby with the Seattle Saracens.



PHOTO: Judy Teasdale
KEVIN FLYNN president of the Seattle Saracens.

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Greetings from Rorke's Drift legendary Zulu battlefield



AST August I celebrated my 70th birthday and my friend Richard Craig announced that my birthday present from him was a return flight to Johannesburg, and we would have a boy's week away visiting some of the Zulu and Boer War battlefields.

If you saw and remember that epic film *Zulu*, then you may know that in 1879 Lord Chelmsford the commander of British forces in South Africa, invaded Zululand, for the most spurious of reasons, confident of crushing the Zulu army in six weeks.

At the time the British had the most powerful army on earth and believed the Zulus to be a bunch of savages armed with sticks.

The central force of the British army comprised of 4,850 men and Chelmsford needed a makeshift hospital, and a depot to store the provisions and enough ammunition for a six week campaign.

To this effect he commandeered a homestead near the Zululan border called Rorke's Drift.

A force of 94 regular soldiers from the B company of the Warwickshire 24th Regiment of Foot were left behind at the depot and 32 of these were Welshmen.

The company's headquarters was in Brecon, Wales, and was later renamed as The South Wales Borderers.

I went to school in Brecon and was a cadet in this regiment.

On January 20, 1879 the army advanced five miles to a place called Isandlwana where scouts had reported seeing a contingent of Zulus, but on arrival the Zulus had disappeared.

Chelmsford made the decision to split his force leaving nearly 2,000 men at Isandlwana and marched his remaining

POSTCARD FROM S. AFRICA

By
ELFAN JONES



troops 12 miles away in search of the Zulu army.

The Zulu general completely outmanoeuvred Chelmsford and the troops at Isandlwana awoke to find themselves surrounded by 25,000 Zulus.

Despite murderous defensive fire, the Zulus ran through the guns and within two hours wiped out the entire force, bar a handful of lucky men who escaped and fled.

The most powerful army in the world had suffered its greatest defeat in its history, inflicted by a force they considered to be savages armed with sticks.

Zulus believe that when a man dies in battle the body must be opened for the soul to return home and consequently the fallen were mutilated creating a scene that no horror film could replicate.

It is not known how many Zulus lost their lives, but it is estimated that by lunchtime on that fateful day at least 6,000 men lay dead.

We had a guided tour of the battlefield this morning and it may sound strange

to describe a killing field as beautiful, but Isandlwana is beautiful.

The area has breathtaking panoramic views, and a gigantic rock in the shape of a lion's head looks down on hundreds of cairns (small piles of whitewashed rocks) and memorial crosses dotted around on the spots where men fell.

Where once the terrible noise of guns and the screams of the dying were heard, there is now a gentle peaceful serenity.

Before a Zulu warrior could take a bride he had to wash his spear in the blood of an enemy.

To this end, 4,500 celibate Zulus who had not taken part in the battle and wanted to dip their spears in the blood of the enemy, headed for Rorke's Drift which we visited this afternoon.

A few survivors from the battle made it back to the depot and warned the officers of the impending attack and the men brilliantly used the ammunition boxes and food sacks to build a veritable mini-fort approximately the size of six tennis courts.

The Zulus attacked for 10 hours and the heroics of the day are now legendary.

The famous film starring Michael Caine pretty well covers it, but no film can match being there and imagining what it was like see thousands of disciplined, six-foot-tall, screaming and sexually frustrated warriors charging and stabbing at you with their assegai again and again.

Nor can it depict the bravery of men running at loaded rifles and almost certain death.

The Victoria Cross is the supreme British award for gallantry, and 11 were awarded that day, six of them to Welshmen.

Whilst climbing up some steps I tripped, bruising my foot. I won't get a medal, but do have the honour to be the last Welshman injured at Rorke's Drift!

Our next stop is Spion Kop which is the site of another spectacular British cock up, but this time in the Boer War. Happy Days.



ELFAN JONES (R) and his friend Richard Craig (L) at Rorke's Drift.



MEMORIAL to the fallen Zulus at Rorke's Drift.



MEMORIAL to the British who died at Rorke's Drift.



A HISTORICALLY inaccurate depiction of Lieutenant Melvill and Coghill fleeing the Battle of Isandlwana with the Queen's Colour, taken from the *Illustrated London News*.



THE LION'S HEAD at Isandlwana.



SOME of the graves at Isandlwana.