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the celtic connection

ISSUE 24 VOLUME 6

Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991

JULY/AUGUST 2015



LUGHNASADH by Jeni Kubicek.

[READ more about the artist on page 2]

Lughnasadh: The Journey from Summer into Autumn

LUGHNASADH (pronounced loo'-na-sadh) is the feast which marks the journey from summer into autumn beginning August 1.

Now it's time to get the crops harvested and brought in safely – into the cool, dark storehouse of our inner selves.

For our ancestors, the final harvest meant wonderful fairs and markets, a time of sacred peace between tribes that might usually be in war.

These events are connected and recalled in one form or another in myths surrounding life-in-death and death-in-

life aspects of gods and goddesses in virtually every culture and religion.

Lughnasadh is the time of the barley moon. In older times, the last stalk of grain was ceremonially cut and crafted into a corn dolly, which could represent both the god and the goddess.

One aspect of the god who is honoured by some Celtic traditions at this time of year is Llew Llaw Gyffes, a Welsh god of light who died and came back to life. He was the ripener of the grain, the sun.

In Ireland, he was called "Lugh, the Long-Handed." He owned a magic spear which thirsted for blood, and which flashed fire and roared aloud in battle. Lugh was the first to use the horse in warfare, and nobody could gaze upon his face without being dazzled.

August 1 was called Lammas by the

Saxons from the Anglo-Saxon hlaf-mas or "loaf feast," referring to the loaves that are baked from the first grain harvested. This is the first harvest festival of the year and this celebration of the harvest of the first grain ties in nicely with Lughnasadh.

[READ CYNTHIA WALLENTINE'S
COLUMN ON PAGE 14 FOR MORE.]

HOOP DREAMS: A SON'S JOURNEY TO THE SPECIAL OLYMPIC GAMES

By Ann Carr
Page 13

CONOR MCGREGOR: IRELAND'S FIRST UFC CHAMPION IN LAS VEGAS Page 18



MHAIRI BLACK, the 20-year-old Scottish Nationalist Party MP delivers an electrifying maiden speech in the British House of Commons on Tuesday, July 14. [READ MORE ON PAGE 9]



A NATION IN MOURNING — Six Irish students died after a balcony collapsed in Berkeley, California. (Clockwise from top left) Eimear Walsh, Eoghan Culligan, Olivia Burke, Lorcán Miller, Ashley Donohoe, and Niccolai Schuster. [SEE PAGE 15]



FLOWERS on the beach near the Imperial Marhaba Hotel following the attack in Sousse, Tunisia. The British and Irish Governments have warned against all but essential travel amid fears of a fresh terror attack. [SEE PAGE 11]

WIN FREE TICKETS

Win a pair (2 tickets) to a **Taste of the Highlands** at the **Canmore Highland Games** in Canmore, Alberta on September 5, **plus** a pair (2 tickets) to the **Canmore Highland Games** (Ceilidh not included), on September 6. (See pages 3 & 6 for details). Entry by August 7. Mark your entry: Canmore Highland Games. Entries by e-mail only. Mark the name of the event on your entry, including your name and daytime telephone number. (Only one entry per person.) Send to: cbutler@telus.net



JOHNNIE FOX'S IRISH SNUG on Granville Street in Vancouver has announced a new 'Fly to Ireland' competition for their valued customers. [SEE PAGE 4]



PHOTO: Tony Butler

AN honour guard of upraised hurley sticks by members of the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club at the removal of Tom Butler's casket from St. Patrick's Parish in Vancouver.

The Boys of the County Mayo

Far away from the Land
of the Shamrock and Heather
In search of a living
as exiles we roam.
But whenever we chance
to assemble together
We think of the land where
we once had a home.

But these homes are destroyed
and our soils cultivated.
The hand of the tyrant brought
plunder and woe.
Our fires are long dead
and our hearths desolated
In our once happy homes
in the County Mayo.

'Tis many long years since
with hearts full of sorrow,
The Land of the Shamrock
we left far behind.
The days of our youth
it's now we regret them,
And the friends of our childhood
whom we still bear in mind.

Ah! The days of our youth
we'll never forget them
They cling to our visions
wherever we go.

And the friends of our youth,
may God always be with them.
They too are exiles from
the County Mayo.

From historic Killala,
from Swinford to Ballagh,
Ballyhaunis and Westport
and oul' Castlebar,
Kiltimagh and Claremorris,
Belmullet and Erris,
Kilkelly and Knock,
that's famed near and far.

Balla, Ballinrobe, Ballina and Bohola,
Keel Oaks and Foxford,
a few miles below,
Newport and Cong
and oul' Straide and Manulla,
Charlestown too,
in the County Mayo.

Chorus:

'Now Boys, pull together
in all kinds of weather,
Ne'er show the white feather
wherever ye go.

Act each like a brother
and help one another,
Like the stout-hearted men
from the County Mayo.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Our cover artist this month is Jeni Kubicek, a freelance artist based in North Carolina, U.S.A. She has wanted to be an artist since she was five, but started being serious around age 14. She didn't take lessons or classes but instead drew what she loved and drew inspiration from other artists.

She was home schooled K-12 then, instead of going to college, Jeni traveled the world, worked and continued to learn about art. Since then she got married and worked numerous jobs. She now works from home as a freelance artist.

Her fanart features various books and series, including *Wildwood Dancing* by Juliet Marillier, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, *Warm Bodies* by Isaac Marion, and the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling.

For more information about Jeni Kubicek, visit her Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/jenikubicekart.

THE CELTIC CONNECTION

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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 • Alison 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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In Memory of Tom Butler

December 28, 1930 - June 25, 2015

VANCOUVER – Friends and family gathered from far and wide on the morning of Saturday, July 4, 2015 to say a final farewell to a man who had a large presence in the local Irish community for almost 60 years.

By MAURA DE FREITAS

Tom Butler was born in Kilmaine, Co. Mayo in Ireland on December 28, 1930 and he passed away after a long illness on June 25, 2015 in Vancouver at the age of 84.

Predeceased by his first wife Annie Teresa, he is lovingly remembered by his wife Catholine Butler, children Kevin Butler and Mary Ann Segarty (Grant), step-children Maura De Freitas (Jose) and Patrick McCay and grandchildren Angela Logan (James), Susie Segarty (Mike), Liam Segarty (Sandra), Teresa Segarty (Chad) and his great-grandchildren, sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews and many friends in Canada, the U.S.A. and Ireland.

It felt so appropriate to say farewell to Tom at St. Patrick's Parish in Vancouver with Father James Hughes celebrating his funeral Mass. This was the parish where so many Irish emigrants of his era found a home and a community upon arrival in this city.

Over the years, Tom's door was always open with a warm welcome for his fellow Irish exiles and many will remember the legendary gatherings he and his late wife Teresa held in the Fifties and Sixties.

Their home served as the unofficial Irish centre where so many wonderful gatherings took place with music and songs shared. Loneliness and homesickness were dispelled in such fine company.

Tom played a key role in the formation of many of the local Irish organizations, particularly the Sons of Erin and later the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club (ISSC).

One of the most remarkable demonstrations of support followed Tom's funeral Mass when members of the ISSC – both men and women, young and old –



TOM BUTLER – A proud Mayo man to the core.

donned their green and gold jerseys and formed a silent guard of honour with uplifted hurleys leading all the way out of the church.

That was an incredible tribute to a man whose name graces the GAA Western Canada Division men's championship award: The Tom Butler Cup.

Thank you also to Catherine Flynn and Lee Cooke for their help putting together the wonderful slide show presentation at the reception afterwards.

Tom also will be remembered for all his volunteer work with the Vancouver St. Vincent de Paul Society where he helped with meals for the Downtown Eastside and worked on many renovation projects.

Personally, it was a privilege to know him and I will never forget how very good he was to me.

He was my beloved step-father and he first came into my life about 22 years ago when he married my mother Catholine. From that time forward he took me under his wing and treated me like another daughter.

I was never so proud to have him walk beside me as on my wedding day when he escorted me down the aisle to my bridegroom.

We shared so many joyous and happy family celebrations together and it was Tom's generous spirit that will always leave a lasting impression.

I am very grateful for all the support and encouragement Tom consistently showed me with my work publishing *The Celtic Connection*. I know he was very proud each month to help distribute the paper.

Over the years his presence brought us a great deal of stability and there were many moments when his very practical common sense helped to guide us through some very turbulent waters.

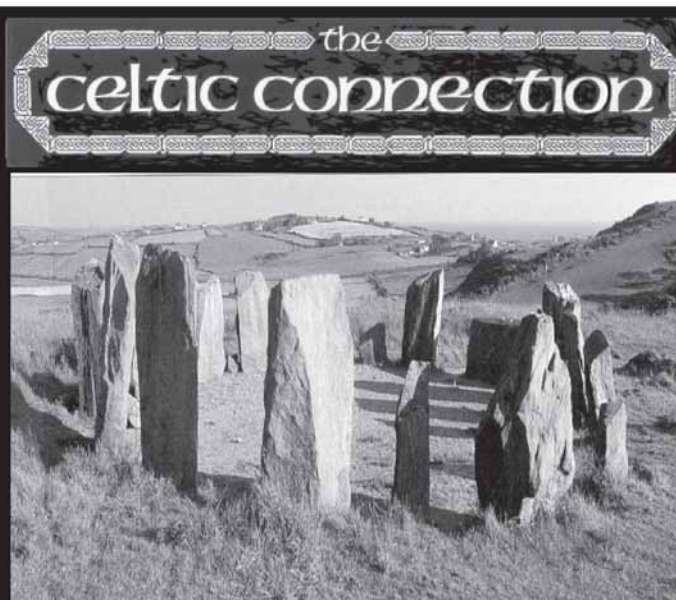
In more recent years it was because of Tom that I worked to organize the Irish seniors luncheons through the Irish Benevolent Society of B.C.

I became aware of the great contribution so many of these earlier Irish immigrants made to our community and in their golden years I wanted to help bring these lovely people together where once again they could sing and dance and enjoy each other's company.

During the past few weeks I have read so many of the numerous condolence messages received and the one quality that shines through all the grief is that Tom will be remembered as a gentleman and a man of honour, and I think there can be no finer tribute.

On behalf of my mother Catholine Butler and all the Butler family, I would like to extend our warmest thank you to everyone who called or sent messages, and who attended the prayers and funeral Mass. Your support has been greatly appreciated.

[The family has requested in lieu of flowers, donations to the Vancouver St. Vincent de Paul Society with the Archdiocese of Vancouver.]



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SENDING BEST WISHES and best of Irish luck to our Western Canada Rose 2015, Cassandra Sampson of Fort McMurray, Alberta, at the finals taking place in Ireland in August for the International Rose of Tralee Festival.



TOM GIBBONS Cup and the Tom Butler Cup— ladies and men's GAA Western Canada championship trophies.

Best of luck to all the GAA teams competing in the 2015 Western Canada Championships

Best of luck to all the teams participating in the 2015 GAA Western Canada Championships in Edmonton, Alberta on the August long weekend.

Eight distinct clubs spread through three provinces are preparing for the challenge, including: The Fraser Valley Gaels and the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club from British Columbia; the Calgary Chieftains, the Edmonton Wolfe Tones, the RedBridge Eire Og, and Fort McMurray Shamrocks from Alberta; and the Regina Gaels and Chlann na Gael Saskatoon from Saskatchewan.

A total of eight men's teams are scheduled to compete for the honour of hoisting the Tom Butler Cup, while five women's teams will compete for the Tom Gibbons Cup.

Congratulations as well to the Edmonton Wolfe Tones whose 40th anniversary coincides with the championship weekend.

No doubt it will be a tough competition and a weekend to remember as it is predicted to be the largest tournament staged in the history of the division.



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Irish Club Entertainment Listing

August 1, 2 & 3 – Heritage Days

Be sure and visit our Pavilion at Heritage Days & taste our delicious traditional Irish Food - our potato bread is outstanding!

Edmonton Wolfe Tones GAA Club are hosting the 2015 Western Canadian GAA Championship Tournament on The August 1st, long week-end - Everyone welcome to come out and support all the teams

For entertainment listings in August & September – call the club

The Wolfe Tones will be celebrating 40 years with a gala on September 26th.
Contact: kimberlydbudd@me.com for details.

www.edmontonirishclub.ca

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To remove any false rumours here are the facts. Our intention was to run the businesses thru Christmas and then after Robbie Burn's day put the stores and property up for sale. The word that we were planning to retire got around and we have had interest in both the Dunbar and Delta properties. The Dunbar retail store, the Delta retail store are available with or without the property. Both stores are for sale with all fixtures, equipment and stock included. It includes web site, U.K. contacts and suppliers, Canadian suppliers, mailing list of customers, etc. Price includes many exclusive deli and U.K. product lines not available anywhere else in Canada.

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Taste of the Highlands	Saturday, September 5, 5 - 9 pm
Full Highland Games	Sunday, September 6, 8 am - 5:30 pm
Evening Ceilidh	Sunday, September 6, 6 - 11 pm

Advance tickets now available
Buy early to avoid disappointment
www.canmorehighlandgames.ca

Summer Festivals and Trad Sessions from Vancouver to Dingle

FINBAR FUREY

The Rogue is delighted to bring **Finbar Furey** to St. James Hall on August 15!

Finbar has left his mark on the music of Ireland and indeed taken Irish music around the world for more than 40 years as the lead singer, banjo and uilleann pipes player for **The Fureys**, a group he shared with his brothers **Eddie, Paul and George**.

He has toured extensively in Britain, America, Australia and Europe, treating audiences to evenings of pure Irish magic, great music, good humour, and the charm and sparkling wit associated with one of Ireland's great raconteurs.

From his early folk days in the late Sixties to his more contemporary, raw and emotional style today, his music is determined, irresistibly intriguing and reflective and re-affirms his status as one of Ireland's great folk heroes.

He was last here around 20 years ago, I think, at The Cultch. I still recall that concert as the night I witnessed a comprehensive master class on the uilleann pipes. What a great player he is, and such a great communicator too!

From earliest memory, music played an essential role in Finbar's family home in Ballyfermot, Dublin.

His father played fiddle and pipes and his mother played five string banjo. Finbar won several all-Ireland championships on the uilleann pipes as a teenager.

As a duo with his brother Eddie in the late Sixties, the two left Ireland and were soon playing in folk clubs, colleges, then festivals and concert halls throughout Europe where their approach to the music was soon noticed and influenced succeeding generations.

Finbar has always experimented with instruments and designed and had made a set of pipes in stainless steel, the first ever made.

In 1971 he designed a new style of flute and commissioned Bernard Overton to make it and so the Overton flute (or low whistle as it is called nowadays) was born and is now played worldwide in every Irish and Celtic band.

In 1978 they asked younger brothers, Paul and George with their bandmate, **Davey Arthur**, to join them and formed **The Fureys and Davey Arthur**.

The band achieved worldwide fame with Finbar as frontman, with such hits as Finbar's *Lonesome Boatman* and songs like *Sweet 16*, *The Green Fields of France*, *The Red Rose Cafe* and many more.

In 1995, Finbar left the group to launch a solo career and his reputation as a solo artist has increased with every performance with his gutsy, emotional and innovative approach to music. His concerts are nights packed with lots of music, songs, passion and fun.

Finbar has also added acting to his credits, playing a singing role in Martin Scorsese's *Gangs of New York* followed by a lead acting role in Mark Mahon's *Strength and Honour* alongside Vinny Jones, Richard Chamberlain, Michael Madsen and Patrick Bergin.

This was followed with a stunning role as a mentally ill ex-gamekeeper in the short film *Paris/ Sexy* and then a part



By
STEVE
EDGE

THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB



FINBAR Furey has left his mark on the music of Ireland and indeed taken Irish music around the world for more than 40 years as the lead singer, banjo and uilleann pipes player for The Fureys. He plays The Rogue Folk Club in Vancouver on August 15.

in RTE's feted drama series, *Love/Hate*.

In 2013 Finbar won *The Hit* with the beautifully written *The Last Great Love Song* and followed this with his album *Colours* becoming his first Number One in 30 years since *When you were Sweet 16* in 1983.

Finbar's back in the charts now with his newly released instrumental and inspirational album on pipes and flute, *The Slender Promise*. For more, see: www.finbarfurey.com.

OYSTERBAND

Two days earlier, The Rogue presents Anglo-Celtic Folk Rock pioneers, **Oysterband** at St. James Hall.

They make a kind of modern, folk-based British music, acoustic at heart but not always quiet. They've been doing this for a long time, and they're pretty good at it by now.

At first purely a dance band (**The Oyster Ceilidh Band**), Oysterband soon started experimenting with radical arrangements of traditional songs and with home recording, determined that traditional music should not be just a branch of the heritage industry.

Musicians came and went, the name shortened, and in 1986 they released their first breakthrough album *Step Outside*.

During the late Eighties Oysterband toured across the globe, including Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, and North America.

They have played alongside the likes of **Michelle Shocked** and **Billy Bragg**, toured for the British Council

in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Morocco.

These travels had a powerful impact on their attitudes to both the world and to song writing.

In 1990 they recorded *Freedom And Rain* with the great English folk diva **June Tabor**.

Although essentially a trad and covers collection, the songs were shrewdly chosen, and the album was very well received, particularly in the U.S. where *Rolling Stone* commented "imagine if Aerosmith and Madonna announced they were to tour together...!!"

The Rogue brought them to Vancouver in 1991: June Tabor in a chain mail vest singing *White Rabbit* with the Oysters rocking the backbeat and searing the air at 86 Street Music Hall with their fiddle, melodeon, and guitars. Ah yes. Happy days!

Meanwhile in the UK the ground was shifting.

As Oysterband expanded from their folk background, others were expanding from rock into folk, and the convergence became a new scene including **The Pogues**, **The Levellers**, **The Waterboys**, and **Celtas Cortos**.

The high-point from this period was probably **Holy Bandits** (1993); the first song *When I'm Up I Can't Get Down* was later a substantial hit for Great Big Sea.

In the early to mid-Nineties, Oysterband recorded collaborations with Eliza Carthy, The Handsome Family, and others, as well as establishing the hugely popular festival **The Big Session**.

More recently the band have found remarkable success from their reunion album with June Tabor, *Ragged Kingdom*, released in 2011.

Twenty-one years after *Freedom And Rain* may seem perverse, but it was well worth the wait.

Ragged Kingdom earned no less than three BBC Folk Awards (Best Trad Track, Best Album, and Best Group).

With a stunning new album, *Diamonds On The Water*, and after such a long career, Oysterband can't help feel that the most fruitful time might be right now.

Make sure you don't miss this incredible return to form.

Currently, Oysterband consists of founder members **John Jones** (vocals, melodeon), **Alan Prosser** (guitars, vocals), and **Ian Telfer** (violin, keyboard, vocals) with **Dil Davies** (drums), **Al Scott** (bass guitar, mandolin, vocals), and **Adrian Oxaal** (cello, guitar, vocals). www.oysterband.co.uk.

DICK GAUGHAN

On September 12, The Rogue presents Scots singer **Dick Gaughan** at St. James. It's been a few years since he was last here.

Few singers can convey the raw power of traditional song and contemporary protest anthem with such authority, and his guitar work is brilliantly intricate at times, and mind-blowingly truculent at others!

His 1984 album *Handful Of Earth* was voted Album of the Century by readers of British magazine *fRoots*, a celebration of his versions of Burns' *Now Westlin' Winds*, Leon Rosselson's

World Turned Upside Down and Ed Pickford's *Workers Song*.

He usually starts his shows with Si Kahn's *What You Do With What You've Got* and his renditions of ballads like *The Cruel Brother* and *Glenlogie* are spine-tinglingly good.

His cover of Pete Seeger's *Waist Deep In The Big Muddy* is equally memorable.

We can't wait to hear what he's been up to lately. For more, see: www.dickgaughan.co.uk.

SUMMER FESTIVALS IN B.C. AND ALBERTA

We just got back from **Island Musicfest** in Courtenay. I'm still buzzing from my first taste of **Steeleye Span** in concert!

The band that first rocked out on trad ballads like *Thomas The Rhymer* and *Cold Haily Windy Night* and went to the top of the charts with *All Around My Hat* and a song in Latin (*Gaudete*) made their first ever B.C. appearance last weekend.

I spoke with **Maddy Prior** afterwards and she told me she would love to bring the band to Vancouver on their next tour. I'll make it happen if I can!

PEI's **Ten Strings & A Goatskin** was the only other Celtic band on view, and they were a huge hit with the crowd.

This coming weekend I'm looking forward to seeing **Richard Thompson, Rory McLeod, Breabach, Ross Ainslie & Jarlath Henderson, Sam Lee, and The Once** – amongst others – at the **Vancouver Folk Music Festival** (www.thefestival.bc.ca).

Then it's **Mission** and more piping from **Ross and Jarlath**, Canadian fiddling with **Pierre Schryer** and **Jocelyn Pettit**, the Irish pipes of **Martin Nolan**, and the amazing harmonies and Galician pipes of **Ialma** (July 24-26). www.missionfolkmusicfestival.com.

Next month it's the **Edmonton Folk Festival**, the Rolls Royce of festivals, with Cape Breton's **Coig**, Ireland's **Sinead O'Connor** and **I Draw Slow**, Scotland's **Brian McNeill**, Quebec's **Le Vent Du Nord**, and England's **Richard Thompson** and **Oysterband**. (August 6-9). www.edmontonfolkfest.org.

Then there's the **Princeton Traditional Music Festival** (www.princetontraditional.org) and Salmon Arm's **Roots & Blues Festival** (www.rootsandblues.ca) to choose from (August 14-16). So much fabulous music, so little time!!

DOOLIN FOLK FESTIVAL

On our trip to Ireland last month we took in the third annual **Doolin Folk Festival** in Co. Clare

It was held at the Doolin Hotel on the main street (Fisher Street) in a wedding tent and garden at the back.

The tent holds around 700 people, I reckon. Maybe more. There are two bars in the garden, plus one upstairs in a room with a second stage.

There was a huge open fire with a two-metre pan on it cooking Thai Chicken Curry.

Big open braziers burning logs, the smell of woodsmoke disguising the smell of cigarette smoke.

Three craft vendors, a busy cafe at the front serving bespoke pizza, a pub next door with sessions every night spilling out into the courtyard by day.

Dublin Porter (the original Guinness recipe) and Smithwick's Pale Ale on tap, and the very popular Stella Artois Cidre in large bottles.

Three nights of music and only half a mile to walk home to our B&B, which had views out to the Cliffs of Moher (and we could hear the last bands playing on into the night from our room!). What great bands, too!

Doolin is basically one street with four pubs and a few houses, a couple of shops and hostels and fields of cows and sheep.

As we drove in, we spied **Luka Bloom** walking along the road. We knew we were in the right place!

We were amongst the first to arrive and set up camp in the comfy chairs in the wedding "lounge," where Irish TV were conducting interviews with some of the performers.

Sharon Shannon was the big name on the Friday night, and she played with three musicians – **Jim Murray** on guitar, **Alan Connor** on piano and guitar and vocals and I can't remember the fiddler's name but he was brilliant!

Next up was songwriter **Declan O'Rourke** – check out his gorgeous songs *Galileo* and *Whatever Else Happens*.

The last band started at 12:45 AM each night, and I just couldn't stay awake long enough to hear the very excellent young band **Moxie**.

On Saturday we cruised over to Inis Oirr in the Aran Islands and then underneath the Cliffs of Moher – what a great way to see them!

Made it back to the festival to see **We Banjo 3** (two sets of brothers and only two banjos!) What a great band!

Young guys having fun and playing and singing brilliantly. Trad and related music delivered with lots of smiles.

We wandered around to the sessions and even managed to stay for the first half of the final set by **Aldoc**, comprising two former members of **Grada** (from Ireland and New Zealand) plus musicians from Germany and Holland, I think.

Their CD, *From Tallaght To Halle*, is excellent; a sort of trippy ambient blend of Irish trad and dub – a bit like **Afro Celts** perhaps. Live they didn't quite carry it off, but the flute player is quite amazing.

The tent was absolutely packed with lovely young women dressed to the nines and young Irish lads as pissed as newts!

A French visitor asked to take a photo of the empty kegs as he'd never seen so much beer consumed in one evening!

On Sunday we viewed the Cliffs from the top and then headed back to the festival in time to see **NoCrows**, a Sligo sextet with a Siberian fiddler, a Swiss cellist and a Mallorcan guitarist!

Great stuff again, touching on trad and blending songs in Catalan with horas from eastern Europe and excellent songs and original tunes.

[Continued next page]

“I thought they were starting to sound like an Irish trad version of Spinal Tap here, with band members disappearing suddenly!”

[Continued from page 4]

Paddy Keenan, the master uilleann piper, was next, in an ever-growing band which featured local accordionist **Dermot Byrne** (ex **Altan**) amongst others.

They had the crowd dancing madly. **Luka Bloom** then introduced his new trio **O Sahara**, singing *Limestone Desert Blues* – all new songs written in his new home close to the Burren.

This incredible limestone landscape just north of Doolin is where exotic plants grow in the cracks of ancient rocks and underground rivers flow to the sea.

The only song I'd heard before was the encore, *Don't Be Afraid Of The Light That Shines Within You*.

All the rest were new songs, many with a stirring Arabic feel reminiscent of *Ali Farka Toure* at times. Spellbinding!

I spoke with him afterwards and he is desperate to come back to Vancouver next year. Hooray!

The last band we saw was **Stockton's Wing** with **Kieran Hanrahan** on guitar and vocals, **Paul Roche** on flute and **Tommy Hayes** on bodhran.

Their fiddler, **Maurice Lennon**, was in hospital in Minneapolis (“He’ll be fine,” said Kieran) and he was replaced by **Tara Breen** a young fiddler from Ennis who had never played with them before that afternoon.

Guitarist **Steve Cooney** was taken ill on his way to the gig and was in hospital in Limerick.

(“He’ll be fine,” said Kieran. I thought they were starting to sound like an Irish trad version of Spinal Tap here, with band members disappearing suddenly!).

Anyhow, they drafted in the excellent **Jen Butterworth** on guitar and the band sounded just as good as they did in 1985 when I first saw them. *Walk Away, Beautiful Affair*, and *The Golden Stud* were rounded out with the stirring *Skidoo* as an encore. A great way to finish this memorable event.

DINGLE

The next day we drove to Dingle and found even more music, notably from **Tommy O’Sullivan**, who now runs a wonderful pub there (The Old Courthouse, with live music every night and superb local organic porter on tap).

We saw **Teresa Horgan & Matt Griffin** there. Teresa replaced Vancouver’s **Norah Rendell** on flute and vocals in the *Outside Track*, and she had just released her first solo CD – three days earlier.

We also saw **Seamus Begley’s** daughter **Maev** – again with **Matt Griffin** on guitar – the previous night. What a great accordion player and singer she is, too.

There’s so much great music in Dingle, and so many great young musicians and



THE ROGUE presents Anglo-Celtic Folk Rock pioneers, Oysterband at St. James Hall in Vancouver on August 13.

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Don't miss Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug 'Fly To Ireland' Contest

VANCOUVER – Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug has announced a new 'Fly to Ireland' competition for their valued customers.

With every pint of Guinness, or featured entrée of the week purchased, customers will receive a ballot ticket with a chance to win a free trip for two to Ireland.

Each completed ballot is entered into a contest draw box at Johnnie Fox's on Granville Street and every two weeks a ticket will be drawn.

This will give the finalist a *golden ticket* valid for the big finale to be held on August 22. A total of eight *golden tickets* will be given out.

Six will be drawn from the entry box at the pub over the course of the competition, the other two from a social media competition online. Watch Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug Facebook page or drop in to the bar for more details.

The finale draw will take place on August 22 with all golden ticket holders present, or they can nominate a person to represent them.

A big party will be held for the finale at Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug with lots of Guinness prizes for all the people present.

For more details, check out the Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug Facebook page.



TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR JULY

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

www.worldbeatcanada.com.

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

1. *Kometens Hales* by Jansberg - *Terra Nova* on GO' Danish.
2. *The Chase* by Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy - *One* on DLL Music.
3. *What You Do With What You've Got* by Kristina & Quinn Bachand - *Little Hinges* on Independent.
4. *Au revoir Grand Mamou* by Steve Riley & The Mamou Playboys - *Voyageurs* on Mamou Playboy.
5. *The Vapourer* by Spiro - *Welcome Joy and Welcome Sorrow* on Real World Records.
6. *Tired Of Your Tears* by Feufollet - *Two Universes* on Feufollet Records.
7. *Nunca James* by The Paperboys - *At Peace With One's Ghosts* on Independent.
8. *Catch Me* by The Real McKenzies - *Rats in the Burlap* on Fat Wreckchords.
9. *The Hunger & The Fight* by The Mahones - *The Hunger & The Fight (Part 1)* on Whiskey Devil Records.
10. *Leaving of Liverpool* by Homeland - *That Show* on Independent.

Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:
Jansberg - Terra Nova
(GO' Danish)



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THE 25th annual Canmore Highland Games presented by the Three Sisters Scottish Festival Society will be held in Canmore, Alberta on September 5-6, 2015.

Canmore Highland Games to Celebrate 25th Anniversary

CANMORE, Alberta – After uncertainty with financial difficulties, the Three Sisters Scottish Festival Society announced in February that they will present their signature summer event this year. They are deeming their “Save the Highland Games” fundraiser a success.

With this accomplishment, good budget control, and the help of a bridging loan of \$15,000 from the Town of Canmore, they are proudly saying that their 25th anniversary Canmore Highland Games will take place on September 5-6, 2015.

“We are thrilled with the support we have received,” says organization president Sandy Bunch.

“The response has been tremendous, from the radio stations and newspapers to the private and corporate donations of amounts small and large.

“We are so happy to be in the planning stages of our event for 2015.

“This year we salute the Alberta par-

ticipants who helped us start our Games 25 years ago,” says Sally Garen, entertainment coordinator for the festival.

Hired talent for this year’s events will include Stratus (Alberta’s version of Peter, Paul and Mary with some hilarity thrown in), local favourites Cabot’s Crossing of Calgary and St. James Gate of Red Deer.

Completing the line-up will be the Regimental Pipes and Drums of the Calgary Highlanders and performers from the MJP Academy of Irish Dance.

New to the festival this year will be the addition of several food truck vendors to supply a wide range of fare for all palates at the Sunday games, and gourmet food items will be added to the Taste of Highlands events on Saturday, September 5.

The festival is prepping for a great presentation of Celtic culture in all its forms – dance, music and sports.

“We would like at least 25 bands this year – a band for each year of this milestone anniversary,” says Piping and Drumming coordinator Audrey Third. “So bandsmen, please join us for the biggest event ever this year!

“We have issued a Facebook challenge to all fire, police, EMT, pubs and companies to enter a team for the tug of war. Prize money is in place for both men’s and women’s division winners – \$2,000 in each division – winner takes all,” says Bunch.

Overheard at a drum major workshop in Calgary earlier this year was a comment by one of the participants saying that Canmore’s Games are undoubtedly held in the most beautiful venue in North America.

“The thrill of the massed bands beneath the rugged mountain peaks is beyond comparison, definitely the place to be on the Labour Day weekend.”

More at www.canmorehighlandgames.ca.

The New Westminster Pipe Band welcomes new pipers and drummers

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. – The New Westminster Pipe Band was officially born in 1991 after the City of New Westminster, British Columbia passed a special resolution in council allowing the British Ex-Servicemen’s Pipe Band (which had originally been formed in 1979) to use the city’s name.

The band currently consists of 18 members with 13 pipers and five drummers, and a professional instructor.

The band practices Monday evenings from 7:30-9:30 PM and on one Sunday afternoon per month from 12:30-3 PM in the hall at the South Burnaby Legion Branch #83, at 5289 Grimmer Street in Burnaby.

The pipe band wears the Military Gordon tartan kilt, with either a full Highland uniform, or a formal day/evening uniform.

Serving as an on-going ambassador for the City of New Westminster, and also South Burnaby Royal Canadian Legion Branch #83, the band performs at a wide variety of community days, fairs, fund-raisers, parades and Scottish celebrations in and around the British Columbia Lower Mainland, the Gulf Islands, Sunshine Coast, Vancouver Island, as well as in the state of Washington in the U.S.A.

The band especially strives to play for non-profit organizations involved in worthy community programs such as service clubs, veterans’ clubs, seniors groups (including those living in long term care facilities), and charities.

The band also performs at annual Remembrance Day Ceremonies on November 11.

The City of New Westminster Pipe Band welcomes new pipers and drum-

mers who are interested in being part of an active community pipe band.

The band enjoys performing at many local special events, and at Royal Canadian Legion, and Army, Navy and Air Force functions, and joining with other bands such as the Metro Vancouver Firefighters’ Brass Band, the Royal Westminster Regimental Brass Band, the Port Coquitlam Legion Pipe Band, the Mission Legion Pipe Band, and Gibson’s Pipe Band in doing special parades and public performances.

Individual members of the pipe band regularly volunteer their time for community events such as official ceremonies, installation of officers, piping in dignitaries, citizenship court, playing the lament at veterans’ funerals, etc.

Individual members of the band also compete from time to time in piping and drumming competitions if they so wish, such as at the B.C. Highland Games. The pipe band as a whole does not compete.

In August of 2014 the band travelled to Prince Edward Island to participate in the 150th anniversary of the PEI Highland Games and Scottish Festival.

The band is a member of the B.C. Pipers’ Association and is available year-round for bookings for parades and special events.

The band is a self-supporting, charitable organization, and donations for performances are gratefully accepted.

To receive more information about the City of New Westminster Pipe Band, or to book the band for an event, please call Pipe Major Mike Carpenter, at (778) 988-9621, or Pipe Staff Sergeant and Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Buchannon at (604) 689-8639.



THE pipe band wears the Military Gordon tartan kilt, with either a full Highland uniform, or a formal day/evening uniform.

Royal Family Gathers for Christening of Princess Charlotte

LONDON – Kensington Palace has released the first official photographs from the christening of Princess Charlotte, showcasing the newest addition to the British royal family.



A LARGE crowd of royal fans passed through security to the area around the Church of St. Mary Magdalene where Princess Charlotte was set to be christened in front of the Queen and close family.

They were taken by noted celebrity photographer Mario Testino, who snapped Charlotte’s late grandmother, Princess Diana, for a famous 1997 *Vanity Fair* issue.

Dazzling in her ornate christening gown, the two-month-old princess is pictured alongside her parents, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and older brother, George.

The newly released photos give an intimate behind-the-scenes look at the family’s big day hours after thousands of royal watchers camped out near the St. Mary Magdalene Church in Sandringham, where the royal family tradition-

ally gathers for Christmas service

There were just 21 guests, including two-month-old Charlotte, her five godparents, the Queen, Prince Philip, Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, as well as grandparents Michael and Carole Middleton and Kate’s siblings Pippa and James.

Charlotte’s godparents were named as two cousins from both sides of the family – Michael Middleton’s nephew, Adam Middleton and Diana’s niece Laura Fellowes – as well as three close friends, James Meade, Thomas van Straubenzee and Sophie Carter.

For the ceremony, the Archbishop of Canterbury sprinkled Charlotte’s head with water from the River Jordan, in which Jesus Christ was said to be baptized, in the fabled silver gilt Lily Font, a part of the Crown Jewels on loan from the Tower of London.



THE first official photographs of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge with their children Charlotte and George.

Canadian police officer originally from UK shot dead in Edmonton

EDMONTON – Shocked British police officers remember their popular former colleague who was shot dead while on duty in Canada on June 8.

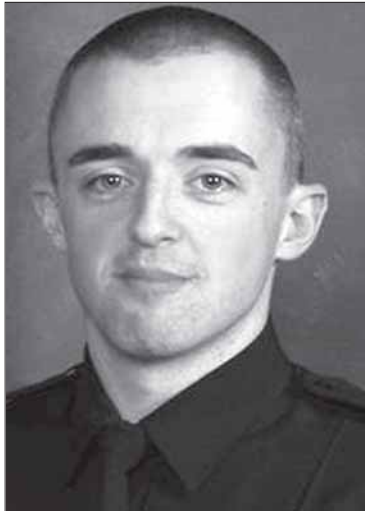
Father of two, Daniel Woodall (35), was gunned down while searching a house in south Edmonton to look for a suspect involved in a hate crime.

Constable Woodall had served with Greater Manchester Police for four years before emigrating to start a new life in Alberta with his wife Claire and two young sons, joining the Edmonton Police in 2006.

Speaking to media at Edmonton Police Service headquarters, Police Chief Rod Knecht said more than 50 bullet holes were found at the scene, some going through the house and into a garage across the street.

Woodall was hit multiple times and killed at the scene. A second officer, Sgt. Jason Harley (38), was shot in the back, but survived because of the body armour he was wearing. Woodall was also wearing body armour, but it did not protect him from his injuries.

The killer, Norman Raddatz (42), took his own life. He died inside the home,



CONSTABLE Daniel Woodall was shot dead while searching for a suspect in Edmonton, Alberta on June 8. He served with Greater Manchester Police for four years before immigrating to Canada with his family to join the Edmonton Police in 2006.

which burned to the ground after the shooting.

Knecht said officers were going to Raddatz's home to serve a bylaw warrant and another warrant for "extreme"

criminal harassment related to a lengthy hate crime investigation with evidence going back to February 2014.

Constable Woodall, originally from Salford, started his career with Greater Manchester Police (GMP) in August 2002 and left for Canada in December 2006.

"He was a truly ebullient man – always volunteering for new challenges and experiences," said GMP Det. Insp. Jim Faulkner.

"I can't really comprehend this has happened and I am in shock. It really is tragic and my heart and thoughts go out to his family and colleagues."

Constable Woodall is the first Edmonton police officer to be killed in the line of duty in 25 years. His death led to an outpouring of support and sympathy for him on social media in Canada and the UK.

Hundreds of police officers from across Canada and around the world gathered to march through the streets of downtown and fill the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton to honour Woodall at a regimental funeral on June 17.

Trees throughout the city were wrapped with blue ribbons in his honour and residents lined the streets and stood on rooftops to watch the procession pass by. Many wiped tears from their eyes as they stood silently on the sidewalk.



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British weather never fails to underwhelm

POSTCARD FROM BOURNEMOUTH

By
ELFAN
JONES



THE weather here is disappointing. One day it is 22 degrees and everybody thinks “hurrah summer is here.”

The next day the temperature slumps to 12 degrees and moods fall accordingly.

I have no idea why I am surprised when this happens.

This is British weather. This is why barbecues are not a regular event, and we all book holidays in Spain.

Cambridge University was founded in 1209 and is the second oldest university in the English speaking world.

Notable alumni include Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Stephen Hawking, and dozens of men and women who have pushed the boundaries of academic research.

This week the university has announced they are appointing a Professor of Lego. This new professorship will oversee the study of “play in education.”

The Lego Foundation which is part owner of the world famous Danish company is donating £4 million pounds for a research centre within Cambridge’s Faculty of Education to explore how children learn through play.

I have a mental picture of undergraduates sitting on the floor making little bridges and houses from the coloured bricks then going home to mummy and daddy with a B.A. Hons in advanced Lego?

Last weekend I visited friends in The Witterings. A bonny little area on the south coast, eight miles from Chichester, with a history dating back to Roman times.

East and West Wittering have a high proportion of retired people and weekenders living there, as well as several celebrities.

Kate Winslett and Keith Richard are two names I remember. Apart from the beaches, the lovely old pubs and the picturesque villages, it is the mix of houses, and bungalows that makes the place charming.

In one street there was a New England style home next to classic Fifties bungalow and then homes created from converted railway carriages, which were just beautiful.

I had never seen homes made from converted railway carriages and a little



PHOTO: Wendy McFadden

THE WALES WINDOW FOR ALABAMA, created by artist John Petts, was a gift to the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church from the people of Wales, U.K., after the 1963 bombing. The Christ figure is rejecting injustice with one hand and extends forgiveness with the other.



research on Google revealed that people have been converting carriages into homes for at least a 100 years.

The earliest reference I could find was in a 1910 article in *The Hamsworth Magazine* entitled: *Railway Carriages as Houses – A seaside village of strange residences* by H.L.Adam.

I quote “A town of railway carriages – of carriages used as houses may be seen on our Southern coast.

“It is situated on the Beach at Shoreham a few miles from Brighton.”

The article explains that disused carriages were left by the beach to rot and fishermen used them to store their nets until one of them hit on the idea of living in one.

An entrepreneur in Shoreham saw an opportunity and advertised them for sale, as beach holiday homes, in several London newspapers. He received 60 applications!!

Apparently all the carriages were sold and the article mentions that an old lady paid £10 for a carriage plus £2 to have it lifted onto the beach then soon sold it for £40. It is a fun article, well worth a read.

On September 15, 1963 in Birmingham Alabama, four members of the Ku Klux Klan planted 15 sticks of dynamite outside the entrance to the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

Four children were killed and hundreds both inside and outside the church were injured.

Two years later the church had been restored and the new stained glass win-

dow above the entrance is known by the church members as “The Wales Window for Alabama.”

Created by a Llansteffan artist, John Petts it depicts a Jesus with black skin on the cross and a shining rainbow above his head.

On the bottom of the window are the words “Given by the people of Wales.”

Back in those days many of the white community were appalled at the depiction of Jesus as a black man and regarded it as blasphemous.

Today, hopefully they have realised that he was not from Sweden, but from the Middle East and consequently not likely to have blond hair and blue eyes.

Back home, Penzance Council spent more than £50,000 trying to beat the world record for the number of pirates on the beach at one time but fell short by 77.

The record is held by Hastings who had 14,231 (mainly shopkeepers, hoteliers and café owners I suspect).

Finally, there was big news from Birmingham, England, yesterday. Britain’s first National Sperm Bank opened there.

A good place for it, because there is not much else to do in Birmingham. People joke about it.

They say that the birds fly upside down there because they can’t find anything worth crapping on.

I play golf with a chap from Birmingham, nice fella, but I can’t understand a word he says.

They really have a weird accent. A cup of tea is pronounced, “a kipper tie.”

The first time I played with him he thought I was deaf because I kept saying pardon.

Enjoy the summer.
Elfan



DORIS LONG aka ‘Daring Doris’ abseils down the Spinnaker tower in Portsmouth, Hampshire, on Sunday, July 12.

101-year-old woman abseils from tower

LONDON – A 101-year-old British woman swung from a 94-meter tower disregarding any feelings of fear as she suspended from the tallest building in the UK outside of London, the Guardian newspaper reported.

Doris Long said, “I don’t feel afraid and never have – I just have a placid nature.”

This is not the pensioner’s first time in the air. Nicknamed Daring Doris, she started abseiling at 85 and has even abseiled alongside new Top Gear host, Chris Evans.

Long’s stint is part of an effort to raise money for the Rowans hospice in Waterlooville, Hampshire.

“I have a look down at the crowd. I am normally looking to see how the other person is getting on,” she said in reference to any accompanying daredevils.

“It was very hard work, much harder than last year,” she said after touching ground.

“It was so windy I swung about a bit but oh yes, I enjoyed it, I feel it’s well worth it.

“My legs ache like anything – and my right arm where I hold the rope – and my hair is all sticking out.”

Despite the inconveniences posed by the weather, Long said she was “living to hope” to suspend from the tower next year, at the age of 102.

Long, who has a daughter, three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren, received cheers and applause from the crowd below, as a band played The Proclaimers’ hit, *I’m Gonna Be (500 Miles)* as she reached the bottom of the tower.

Her fundraising efforts have gained Long a coveted Order of the British Empire, or MBE, an award given to those who have provided distinguished service to the arts and sciences and public services.

A 42-year-old mother of two, who completed the abseil earlier in the day, commended Long and described her as a “real inspiration.”

“I think she’s amazing, a real inspiration. You have to be quite agile to get the ropes down, but it’s the bravery more than anything. How she does it I have no idea,” Jennie Watson said.

Event fundraiser Karen Kay said “Doris is an amazing lady and a huge inspiration. She has been abseiling for the Rowans hospice for more than 10 years now and has raised over £11,000.”

“We can’t thank her enough for supporting local hospice care. Everyone at the Rowans hospice wishes Doris all the best for this epic challenge.”

Wrongly released prisoner enjoys a short beer break

BIRMINGHAM – A prisoner wrongly released from jail walked to his old school friend’s pub for a couple of beers before handing himself in.

Landlady of the Soho Foundry Tavern Karen Clifford said Lewis Harwood paid the pub a visit just after opening on Monday, June 29, hours after he was let out of HMP Birmingham.

Her son Darren Clifford, who helps run the bar, went to school with Harwood.

G4S, which runs the jail, said it had correctly followed its release procedures and put the error down to the late arrival of a court fax.

Clifford said Harwood popped in “now and again” to the pub in Smethwick in the West Midlands which is only 10 minutes walk from the jail where he was being held.

“He’s a nice lad, I’ve known him since he was a child,” added the landlady.

She said Harwood knew he had been wrongly released but had a bacon sandwich washed down with two bottles of Budweiser beer at the pub, before voluntarily walking back to the prison.

Harwood, of Rugeley, Staffordshire, was supposed to be let out after serving a sentence for a motoring offence. However, he was then supposed to be kept in jail on remand for an unrelated charge.

Mhairi Black delivers fiery UK commons Maiden Speech



ONDON – The Scottish Nationalist Party's Mhairi Black proved on Tuesday, July 14 that age is no barrier to dominating the political agenda, setting the House of Commons ablaze with a barnstorming first-ever speech in the 300-year-old chamber.

The 20-year-old, Britain's youngest MP since 1667, cited Tony Benn, William Wallace and even Margaret Thatcher in her Westminster debut, laying claim to Labour's mantle of social justice.

It prompted a rapturous reception on Twitter with support from Angus Robertson, leader of the SNP in Westminster, Owen Jones, the embattled socialist and newspaper columnist, fellow MPs, and even *The Sun* newspaper.

The newly elected 20-year-old SNP MP, said Labour was run out of Scotland not because of nationalism but because the party has forgotten what it is for.

She attacked the Conservative Party as the most "uncaring, uncompromising and out of touch governments that the UK has seen since Thatcher."

And criticising George Osborne's welfare cuts for young people, she noted that as an MP with a housing allowance she was "the only 20-year-old in the UK the chancellor is prepared to help with housing."



THE youngest British MP since 1667, 21-year-old Mhairi Black has captured national attention with a passionate maiden speech in the House of Commons.

Black delivered one of the landmark moments of May's election when she defeated Labour's election campaign chief Douglas Alexander to win the Paisley and Renfrewshire South seat.

On May 7 the SNP won all but three of Scotland's 59 constituencies – leaving Labour with just one.

SNP MPs filled their section of the chamber to hear Black speak and were told off for loudly applauding their colleague after she pleaded with Labour's interim-leader Harriet Harman to oppose Osborne's cuts to tax credits.

"I have sat in this chamber for 10 weeks and I have very deliberately stayed quiet and have listened intently to everything that has been said.

"I have heard multiple speeches from Labour benches standing to talk about the worrying rise of nationalism in Scotland," she said.

"All these speeches have served to do is demonstrate how deep the lack of understanding about Scotland there is within the Labour party.

"I, like so many SNP members, come from a traditional socialist Labour family and I have never been quiet in my assertion that I feel it is the Labour Party that left me, not the other way about.

"The SNP did not triumph on a wave of nationalism, in fact nationalism has nothing to do with what has happened in Scotland.

"We triumphed on a wave of hope. Hope that there was something different, something better, to the Thatcherite neo-liberal policies that are produced from this chamber.

"Hope that representatives could genuinely give a voice to those who don't have one."



PHOTO: Stuart Wilding

GAELIC SIGNS on North Uist in the Western Isles.

Gaelic board chief executive does not speak the language

EDINBURGH – The new head of Scotland's Gaelic development board does not speak the language, it has emerged.

Joe Moore was appointed interim chief executive of Bord na Gaidhlig after former head Iain Campbell resigned in June, three months after starting the job.

The board has recruited Gaelic-speaking MG Alba finance director Neil Graham to support Moore part-time.

Head of education Mary MacMillan, who will step down is being replaced on an interim basis by former Highland Council education director Bruce Robertson, who also does not speak Gaelic.

A spokesman for Bord na Gaidhlig insisted it will be "business as usual"

when Moore takes over on Monday, July 13.

Chairman Allan MacDonald, who was appointed last month, said, "We warmly welcome Joe and Bruce to the Bord and are grateful to them for their willingness to support us at this unusual time.

"Both come to the Bord with excellent skills in their respective areas and I have no doubt these skills will be beneficial to us.

"Bord na Gaidhlig is a small organisation with a huge linguistic responsibility and we certainly welcome the additional support."

Former chief executive Campbell, a native Gaelic-speaker born on South Uist in the Western Isles, stepped down for "personal reasons" in June.

Woman who lay in crashed car in Scotland for three days dies

GLASGOW – The government has ordered an urgent review of all police call-handling in Scotland after the death of a woman who spent three days lying in a crashed car next to her dead boyfriend.

Lamara Bell (25) was only found barely conscious in the car alongside her dead partner, John Yuill (28), on Wednesday, July 8.

It emerged that a member of the public contacted Police Scotland at about 11:30 AM on Sunday, July 5 to report they could see the vehicle down an embankment near the M9 slip road at Bannockburn.

The car was only found when officers were called to the scene by another member of the public. This was about 72 hours after the accident was first reported to police.

Bell was taken to Glasgow's Queen Elizabeth University Hospital where she was reportedly placed in a medically-induced coma.

She suffered kidney damage from dehydration after lying in the wreckage for so long. She died at about 6:50 AM on Sunday, July 12.

Bell's brother Martin has been vocal on social media, posting in disbelief regarding the details of the police's failed response.



POLICE SCOTLAND chief Stephen House has apologized to families of a couple left in crashed car for three days despite the accident being reported days earlier.

He posted updates regarding his sister's health as she clung to life in hospital, detailing her injuries and treatment, including efforts to relieve a build up of fluid in her brain.

He confirmed the bad news in a Facebook post one week after the crash, "My sister just passed away."

Police Scotland Chief Constable Stephen House has apologized and issued numerous statements regarding the incident.

"That we failed both families involved is without doubt." He confirmed the first call was answered, but "for reasons yet to be established" it was not entered onto the police systems and no action was taken at the time.

Scottish politicians are calling for an

inquiry into how the mistake happened and whether it is connected to police reorganization and budget cuts.

Scotland's Justice Secretary has called for a review into the department's call-handling procedures. House said he requested the review "in light of recent tragic events."

Scottish Lib Dem leader Willie Rennie has said the case for such an inquiry was becoming "unanswerable" and has questioned the chief constable's assertion that the incident centred around an "individual failure" in the service.

The MSP said workload pressure on the police service has been "immense" since the reorganisation of the service into a single force over two years ago – a move which included the centralisation of police control rooms.

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Swanky New Scottish Cultural Centre Proposed for Victoria, B.C.



DINBURGH – Some years ago a government report on the Scottish diaspora coined ‘affinity Scot’ as a way of describing people who were not born in Scotland but felt a strong connection to the place. The term could have been invented for Theresa Mackay.



By
**HARRY
McGRATH**

Theresa is a second generation Scottish-Canadian who was born in Montreal, lived in Toronto, grew up in Vancouver and now resides in Victoria.

She is the executive director of the BC Museums Association and owner of the Larchgrove Marketing Group, a consulting company which offers “contemporary advice rooted in Scotland’s past with an eye on today’s global Scottish culture.”

It’s no coincidence that Theresa’s grandfather was born in the Scottish village of Glenlivet (home of a famous whisky) in a house called Larchgrove which still exists today as a private home.

Her great uncle Bert worked in banking in the same village and it was he who came to Canada, subsequently persuading his brother, William, to follow. William’s son, Robert (Bob), Theresa’s father, was born in St. Albert, Saskatchewan.

Theresa is studying for a Master of Letters with Scotland’s University of the Highlands and Islands and plans to start her PhD with them in 2016.

And if all of this is not enough, Scottish affinity has now moved into a third generation.

She has two teenage daughters, one of whom Highland dances and the other is a beginner Highland snare drummer in the junior band program with the Victoria Police Pipe Band.

As Theresa explains, “I have Scotland in my soul and I think when you have that, you know how deeply that resonates and how complex it can be.

“Scottish culture is part of my everyday life and it stems far beyond Nessie, haggis, heather and shortbread, which formed my early understanding of the land where my ancestors came from.”

British Columbia is, of course, particularly rich in affinity Scots, and there are others on similar journeys.

However, I have yet to meet anyone else with a family, social, cultural and professional life that connects to Scotland in quite the same way.

Theresa’s Larchgrove company provides “consulting services for projects with Scotland in their soul, primarily in the areas of marketing, operations, events, tourism, and history.”

Her group includes experts in their fields who also have a Scottish connection and are as passionate about Scotland and Scottish culture as she is.

As she explains, “This expertise combined with a Scottish connection creates a spark and dedication with our clients that isn’t seen with more generic consultants. It is the cultural connection and mutual understanding that makes the difference in the work we do with companies and people, both local and abroad.”

Of all the remarkable work Theresa does, however, one thing stands out. She is on the board of the Victoria Highland Games Association and a key member of the team responsible for the association’s successful acquisition of a long-term lease of historic Craighflower Manor and Lands and the plan to develop a Scottish Cultural Centre there.



THERESA MACKAY is on the board of the Victoria Highland Games Association and a key member of the team responsible for the association’s successful acquisition of a long-term lease of historic Craighflower Manor and Lands and the plan to develop a Scottish Cultural Centre there.

long-term lease of historic Craighflower Manor and Lands and the plan to develop a Scottish Cultural Centre there.

Craighflower Manor is a federally and provincially registered heritage site and historic house museum that includes the Hudson’s Bay Company-built home of Kenneth McKenzie.

McKenzie was originally from East Haddington near Edinburgh and numerous farm hands from Scotland settled on the farm in 1853 with McKenzie taking the role as the first farm bailiff on Vancouver Island.

The home’s architecture mirrors the design of McKenzie’s childhood home called Rentonhall, which still exists and is now privately owned. The VHGA maintains a connection with Rentonhall’s current owner.

Plans for Craighflower in the short term include improvements to visitor pathways, rest areas, wharf construction, historic plantings, dry stone walls and new signage.

Once the grounds are open, the space will be programmed to include public tours, arts events, educational classes, and interpretation activities to foster Scottish and Celtic culture.

Long-term plans include the construction of a Scottish Cultural Centre on the site, transforming the area into a hub of Celtic culture and community activity through the continued engagement of Scottish and Celtic cultural groups.

The vision for this development includes driving tourism into the Pacific Northwest through concentrated marketing, sponsorship and partnership arrangements, and programming of year-round Scottish and Celtic-themed events, thus

revitalizing the manor, lands and waterfront.

The proposed centre is 6,000 square feet and is envisioned to include a grand entrance with a lobby that honours the heritage impact of the Scottish and Celtic people on Vancouver Island.

It will have a large community hall and kitchen for banquets and other functions; outdoor festival space; administrative offices for the VHGA and other long-term, non-profit tenants; and a museum and archives, gift shop, theatre and library.

Once built, the venue may be used for professional theatre, music, or dance presentations or competitions, film screenings, lectures, panel discussion, educational courses and small conferences, many of a Scottish or Celtic nature. Fundraising has begun and construction is set to get underway in 2018.

Theresa sees the Centre as “a legacy project that is perfectly positioned in a geographical region filled with Scottish diaspora.”

She said, “The presence of the historic Craighflower Manor will help us to tell the story of Scottish emigration to the west coast of Canada and connect us to the past while the centre itself will act as a gathering place, giving us spaces to teach our children.”

In an age when Scottish centres all over the world are struggling to cope with diminished memberships and reduced resources, this is a brave and ambitious venture.

It’s going to need a steady hand on the tiller. Fortunately ‘Manu Forti’ (With a strong hand) is the motto of the Clan Mackay.



THE KELPIES – The 30 metre tall sculptures are the centrepiece of the £43 million Helix parkland project in Falkirk, Scotland.

Princess Anne led flotilla of boats along canal as she opens the Kelpies

FALKIRK, Scotland – Princess Anne led a flotilla of boats along a canal as she officially opened the Kelpies visitor attraction.

More than one million people have visited the giant horse head sculptures, known as the Kelpies, since they opened to the public last April.

It is estimated that the 30 metre tall sculptures, the centrepiece of the £43 million Helix parkland project, have boosted the local economy by £1.5 million per year.

Princess Anne unveiled a plaque during the official opening event on July 8, which also marked the launch of the new Forth and Clyde Canal extension over which they stand guard.

Kelpies sculptor Andy Scott was present for the occasion, as was Clydesdale horse Duke – one of the models for the structure.

Scott said, “It’s been fantastic today. It’s kind of the conclusion of almost 10 years, since I first did little sketches for these sculptures. An event like today has just been wonderful.

“I remember writing in one of my first reports that they had the potential to become icons and internationally-known landmarks, and that turns out to kind of be the case, so I’m absolutely delighted with the response.”

Covered in almost 1,000 steel panels and standing at the same height as six-and-a-half double-decker buses, the Kelpies weigh more than 600 tonnes.

It is estimated more than 50 million people see the landmark every year from the canal, the motorway and The Helix itself.

Keith Brown, secretary for infrastructure, investment and cities, said, “I am delighted to be part of today’s event to mark the official opening of the Kelpies and the new Forth and Clyde Canal extension.

“This ambitious project, thanks in part to a contribution of over £9 million from Scottish Canals and the Scottish Government, is an excellent example of partnership working.

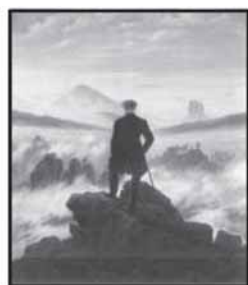
“Culture can be an important catalyst for economic development and a powerful force for regeneration.

“As well as attracting more tourists and further inward investment, the Helix and the Kelpies will support and shape the local area, fostering and reinforcing people’s sense of identity and community cohesion for many years to come.”

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TUNISIA EVACUATION: British and Irish Governments warn another attack is 'highly likely'

LONDON – Both the British and Irish Governments have told tourists to leave Tunisia – with the UK Foreign office forcing travel companies to airlift holidaymakers home.

Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond warned a further terrorist attack was "highly likely" following the June 26 massacre in the coastal resort of Sousse.

Gunman Seifeddine Rezgui murdered 38 people – including 30 UK nationals – in an outrage for which the Islamic State group has claimed responsibility. Three Irish tourists were killed in the same attack outside the Marhaba Hotel.

Three months earlier, attackers fired on tourists and others at the National Bardo Museum in the capital, Tunis, killing 22 people.

A major operation has now been launched to fly more than 3,000 tourists home after Hammond warned it was "too big a risk" to allow Britons to remain in the country.

The Republic of Ireland has followed the UK's example, advising citizens to avoid all non-essential travel to Tunisia – its second highest threat level.

Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan said "relatively few" Irish tourists are believed to be in Tunisia at present.

But Tunisia's ambassador in London, Nabil Ammar, warned that the move was playing into terrorists' hands.

He said, "This is what the terrorists want. By damaging the tourism, by having foreigners leaving the country, they damage the whole sector and put so many people out of work and on the streets."

The Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) has advised that holiday companies will not send Britons to the country after the government imposed travel ban.

A spokesperson said the vast majority of Britons who have booked a package holiday will be offered alternative destinations or a full refund by their tour operator.

Gillian Edwards said thousands have already flown back to the UK or scrapped plans to visit Tunisia following the attack in Sousse.

She said, "We estimate there are around 3,000 British tourists out in Tunisia at the moment – that is dramatically lower than you would normally expect for this time of year because of the incident."

"Normally it would be around 20,000 to 25,000 British holidaymakers out there."

Edwards said it is very unusual for the Foreign Office to take such a drastic step, and she thought the vast majority of British tourists will heed the advice and head home, but a "small minority" who know the country very well might stay.

She said, "For the Foreign Office to issue this kind of travel ban is highly



THE Imperial Marhaba Hotel in the coastal city of Sousse in Tunisia where a gunman killed 38 people on June 26, including Tunisians, Germans and Belgians along with Irish and British citizens.



*"I strongly encourage Irish citizens
in Tunisia who are not yet registered
with the department but who plan
to remain in Tunisia to register
without delay"*

unusual, particularly for a very popular tourist destination.

"The Foreign Office would have taken a huge amount of information into consideration that has come to light since the attacks, they won't make this decision lightly, so it is a very unusual situation to do this."

Foreign tourism accounts for around 15 percent of Tunisian GDP. Britons are among the biggest customers of the country's tourist industry, and the travel warning will seriously damage trade, she warned.

Since the attack, Tunisia has declared a state of emergency and announced that it would build a wall around its border with Libya to keep out extremists.

The barrier will cover about 105 miles of border with Libya and include fencing, a sand wall, trenches and surveillance posts.

Irish diplomats now rank Tunisia alongside a number of countries where war, terrorism, political instability or disease is a danger including Lebanon, Egypt, Pakistan, North Korea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Sudan and Guinea.

Irish citizens travelling abroad are being urged to register their details on a special registration website – dfa.ie/travel/citizens-registration – in order to provide them with quick consular assistance in the event of an emergency.

"I strongly encourage Irish citizens in Tunisia who are not yet registered with the department but who plan to remain in Tunisia to register without delay," Flanagan said.

"We keep our travel advice under constant review and will continue to monitor the situation in Tunisia very closely."

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Ireland has become fastest-growing EU economy

BRUSSELS – Eurozone leaders have agreed to offer Greece a third bailout, after marathon talks in Brussels.

Amid one of the worst crises in the EU's history, the head of the European Commission said the risk of Greece leaving the eurozone had been averted.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said that after a "tough battle," Greece had secured debt restructuring and a "growth package."

The bailout is conditional on Greece passing agreed reforms by Wednesday, July 15. These include measures to streamline pensions, raise tax revenue and liberalise the labour market.

An EU statement spoke of up to EU86 billion of financing for Greece over three years.

Though it included an offer to reschedule Greek debt repayments "if necessary," there was no provision for the reduction in Greek debt – or so-called "haircut" – that the Greek Government had sought.

German chancellor Angela Merkel has said all 19 eurozone members believe the bailout deal agreed with Greece can work.

Taoiseach Enda Kenny admitted the negotiations were difficult. "This has been a pretty bruising experience," he said, "but it will allow the Greek economy to thrive and prosper and continue to remain a member of the Eurozone."

The deal means that the European Central Bank can continue to support Greece's beleaguered banks, which have come close to collapse.

The crisis has plunged Greece into a spiral of deflation and austerity. But, while no one disputes that things have gone wrong in Greece, the argument that fiscal consolidation necessarily leads to never-ending recession is not borne out by the facts.

Consider Ireland, which was among the countries hardest hit by the global economic crisis.

Having become exceptionally bloated during the pre-2008 boom years, Ireland's banks buckled under huge losses when the property bubble burst.

To avert a devastating bank run, the government guaranteed the entire outstanding stock of deposits and liabilities.

As a result, government debt soared from 25 percent of GDP in 2007 to more than 120 percent in 2013. Add private debt, and the Irish sit on a debt mountain worth nearly 400 percent of GDP.

In Greece, where private debt is much lower, total debt amounts to around 300 percent of GDP.

Nonetheless, Ireland regained access to capital markets in early 2013, and investors have few qualms about the country's prospects.

Indeed, the economy is growing briskly, unemployment is below the eurozone average, and the government's borrowing cost is one percentage point lower than the U.S. Treasury's.

Ireland has proven that even in a severe crisis, resolute consolidation and

reform can quickly stabilize the economy and prepare the ground for a return to growth.

At the height of the crisis, Ireland's government cut public-sector salaries and pensions, raised the retirement age (to 68 by 2028), slashed welfare benefits, and increased the value-added tax.

Of course, there are important differences between Ireland and Greece.

Austerity was bound to hurt Greece's rigid economy – one of the least flexible in Europe – much more than Ireland's, where a flexible labour and product markets allowed massive job losses in the housing, construction, and banking sectors to be offset gradually by job gains in other sectors.

The Irish economy also benefitted from its strong emphasis on exports and close ties with the relatively thriving economies of the United Kingdom and the United States.

But Ireland still holds important lessons for Greece – beginning with the need to regain the confidence of financial markets.

An unwavering focus on putting its public finances in order and cleaning up the banking sector enabled Ireland to exit its EU67.5 billion bailout program as planned at the end of 2013.

Moreover, the yield on 10-year Irish government bonds, which peaked at almost 15 percent in mid-2011, now stands at an all-time low of less than one percent.

Though the European Central Bank's large-scale bond-buying program helped to lower bond yields, the Irish Government's success in returning to the capital market without the safety net of a precautionary credit line from its international creditors – an example that Portugal later followed – should not be overlooked.

Once investor confidence returned, Ireland was able to repay the EU12.5 billion it owed to the IMF early. It was able to refinance itself more cheaply in the markets, helping it to reduce its interest-rate bill further.

And, for Ireland, confidence and growth have gone hand-in-hand. Having shrunk by as much as six percent in 2009, the Irish economy was outperforming the other bailout countries by 2011.

Last year, Ireland recorded a 4.8 growth rate – by far the highest in the eurozone. And it is on course to grow by 3.5 percent this year, double the eurozone average.

This growth has been driven by a variety of factors. Wage restraint and productivity gains have improved competitiveness, thereby boosting exports.

And now that lower oil prices and a five-percentage-point drop in unemployment are bolstering consumption, the recovery is expanding to other sectors.

In short, the credibility that Ireland gained through resolute fiscal policy and reforms helped to restore confidence, facilitating a return to growth and thus fiscal consolidation.

Of course, the precise policy approach taken in one country cannot be imitated elsewhere. But Ireland's can-do attitude and steadfast approach can serve as an inspiration for Greece and other struggling eurozone countries.

RCMP seek Cork tourists who saw crash near Pemberton

WHISTLER, B.C. – The RCMP has issued an appeal for Irish tourists who witnessed the aftermath of a road crash in which three people died to contact them.

In a statement issued on its website, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said they wanted to speak to three holiday-makers from Cork who came across the scene of the accident north of Pemberton in British Columbia on May 31.

It is understood that a car hit three cyclists, killing two of them, as well as a passenger in the vehicle. The driver of the car was airlifted to hospital, while a third cyclist escaped unharmed.

The collision took place just before noon local time on Highway 99 in British Columbia, 25 kilometres north of Pemberton.

According to the police statement: "The RCMP has dedicated a significant



number of resources to this investigation and the investigators are hoping to speak to the occupants of a black Jeep Cherokee who were vacationing in B.C. from Cork, Ireland at the time of the collision.

"The witnesses are described as an older male and female married couple along with a female relative.

"The three visitors had been vacationing in Whistler and were on their way to

Sun Peaks Resort when they happened upon the fatal collision.

"Police believe the three visitors stopped to assist at the collision and may have information to provide investigators."

According to the RCMP, the investigation is being led by Sea to Sky Traffic Services with support from other sections of the British Columbia police and from the local coroner's service.

All of the victims in the road crash were male and local news reports claimed the driver of the car was "impaired".

Corporal Ronda Rempel of the B.C. RCMP Traffic Services said, "We are hoping that, through social media and this news release, someone will be able to connect us with the three visitors from Cork."

Anyone who has any information about these holidaymakers from Cork is asked to contact Cpl. Elizabeth Lynn of Sea to Sky Traffic Services at (604) 815-8261 and reference police file # 2015-3228.

THE IRISH CLUB OF WHITE ROCK

'Interdependence is the mutual reliance between two or more groups'

By ANNE BOYLE
WHITE ROCK, BC. – Time does not stand still, and that becomes more apparent as we grow older. We are more than half way through 2015, and it is time once again to let you know what has been going on with our club.

The Irish style karaoke evening was an enjoyable evening and well attended. This was the first time we have hosted such an event, and we will probably host another one in the future.

The summer months are typically slow with not much going on, but there are a few dates to be added to the Irish calendar.

Keep Sunday, July 26th free for our annual summer picnic – more details to follow. This will be a family event, so we are hopeful you will take the time to join us to spend the afternoon relaxing and enjoying a bit of 'ceol agus craic'.

Last year, the weather did not cooperate, and unfortunately that is something beyond our control.

I recently attended the funeral for Tom Butler, an Irishman well respected for his kindness and his contribution to promoting Irish culture and sport in Vancouver.

The Mass was celebrated by Father James Hughes and during his homily he spoke about dependence, *interdependence* and independence.

"Interdependence is the mutual reliance between two or more groups. In relationships, interdependence is the degree to which members of the group are mutually dependent on the others."

He talked about this concept in the context of how Tom Butler always had an open door and how he provided a welcome to all Irish men and women.



It was this that often helped the new immigrants deal with the loneliness of

being separated from family, friends, and the familiar.

Tom Butler will always be remembered for this, and this made me think about what we try to do when we come together at our Irish Club events.

The event is just an excuse for us to spend time together, and it helps us to stay connected.

The Irish are very special and Irish humour cannot be easily imitated. In my opinion, it provides the tonic often needed when things are not as "grand" as they could be.

*Is mise le meas,
Anne Boyle - President*

Calgary Businesses: Thinking outside the box

CALGARY – Necessity is the mother of invention. Overcoming economic challenge by fueling invention, innovation and design, was the message that Todd Hirsch left with business leaders in Calgary.

Todd, who is the Chief Economist at ATB Financial, addressed members of Ireland-Canada Centre for Commerce last month on how businesses can find opportunities for growth even during Alberta's current economic slump.

The event, attended by business leaders and professionals from a wide range of industries, was focused on how international trade not only allows access to new markets, it also provides access to a broader more creative approach to thinking.

He identified "internationalization" as one of the most important things we can do to add value to existing business processes.

Attendees left with a heightened sense of the potential that could be harnessed by connecting businesses in Canada with Ireland, and indeed other EU countries.

"Taking a more global approach to how we trade, sparks creativity," said Hirsch. "It also allows businesses to tap into ideas and talent that they never would have, had they taken the *same old, same old* approach."

Alberta, a province rich in local natural resources, can be particularly inclined to look inward for business success. And given the current challenges being faced with the oil and gas prices, businesses in Alberta need to be looking to new markets to access opportunities – now more than ever.

The Ireland-Canada Centre for Commerce (ICCC) Calgary has been arranging regular events with business leaders and professionals for five years now. For further information on events, visit iccccal.com or follow the ICCCCal on LinkedIn.

Hoop dreams: A son's journey to the Special Olympics

By ANN CARR

VANCOUVER – In 2001, my son Shane was 18 and passionate about the game of basketball.

Throughout his youth, Shane was integrated into his favourite sport with his typical peers in P.E. class and community programs.

He learned many skills and could hold his own on the court – despite the fact that he has Noonan Syndrome (a developmental disorder) Shane became a very talented player.

However, Shane's physical ability and cognitive understanding of the game would not allow him to continue playing within the typical basketball programs offered in his community.

The sport he had become so passionate about, and had learned so much from, was no longer an option for him.

For this reason, I started the first basketball program in British Columbia for youth with developmental challenges.

Any parent knows that when your child finds something that makes them excited, motivated and happy you want to encourage them to pursue it.

This was how Shane was with basketball. He learned *everything* through basketball: social skills, academic skills, physical skills.

He lived for basketball, and he shone when he was on the court like any other teenage athlete. I was not about to see him sit back and lose interest in something that became an integral part of his life.

My program, the Developmentally Challenged Youth Basketball Association (DCYBA), gave young men like Shane the opportunity to play the sport they loved with non-challenged peers. Shane was able to continue with his passion...and it was only the beginning!

In 2003, the Special Olympics World Summer Games were being held in Ireland (my home country!).

Basketball was played all over the world within Special Olympics (and was one of the largest team sports that would be showcased at this event).

At the time, however, basketball was not offered by Special Olympics in Canada.

I decided I wanted to attend the World Games as a volunteer to see individuals with challenges similar to Shane compete; I wanted a measure for where we could go in developing our program.

Volunteering at the World Games became my quest. Eventually, I received confirmation that my sister, Shane and I were accepted as volunteers within the sport of basketball and off we went!

Little did I know I would be taken on a journey of a lifetime.

Needless to say we were all very excited, especially Shane.

My sister, who coaches our DCYBA players, was probably the most excited



A PROUD MOM – Ann Carr holds the top place medal her son won at the Canadian Special Olympics National Summer Games in Vancouver. Now Shane and team Canada are heading for the 2015 World Championships in Los Angeles in August.

“At that moment I thought, anything is possible...and it was. Shane's team won the entire National tournament!”

as she had no previous experience with coaching individuals with challenges and this would give her the confidence she required to continue on.

We all learned so much; I saw what I needed to see, which was the abilities and courage of athletes from all over the world playing a sport at often the same level as college basketball.

It was in Ireland that Shane decided he wanted to play for Special Olympics at the World Games one day!

From 2001 to 2014 the DCYBA program took on a life of its own. We expanded from one program of 10 players to three programs with a total of 55 players participating.

During this time, Special Olympics Canada sanctioned three new sports, one being basketball.

Of course, Shane was thrilled! He would now have another avenue to pursue the sport he is so passionate about.

I led Shane and some of the other

DCYBA players to the Vancouver Special Olympics program where they now play every Saturday.

They competed in the Provincial Games and made it to the Canadian Special Olympics National Summer Games, which were being held at UBC last year.

As the Nationals got closer, Shane turned to me and said “mom, maybe we will have a chance to make it to the World Games and play teams we saw in Ireland.”

At that moment I thought, anything is possible...and it was. Shane's team won the entire National tournament!

The excitement and tears were flowing on that day!

Little did I know that my son's dream of playing basketball and my dedication to making it possible for him would lead to him playing for Canada at the 2015 Special Olympic World Summer Games.

Dreams do come true!

News for Irish drivers applying for B.C. driver's license

VANCOUVER – RoadSafetyBC and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC), has confirmed the introduction of simplified driver licence application for new residents who hold a licence from Ireland that permits the operation of passenger cars and/or motorcycles.

The holder of a valid Ireland driver's licence who applies for a British Columbia driver's licence must meet all requirements including residency in British Columbia.

The applicant must surrender their Ireland driver's licence to ICBC. If the applicant has lost or otherwise misplaced their Ireland driver's licence, written confirmation of the licence from Ireland's National Driver Licence Service may be accepted in lieu of surrendering the actual driver's licence.

Surrendered Ireland driver's licences will continue to be securely destroyed by ICBC upon issuance of a British Columbia driver's licence, unless provided with instructions to periodically return these licences to the home driver licensing authority.



A RECRUITMENT campaign by a Dublin-based marketing agency has led to some people believing the message is racist and anti-Irish, while the actual intention is to call young Irish workers to come back home to new job opportunities.

Torontonians confused and angered by anti-Irish' recruitment campaign

TORONTO – A large sign telling Irish people to “go home” was spotted on the back of a truck moving through downtown Toronto, leaving behind it a trail of very confused – if not downright angry – Canadians.

Containing only the words “GO HOME IRISH!” and the URL “PleaseLeaveCanada.com,” the ad drew immediate criticism among those who saw it live and those who saw photos of it uploaded to Facebook on July 9.

Others were confused by the presence of such a sign in Canada, where more than 4.5 million residents listed themselves as being of Irish ancestry during the most-recent National Household Survey.

Of course, it didn't take long for people to figure out the sign's actual purpose by visiting the URL it displayed.

PleaseLeaveCanada.com redirects to the homepage of a Dublin-based marketing agency called The Social House.

An overlay currently in place on the site reveals that the billboards are part of a recruitment campaign aimed at attract-

ing talented Irish workers who've been living abroad.

The company says it believes that it's time for all those who emigrated during the economic crash to now come home as there are many new job opportunities springing up in Dublin.

In a blog posted on their website, the company addresses the thousands of young Irish citizens who've moved to Canada for work in recent years, says, “We want you to come home. Not as much as your mum, but still.”

While the ad agency may have had good intentions, the feedback on social media has been mixed with many expressing a view that the campaign was ill-advised.

Some Canadians feel that the campaign could be misunderstood by people who see the poster as anti-Irish sentiment.

Others called out the agency for making light of or trying to capitalize on the “anti-Irish sentiments that were rampant in Canada and the U.S. in the 19th and early 20th Centuries.”

The Social House blog reads, “We are looking to hire Irish people who have worked in other parts of the world. We're not anti-emigration, but we'd love to lure some of these internationally seasoned brains back home by pretending to be Anti-Irish-Canadians.”

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William Butler Yeats: 'Sex and death are the only things that can interest a serious mind'

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By
**MAURICE
FITZPATRICK**

WILLIAM Butler Yeats, who was born on June 13, 1865, has just finished celebrating his 150th birthday.

In the case of most of us, death has a pesky way of interfering with the onward march of our social calendar.

The celebrants of Yeats' sesquicentennial birthday, however, are quite unperturbed by the fact that the birthday boy is no longer with us.

Between public readings, Georgian houses in Dublin enlivened with Yeatsian spirits and seances, academic conferences and studies, Yeats' 150th has been a hooley all round.

This blowout may risk the charge of being crass and exploitative, but not a bit of it. For Yeats, death itself was simply a man-made construct that any art worthy of the name could outface:

Death and life were not
Till man made up the whole,
Made lock, stock and barrel
Out of his bitter soul,
Aye, sun and moon and star, all,
And further add to that
That, being dead, we rise,
Dream and so create...

(*The Tower*)

Yeats also claimed that death was an inexhaustible fount of inspiration for good poetry: "sex and death are the only things that can interest a serious mind."

Such high-mindedness forced a wedge between him and some of the Irish reading public. In response to this, Yeats, more than any other writer, was responsible for the creation of a vision of Ireland that bore scant relationship to the country where peasant farmers struggled under the imperial and clerical yoke.

He was explicit about his view of Ireland's proper identity: "A Druid land, a Druid tune."

He wanted to create an audience for it too, his vehicle being the Abbey Theatre, the new national theatre of an emergent nation forged partly to reflect his view of what Ireland truly should be.

All the blather about fairies and a whimsical, poetical peasantry would be difficult to bear were it not for Yeats' visionary brilliance in imagining the land anew:

Imagining a man,
And his sun-freckled face
And grey Connemara cloth
(*The Fisherman*)

Yeats' vision of Ireland became en-



A FAMOUS Irish love story: William Butler Yeats and Maud Gonne. When the poet first met the Irish Nationalist revolutionary Maud Gonne in 1889, he was enthralled by her beauty and fire. He proposed to her four times between 1891 and 1901. She turned him down each time, choosing instead to marry a fellow Nationalist, Major John MacBride, in 1903.

meshed in the particularly troubled politics of the republic.

His lines on the Easter 1916 Uprising, in response to the action of rebels who seized a handful of significant buildings in central Dublin including the General Post Office and proclaimed the republic, will be quoted *ad nauseam* next year during the centenary.

Yeats' marrying of ancient Celtic myth with radical, revolutionary politics in his later verse will be less discussed and less understood:

When Pearse summoned Cuchulain to his side.

What stalked through
the Post Office?
(*The Statues*)

In his later years, the civic-minded Yeats became, in the words of one of his biographers, Brenda Maddox, 'a virtuoso of the committee table', and he got appointed to the Senate.

If a censorious and patronising tone still clung to his Senate speeches, it nevertheless stands as a noble record that he defended the Protestant minority in the South, and spoke in favour of the right to divorce – civilising and modernising issues that rattled the complacency of the newly-founded Dublin government.

Yeats became a spokesman on artistic and moral issues – the excitable young poet's elevation to the status of a "smiling public man" would seem to have been complete in his later life.

Not in the poetry, and the poetry attests to the power of his imagination to withstand, and to stand aloof from, the flurry of his other mundane concerns.

The catalogue of Yeats' sillinesses and snobberies is as long as it is offensive.

His reputation in Ireland suffers to this day for his unfair judgements of Irish people and for his poses; his flirtation with fascism does him no favours either. Yet there is still the poetry.

W. H. Auden said this well in his wonderful elegy for Yeats, "You were silly like us; your gift survived it all."

A censure and a pardon in one breath. And what was the spur that honed his gift?

Yeats, at the age of 23, fell for a fiery woman, a prominent revolutionary, named Maud Gonne who would not have him.

After a series of proposals, pining verse and attempts to woo her, he finally relented a little and went to work on Gonne's daughter – who wouldn't have him either.

Meanwhile, he had turned 50 and started a family with an ever accommodating English woman named Georgie Hyde-Lees who very soon understood the disposition of the man she lived with ("he would cut the wings of an angel to write a good poem").

She realised too that their marriage of convenience would not stop Yeats' wandering eye, so she oversaw his monkey gland surgery (Steinach operation) to rejuvenate Yeats sexually and arranged meetings for him with his girlfriends in London.

And he continued to rave about Maud Gonne – even on his death bed, he was still writing love poems for Gonne. Very good ones too.

That is the point about Yeats. While silliness permeates his work, it never overwhelms it.

Every Irish person who has found his disdain for Irish people problematic, might nevertheless address themselves to the corpus of work he created and acknowledge the magnificent achievement that it constitutes.

He was certainly one of the greatest poets of the century and his unceasing energy to create the possibility of a new beginning was hugely important to Ireland during its transition to independence.

For all his crazy notions and undignified love pursuits, thankfully there still is the poetry:

Had I the heavens'
embroidered cloths,
Enwrought with golden
and silver light,
The blue and the dim
and the dark cloths
Of night and light and the half-light,
I would spread the cloths
under your feet.
(*He Wishes for
the Cloths of Heaven*)

At 150, Yeats has long outstripped the standard Irish language platitude – *go maire tú an céad!* that you may live to be a hundred.

Bring on another 150 birthdays and his work will still be read.



HARVEST TIME by John Emanuel Shannon.

Life Sets in the Twilight of Summer

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE
Summer too shortly will turn
to autumn. Life always does.
Page after page, stories begin,
stories end.

The profundity of life is captured by those who suffer real joy, sorrow, or pain. The highs and lows of life – the summer is nothing if not a season for such things.

Every day it becomes more difficult for me to reconcile the clear beauty of this world, with its shocking, insatiable, pain and horror.

At home, abroad, in the community, in the news, sorrow and pain far outweigh joy. Still – joy rarely sells newspapers, so it likely my observations are skewed.

For those who pass, an ending could bring sweet release, or an abrupt shock that life ended all too soon.

For those in pain, a distancing from the physical being, a reckoning of mortal-

ity, and appreciation for all that can yet still be done.

Deeper and deeper the experiences of life coil at our feet, tripping us in the dark. Or the brilliance of birth, joy, and love, blinding us – even momentarily – to a tougher road ahead.

I wonder and weigh it all, weeds pushing through concrete and lush flowers pendulous in deep green mystery. Both have their rights.

This issue of *The Celtic Connection*, bridges summer and autumn, for Lughnasadh arrives in the twilight of August 1. So these words too – shall bridge summer into autumn, light into longer shadow, growing season into harvest.

For those who suffer – may loving arms find you, and may better times lie ahead. Be not accursed for deep feeling – high or low – but be happy you are alive, and have the gift to notice, and nod, and shuffle on.

Blessed be.

Irish Catholics can now trace ancestry online back to 1740s

DUBLIN – Almost 300 years of parish registers are now available online and people of Irish Catholic ancestry can trace their origins back almost 300 years.

Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Heather Humphreys officially launched the entire collection of Catholic parish register microfilms held by the National Library of Ireland (NLI).

More than 370,000 digital images of the microfilm reels on which the parish registers are recorded will now be accessible free of charge.

These parish register records are considered the single most important source of information on Irish family history prior to the 1901 census.

Dating from the 1740s to the 1880s, they cover 1,086 parishes throughout the island of Ireland, and consist primarily of baptismal and marriage records.

The NLI has been working to digitise the microfilms for more than three years under what is described as its most ambitious digitisation programme to date.

Ciarra Kerrigan of the NLI said: "We have received a hugely enthusiastic response from people worldwide with an interest in Irish family history."

Further information is available at registers.nli.ie.

NOVENAS

NOVENA

TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Dear Mother, we love you. We thank you for your promise to help us in our need. We trust in your love that dries our tears and comforts us. Teach us to find our peace in your Son, Jesus, and bless us every day of our lives. Help us to build a shrine in our hearts, make it as beautiful as the one built for you on the Mount of Tepeyac. A shrine full of trust, hope, and love of Jesus growing stronger each day. Mary, you have chosen to remain with us by giving us your most wonderful and holy self-image on Juan Diego's cloak. May we feel your loving presence as we look upon your face. Like Juan, give us the courage to bring your message of hope to everyone. You

are our Mother and our inspiration. Hear our prayer and answer us. Amen. – C.C.

NOVENA TO ST. ANTHONY

"Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints"

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for his creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me (request). O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen.

– CTKB, PMKM, MJF, C.C.

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



PSNI officers lifted this car to rescue young girl in an incident outside an Ardoyne shop during a clash with Loyalists in North Belfast. The 15-year-old girl was taken to hospital with serious injuries. The driver of the car was arrested.

Orange Order parades: Missiles hurled as PSNI block march

BELFAST – Loyalists hurled missiles at Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) officers on the evening of July 12 when Orangemen were prevented from parading past the Ardoyne shops in North Belfast.

Police erected steel barriers in the Woodvale Road about 300 metres from the shops to prevent more than 3,000 Orangemen, loyalist bands, members and supporters parading on up the road to the shops.

There was a stand-off between police and protesters, with demonstrators taunting and shouting at the PSNI officers when the parade arrived at the barriers shortly before 7:30 PM.

Tensions were high and after eight minutes missiles started raining down on police and reporters who were covering the parade.

Some of the demonstrators sang the *Sash and the Famine Song* – “the Famine is over why don’t you go home” – as others pelted police with beer bottles, full cans, bolts and other missiles. Police quickly moved in with Land Rovers to strengthen the lines.

During the incident it appeared that a young girl was struck by a car. Police had to turn over the car onto its side so they could access the girl. The girl, who police said was 15, was taken to hospital. The driver of the car was arrested.

Local Sinn Féin Assembly member Gerry Kelly spoke to her family and said he understood her injuries were not life threatening.

A number of missiles were fired at police by nationalists as they sought to maintain the scene.

A police helicopter hovered overhead while police dogs and two large water cannon trucks were placed on standby at the top of the Woodvale Road.

There was a huge police presence at the scene, with many in full riot gear and bearing shields to protect them from the bottles and cans.

As well as the standoff on Woodvale Road there was also trouble at the top of Twaddell Avenue where loyalists threw heavy bricks at police lines.

Missiles were also thrown in the direction of nationalists gathered at the



Thousands were expected to take part in over 800 parades across Northern Ireland with many more expected to watch the spectacle marking the victory of protestant King William of Orange’s victory over Catholic King James II at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

shops. Police responded with water cannons and a number of police officers suffered injuries.

Earlier, the morning feeder parade to the main Belfast parade, which was allowed by the Parades Commission, concluded peacefully.

Two republican protests were staged in the morning. The Crumlin and Ardoyne Residents’ Association (CARA), which supports Sinn Féin, unveiled a large banner stating “Resolution is Possible” as the parade went by.

The Greater Ardoyne Residents Coalition (GARC), which is viewed as being sympathetic to dissident republicanism, also protested at the shops.

Protesters at that demonstration, which was more heavily policed, carried posters with messages such as “March where you’re welcome,” “Treat our community with respect” and “No parades, no violence.”

One protester was arrested and charged with assaulting police and disorderly behaviour. He was released on bail and ordered to stay away from further protests.

The Orange Order condemned those engaging in violence and also appealed for calm in north Belfast.

“Those involved in violence should desist. It is not only counterproductive but also plain wrong. Such actions are only strengthening the hand of those who wish to further curtail our parades,” a spokesman said.

Thousands were expected to take part in over 800 parades with many more expected to watch the spectacle marking the victory of protestant King William of Orange’s victory over Catholic King James II at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

Berkeley balcony collapse that killed six Irish students caused by ‘rotting’ wood beams

DUBLIN – The *New York Times* has apologised for an article on the Berkeley balcony tragedy, admitting some of the language used “could be interpreted as insensitive” to the victims’ families.

The article referred to a tragedy in Berkeley, California where a fourth floor balcony collapsed in the early morning hours of Tuesday, June 16, killing six young Irish students. Another seven remain injured in hospital.

The dead were named as Eoghan Culligan, Nick Schuster, Lorcán Miller, Eimear Walsh and Olivia Burke, all 21 years old and friends from south Dublin.

The sixth fatality is Irish-American Ashley Donohoe (22) from California who was a cousin of Olivia Burke, a summer student on a J1 work visa. Ashley’s parents are originally from Ireland.

Tragically, the trauma has not ended as some of the injured remain in critical condition with some being treated for what are regarded as life-changing injuries.

The injured students are Hannah Waters, Clodagh Cogley, Niall Murray, Sean Fahey, Jack Halpin, Conor Flynn and Aoife Beary, all aged between 20 and 22.

An investigation has since revealed that the collapse was caused by “rot and decay” in wooden supports on the balcony, causing it to swivel 90 degrees and slam into the wall below, throwing off 13 people who fell 40 feet down to the pavement.

In its report of the tragedy, *New York Times* reporters said the J1 visa program had been “not just a source of aspiration, but also a source of embarrassment for Ireland.”

They stated that the scheme was “marked by a series of high-profile episodes involving drunken partying and the wrecking of apartments in places like San Francisco and Santa Barbara.”

Eileen M. Murphy, vice-president of corporate communications for the *New York Times* said the article in question “was a second day story” that sought to contextualize the collapse 24 hours after the deaths had taken place.

“It was intended to explain in greater detail why these young Irish students were in the U.S.

“We understand and agree that some of the language in the piece could be interpreted as insensitive, particularly in such close proximity to this tragedy,” she said in a statement.

“It was never our intention to blame the victims and we apologise if the piece left that impression. We will continue to cover this story and report on the young people who lost their lives.”

Labour Minister of State Aodhán Ó Ríordáin was among those who called on the paper to remove the article from its website and apologise to the families involved. He described the paper’s coverage of the collapsed balcony as “completely insensitive and outrageous.”

The Irish Ambassador to the U.S. Anne Anderson wrote a letter to the news-



MOURNERS lay flowers at scene of a deadly balcony collapse in Berkeley, California.

paper’s editor saying the article had caused “deep offence,” and also contained “inaccurate” statements about the J1 program.

“At this time of searing grief, the messages of condolence and offers of support which are flooding in to the embassy and our consulates are balm to the soul.

“They reflect far more accurately the feelings of the American people than does your article,” she wrote.

The *New York Times* declined to remove the article online, its public editor Margaret Sullivan said, adding, “It is not the *Times*’s policy to take a published story off its website.”

However, she said in a posting on the site, clearly the journalists involved “would write and edit the story differently now.”

Sullivan noted her office had “fielded hundreds of complaints” from readers who were “quite understandably” upset about the article.

Following the tragedy, Philip Grant, the Irish consul in San Francisco, spoke to U.S. media and explained that Ireland was a small country where “very few of us have been left untouched by this tragedy.”

He spoke as families of the young victims began arriving in the city outside San Francisco and said the country was “frozen in shock and disbelief” and “overwhelmed by the outpouring of support that we have received from all the communities here.

“There are very many questions we would like to know the answers to, but right at the moment what we are concentrating on is finding out how everybody is, to make sure that all those who need to know how their loved ones are, are informed,” said Grant.

There are currently around 700 Irish students in the Bay area of San Francisco. The Irish consul said there were very few who wouldn’t know someone at the tragic party.

Priests robbed at gunpoint at their home in Omagh

OMAGH, Co. Tyrone – Two priests are recovering after they were robbed at gunpoint in Omagh.

Both priests were in the home on Brook Street when two men, one armed with a suspected firearm, entered the properties looking for money on the morning of Saturday, July 11.

One of the two men was brandishing a gun and they stole an undisclosed sum of money and made their getaway. Neither of the priests was harmed.

Monsignor Joseph P. Donnelly, the parish priest of St. Joseph’s, Drumragh, was one of two priests held up by assailants.

It is understood he went on to officiate at a wedding and mass following his ordeal according to a local MLA.

The second priest was Father Piotr Zimnoch.

West Tyrone Sinn Féin MLA Barry McElduff called into the the parochial house to convey his support for the priests. He said local people were horrified at this attack.

“My thoughts are with the two priests. I totally condemn this outrageous criminal act and I would appeal to anyone with information as to the identity of the culprits to pass it on to the PSNI.

“I was speaking to Monsignor Donnelly and the most amazing thing was that, despite his trauma, he was just getting on with ordinary pastoral duties. He had a wedding to take later that day and he was continuing with mass as normal on Sunday.”

McElduff said such a reaction was typical of Monsignor Donnelly who always went “quietly about his business” and was highly respected by parishioners and the wider community in Omagh.

Detective Sergeant Ian Lyle said, “The two men involved in the armed robbery are described as being aged in their 30s, with local accents and were wearing green jackets and had their faces covered.”



IRISH NIGHT at the Seattle Mariners on June 17. (L-R) [Front] Judge Mike Heavey, Seattle Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole, and John Keane. [Back] Frank and Mary Shriane, Dean Arnold, Jane Sepede and Candace Dunne.



PRESENTING A check for \$5,000 from the Friends of St. Patrick to the Seattle University Law School to fund the Costello Irish-American Scholarship. (L-R) Mary Jo Costello, John Costello, Leo Costello, Kip Toner, Law School Dean Annette Clark, Carol Costello, Don Luby, and FOSP President Ryan Gallagher.



SEATTLE GAELS members Terry Creighton, Shawn Springer and Paul McGarry in the Turf Club with track bugler Dan Harrington at Irish Day at the Races at Emerald Downs on June 28.



MEETING Seattle's new Irish-born Assistant Police Chief at a recent Seattle Police Foundation Breakfast (L-R) John Keane, Christine Adkins, Chief Lesley Cordner, Aly Shelby-Gardner, Bríd Nowlan, and Noreen McCormack. Chief Cordner was born in Portadown, Co. Armagh and has been with the Seattle Police Department since 1989.

SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

PASSINGS

• **TOM BUTLER** - Members of the Seattle Gaels were sorry to hear about the recent passing of Tom Butler in Vancouver, B.C.

A native of Co. Mayo, Tom was a great GAA man all his life and always gave a friendly and warm welcome to members of the Seattle Gaels.

Over the years he provided beds and breakfasts for many Seattle footballers and he was a great representative of Ireland. Sincere condolences to his wife Catholine and his wide circle of family and friends.

• **TOM BEIRNE** - A native of Knockcroghery, Co. Roscommon, Tom Beirne died in Seattle on June 7 at the age of 90.

For the past 40 years, Tom and Susie were active members of Seattle's Irish community, and were very well known and liked.

He was always genuine and warm, and his passing is widely mourned in Seattle's Irish community.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anam dílis – May their faithful souls rest at God's right hand.

JULY 19 PICNIC – Seattle's Irish community picnic is Noon-6 PM, Sunday, July 19, at Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah (exit # 15 off I-90).

Games and fun for the entire family, and all are welcome. Free hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided but bring your own drink and a dessert to be shared.

There's a covered picnic area and several BBQ grills if you bring charcoal. The hurling games start at 1 PM followed at 3 PM by games and fun for the entire family – tug-o-war, sack-races, water balloon toss, etc.

For more information, email Picnic@irishclub.org or call (425) 290-7839.

CASCADIA CONCERT – The Reel Tradition – Ireland in the Northwest, the Cascadia Irish Music Week Farewell Concert, is Saturday, July 25, 8 PM at Phinney Center Community Hall, 6532 Phinney Ave N, Seattle.

Performances by some of the world's finest Irish traditional musicians including Patsy Hanly – flute; Antoin MacGabhann - fiddle; Sean Gavin - flute; Josh Dukes - guitar; Josephine Marsh - button accordion; Angelina Carberry - tenor banjo, tenor guitar, mandolin; Randal Bays – fiddle and program director.

Tickets at BrownPaperTickets.com/event/1692043 – adults \$22; seniors \$18; youth (under 12) \$12, under five free. For more information, visit cascadiairish.org, or call (206) 235-2061.

IRISH BASEBALL NIGHT – The first annual Irish Night at the Tacoma Rainiers at Cheney Stadium in Tacoma is Thursday, July 16 at 7:05 PM for the game Rainiers v Sacramento. Tickets are \$15 which includes a hot dog and chips.

For tickets and more details, e-mail: TacomaRangers@gmail.com, or check the Tacoma Rainiers on Facebook.



By
JOHN KEANE



IRISH TENOR Emmet Cahill, the former member of the world renowned Irish music show *Celtic Thunder*, performs in a solo concert at Youngstown Cultural Arts Center in Seattle on Thursday, August 6.

EMMET CAHILL – Irish tenor Emmet Cahill, the former member of the world renowned Irish music show *Celtic Thunder*, performs in a solo concert on Thursday, August 6 at 8 PM at the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, 4408 Delridge Way SW, Seattle.

This is a one-night only concert! Widely regarded as Ireland's most exciting young tenor, he will take his audience on a journey through the classic Irish songs like *Macushla*, *I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen*, *Irish Eyes are Smiling*, as well as old mu-

sical favorites such as *Some Enchanted Evening* and more.

Information and tickets online at: emmetcahill.com.

GALWAY TRADERS – The closing date for the sale of the building housing Galway Traders, Seattle's premiere Irish import store, has been pushed back until next spring (tentatively early May).

As a result, the store will host another Samhain Harp concert in October, the usual Christmas activities and the St. Patrick's Festival next March.

Owner Evi Murray is still hoping someone will buy the shop and find a new home for it so that she can retire! For details, visit: galwaytraders.com.

FOSP SCHOLARSHIP – On June 24, members of the Friends of St. Patrick presented a \$5,000 check to the Seattle University Law School to fund the Costello Irish-American Scholarship.

This year's Costello Scholarship student is Catherine Connell, editor-in-chief of the *Seattle University Law Review*. Catherine carries a 3.81 GPA, and is a summer associate (intern) at Seattle law firm K&L Gates.

NEW OFFICERS – David Jacobsen was re-elected president of the Irish Heritage Club and most other officers and board members up for election were also re-elected at the club's recent annual general meeting.

Newly elected to the board of directors was Diana Jacobsen replacing Justin McMahon who was also nominated but deferred to Diana.

For more information, visit irishclub.org.

CELTIC CENTER – Congratulations

[Continued on next page....]



SEATTLE GAELS players Jenna Volcko, Kerry Rezmer and Aoife Blake at the Seattle Gaelic Games on June 13.



THE SEATTLE GAELS Womens' Gaelic Football team that played at the Seattle Gaelic Games on June 13.

[Continued from page 16]

to The Celtic Arts Foundation in Mount Vernon on the opening of the Littlefield Celtic Center, located at 1124 Cleveland Avenue, Mount Vernon.

The beautifully designed building will accommodate seated meals, concerts and lectures for up to 150 people, and other events celebrating all things Celtic!

Already being held at the Center are regular Irish stepdancing classes. The Celtic Arts Foundation also runs the annual Highland Games in Mount Vernon.

CALENDAR

- Scoil Rince SlieveLoughane present the 18th Annual Dance for Life Feis on July 17 - 18 at the Great Wolf Lodge Grand Mound in Centralia. For information, visit: srsirishdance.com.

- Although the new statue of St. Patrick was erected last May at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Kent, the official blessing and unveiling of the statue will be held on Thursday, September 3, at 10 AM.

- Irish Network Seattle will have their very popular annual end of summer party on Friday, September 12 at the



FATHER Tom Marti celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination on June 14. Among the Irish who helped him celebrate were (L-R) [Seated] Maureen Keane, Mary Jo Costello, Fr. Tom Marti, and Mary McKevitt. [Standing] John Keane, John Costello, Bernadette and Pat Noonan, Dónal McKevitt, Mary and Jim Sammon.

Novilhos Steakhouse, 901 Fairview Ave N on lovely Lake Union. For information, visit: irishnetworkseattle.org.

- Irish Reels Film Festival will be September 25-27 at the SIFF at the Seattle Center.

- The newly elected Mayor of Gal-

way is Councillor Frank Fahy who visited Seattle as Deputy Mayor in 2013 and who has already committed to visiting Seattle again in 2016.

- Join the Irish language choir which will be singing for the Mass in Gaelic in October. New voices welcome, with a little Gaelic or a lot! E-mail: miriamjdoyle@gmail.com.

Search underway for Irish woman who is heir to a fortune

AN IRISH woman born Marie Hilton is the last remaining heir to an estate worth at least EU700,000 and she might not even know it.

Finders International, who help unite heirs with money owed to them, have been trying to track down the woman born on May 17, 1943 in North Dublin.

Padraic Greenan from Finders International told Today FM's Anton Savage Show, "A man by the name of Michael P. O'Hanlon passed away in Southampton in 2008. We were working away on the case but came to a dead end, until recently."

Marie Hilton is the last remaining heir to the estate of her half-brother and it's understood that she could living in Co. Louth.

Marie was one of three children born

to Phyllis Veronica Hilton from Dublin's Mountjoy Square. Phyllis was born in 1924 and died in 1979. She had three children by different fathers and gave them up for adoption.

Marie's younger sister, Phyllis Junior, married a man called Patrick O'Driscoll from Ballyfermot. He remembers travelling to Drogheda about 10-15 years ago with his wife to meet her sister Marie.

Phyllis Junior has since passed away, as did her brother Michael P. O'Hanlon, who owned the estate to which Marie Hilton is the last remaining heir.

Greenan said, "We have reason to believe that Marie is living in either the Drogheda or Dundalk area.

"We don't know if she is still alive, we don't know if she goes under the name Marie Hilton or an adoptive surname, she might have married, but we can't find a marriage certificate."

He added that if Marie has since passed away, she could have children who would be entitled to inherit the estate.

Greenan said there are hundreds of unclaimed estates in the UK which are waiting to be inherited by Irish relatives.

A website called unclaimedestates.ie has almost 600 cases of people of Irish origin who have passed away in the UK and have left behind estates.

"There is a search engine on it and you can see if any of your distant relatives who have moved to the UK are on it," he said.

If you know of a Marie Hilton, or who was born Marie Hilton, daughter of a Phyllis Veronica Hilton, half-sibling to Phyllis Hilton and Michael P. O'Hanlon, quite possibly living in the Drogheda area, contact Finders International on 011-353 (1) 691-7252 or via the Finders International website at: www.findersinternational.co.uk.

New Irish Postal Code Service Launched

DUBLIN – Communications Minister Alex White has launched Ireland's first national post code service.

The country's 2.2 million homes and businesses will be assigned individual seven-digit 'Eircodes', which they will receive in the post in the coming weeks.

The optional service has cost EU27 million so far and is aimed at reducing confusion surrounding non-unique addresses. About 35 percent of addresses in the State are not unique.

An Irish post code service was first

proposed more than a decade ago.

Dublin's codes will start with the letter D. For example, the postcode Dublin 1 will become D01. Cork City is expected to get the letter T - while Galway to get H.

The Eircode system will be optional. Homes do not have to use their codes if they don't want to and the system will not eliminate any existing lines in addresses.

All 2.2 million properties will be mailed their codes in the coming weeks. Codes can also be checked on Eircode.ie.

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PRESENTATION of jerseys to the newest club in the GAA Western Canada Division, the Fraser Valley Gaels, by their sponsor Graham Construction. (L-R) Phil Gardner (originally from Belfast) construction manager Graham Construction; Denis Ryan secretary Fraser Valley Gaels; and Jason Glue district manager Graham Construction.

Dail will not quiz FAI chief over FIFA pay-off

DUBLIN – Irish politicians have decided not to grill the country's football chief about the five million euro pay-off from FIFA for a Thierry Henry handball that cost the Republic a place in the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

John Delaney, the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) chief executive, revealed last month the money was arranged by the FIFA president Sepp Blatter after the team controversially lost a play-off against France in 2009.

It was classed as a loan and used to pay off debts for the redevelopment of the old Lansdowne Road into the Aviva stadium.

Delaney was facing the prospect of a potentially tricky Q&A in front of a parliamentary committee over his handling of the secret deal, even though the FAI is not regulated by the Dublin

Government.

But, following a private meeting in Leinster House, a spokeswoman confirmed, "the committee have opted not to ask the FAI to appear."

Delaney has not answered any questions publicly since the revelation but the FAI issued a lengthy statement outlining the chronology of the FIFA pay-off and where it was recorded in its accounts.

He disclosed that the funds were secured from FIFA after a heated exchange with Blatter in his office.

Delaney claimed the money was paid to stave off a threatened lawsuit against FIFA after officials missed the double handball by Henry to set up a goal for William Gallas.

Such a courtroom claim would have been unprecedented in soccer history.

The terms were originally confidential, the FAI has said. But the money was also due to be repaid if Ireland qualified for last year's World Cup.

Aer Lingus misplaces clubs for Canadian PGA golfer

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland – Canadian professional golfer Graham DeLaet can finally practice with his own clubs at the British Open...right after he gets them cleaned.

The Weyburn, Saskatchewan native arrived in Scotland on July 12 for the major without his golf clubs after Aer Lingus misplaced his bag during his travels.

After using some replacement clubs in a practice round, DeLaet finally got his own set when his bag arrived two days later.

While no damage was done to the bag itself, a protein powder explosion inside the bag left the clubs a little dusty.

After DeLaet shared his lost luggage story on Twitter, countless people weighed-in to pressure Aer Lingus, send their best wishes, and crack a few jokes.

But not everyone understood why DeLaet's lost luggage story was getting so much attention.

One person tweeted: "I'm in tune with

sports, but lots of "regular" people wait days to get their baggage found (or not found at all)."

To which DeLaet replied, "do 'regular' people have a job worth a potential \$1.8 million this week? It's a little different...sorry."

DeLaet is scheduled to tee off at The Open on July 16 at 6:54 AM in Scotland.

The Open Championship, or simply The Open (often referred to as the British Open), is the oldest of the four major championships in professional golf.

Held in the United Kingdom, it is administered by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and is the only major outside the United States.

The Open is currently the third major of the calendar year, following The Masters and the U.S. Open, and preceding the PGA Championship.

The current champion is Rory McIlroy, who won the 143rd Open in England in 2014. The 2015 Open is scheduled for July 16-19 on the Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland.

Conor McGregor: Ireland's first UFC champion

LAS VEGAS – Conor McGregor has hailed the amazing support of his Irish fans following his epic, bruising win over Chad Mendes in Las Vegas on July 11.

The 26-year-old floored Mendes with just three seconds left in the second round to be crowned interim featherweight champion at the memorable UFC 189.

A brilliant right-left punch combination from the Dubliner sent Mendes to the canvas, proving to be the pivotal moment of an enthralling main event that saw the more-experienced Californian use his wrestling prowess to very good effect with some big takedowns and dominant grappling.

Mendes had taunted the Irishman for dropping too much weight and looking scrawny, and in the first part of the fight it seemed his words were being borne out.

McGregor was his usual self, taunting Mendes and posturing for the Irish-dominated crowd, while Mendes seemed calm and answered McGregor's antics with a grin.

But the partisan Irish fans in the MGM Grand Garden Arena watched McGregor answer the 'wrestler question' in defiant fashion, as he launched a powerful left hand to Mendes' chin that sent his opponent toppling and referee Herb Dean was quickly in to stop the fight.



AN EMOTIONAL McGregor celebrates after his interim featherweight championship win in Las Vegas on July 11.

Afterwards, an exhausted McGregor said, "I'm absolutely blown away by the support. I can't put into words how grateful I am."

"There were so many crazy, mixed emotions. So just to come in here and hear all the support, yesterday and today, I'm shaking with it."

Fighting in place of injured champion Jose Aldo (who was ruled out with a bruised rib), Mendes looked mightily impressive in the first round, taking McGregor to the mat to force him on the defensive.

He landed an elbow which left the Irishman bleeding above his right eye.

However, McGregor knuckled down in the second round, breaking out of a three-minute hold to finally let his fists

do the talking and come through the toughest test so far in his UFC career.

After raising the interim belt with his family, coaches and training partners around him in the octagon, McGregor now has his sights set on a mouth-watering unification clash with Brazilian Aldo later this year.

An emotional McGregor gave a special mention to the fans who travelled to support him in Las Vegas, as well as the people closest to him on this journey to becoming Ireland's first UFC champion.

"I just want to thank my team, my family, everyone that's come up with me. It's a tight, tight circle, people since day one are here with me now. And the Irish people that support me...I swear to God, I've done this for us," he added.

England's Lionesses welcomed home with 'sexist' FA tweet

LONDON – A tweet from an account run by the Football Association was quickly deleted on July 6 after immediately running into controversy – although the organisation behind England's national football team says the message was taken out of context.

It was meant to be a tribute, but ended up being criticised as "patronising" and "sexist."

The Twitter feed @England – the official feed of the England national football team, run by the FA – tweeted: "Our #Lionesses go back to being mothers, partners and daughters today, but they have taken on another title – heroes."

The message was deleted soon after posting, but not before being captured and circulated on social media.

Soon criticism was heaped on the organisation behind what a *Washington Post* reporter called an "appalling, sexist tweet."

Ishaan Tharoor wrote, "England's 'Lionesses' – who are professional athletes – managed to make it to the semi-finals of a major tournament, something the 'Lions' haven't done in nearly three decades. Yet their great triumph has yielded this sort of condescension. The reaction on social media to @England's tweet was wonderfully swift."

Some of the tweets in response included Lee Jenkins who wrote, "For those of



ENGLAND's Women's World Cup team arrive home at Heathrow Airport after clinching bronze.

you wondering what twitter would have looked like in the 50s, @england has helpfully obliged."

Martin Belam comments, "Imagine the people signing off on that @england tweet and going 'Nope, no problem here. Can't see anyone thinking this is patronising'."

"Maybe they go back to having actual jobs & lives which DON'T revolve around them being subservient to other people???" asks Josephine Liptrott.

The @England account has nearly 1.2 million followers, and had been mentioned about 1,000 times within an hour of the "mothers, partners and daughters" tweet being posted.

Not all of those referenced the tweet – many were simply welcoming the Lionesses home after their third-place finish

at the World Cup in Canada – but most of the top retweeted messages were discussing the controversy.

The FA defended itself saying the tweet linked to an online article on the FA's website about the players being reunited with their families.

The line about "mothers, partners and daughters" originally appeared in that story as well, but was later edited out.

"The full story was a wider homecoming feature attempting to reflect the many personal stories within the playing squad as has been told throughout the course of the tournament," says an FA spokesman.

"However, we understand that an element of the story appears to have been taken out of context and the opening paragraph was subsequently revised to reflect that fact."

1916 Rising events to go global as multi-million euro plan unveiled by Irish Government

DUBLIN – The Irish Government is planning a multi-million euro program of cultural events around the world to celebrate the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

Concerts, plays, exhibitions and film events are planned in Washington, New York, London, Paris, Rome, Buenos Aires, Brasilia, Dubai, Hong Kong and Sydney.

Details of the programme were announced by Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan and Arts Minister Heather Humphreys.

Flanagan said the programme of events was aimed at encouraging “reflection on the international dimension of the Rising”.

He said, “Many of the leaders of 1916 spent time in the United States and in

other countries – experiences that shaped their thoughts and actions.

“We should remember that what happened in Ireland a century ago echoed around the world and became a reference point for other countries seeking independence.”

At the launch, Humphreys said the arts would be used “as a unifying force that brings people together at home and abroad”.

She said the best of Irish arts would be brought to the world’s greatest cities.

The minister said it was “vitally important” that the diaspora be included in the 2016 celebrations. There needed to be a recognition of their contribution to Ireland over the past 100 years, she said.

The international events will run alongside over 40 major events in Ireland, with the centrepiece being a wreath laying ceremony and parade in Dublin city centre.



EASTER RISING international commemoration program has been unveiled by the Irish Government.

Canada Programme for 1916 commemoration

By RAY BASSETT
Ambassador of Ireland to Canada

OTTAWA – The 100th anniversary of the Easter Uprising in Ireland takes place next year, 2016.

The events of 1916 had a seminal effect on the long road to an independent State in Ireland.

Therefore, this historic anniversary will be marked in Ireland and throughout the world as a major occasion. Those of us who are of an age, can remember vividly the commemorations in 1966 for the 50th anniversary.

At the outset, I want to make it very clear that the commemoration of 1916 does not belong to any group, individual or even the Irish State. It is part of our common heritage.

Therefore here in Canada, I am seeking to promote the widest community participation. The commemoration here will, in the main, be decentralised and local.

We are requesting all organisations to

include the commemoration in their calendar of events for 2016.

Some organisations have already indicated to us that it will be an intrinsic element in their 2016 programme. I would greatly encourage this approach.

Against that background, I would envisage a year long list of activities, by necessity these will likely peak around Saint Patrick’s Day and even more especially around April 23, the actual date of the Rising.

While I have no desire to control events, I would ask that organisations let us know about their plans and also to communicate with each other, including through social media, so that a full picture of the commemoration can be readily available to the public.

The Embassy of Ireland will include a programme on its website to which events across Canada can be added, if organisations so wish. Elizabeth Keogh at elizabeth.keogh@dfa.ie is the contact point in the embassy.

The embassy will however be organising its own programme which I hope will be a major conference on 1916 and

also a concert in Ottawa on April 23.

In addition, the embassy will look to the authorities in Dublin for some funding to support community initiatives.

As I have told a number of groups my personal preference is to support a large number of local activities rather than major heavy invest expenditure on a single big ticket item.

That being said there is no monopoly of wisdom so if any organisation has any great initiative and/or idea, then please share it with the rest of us.

Brendan Behan is credited often with the observation that the first item on the agenda of any Irish organisation is “The Split.”

To prove that wrong, I would ask that we have an inclusive, historically accurate and wholehearted commemoration of an event which has shaped our country and provided inspiration for many other countries who wished to regain their independence.

For more information, visit the Department of Foreign Affairs website at: www.dfa.ie and click on the link: “Our Role and Policies.”



RYANAIR cleared the way for British Airways owner International Airlines Group to take over Aer Lingus as it accepted an offer for its 29.8 percent stake in the Irish carrier.

Ryanair accepts Aer Lingus deal

DUBLIN – Ryanair cleared the way for British Airways owner International Airlines Group to take over Aer Lingus as it accepted an offer for its 29.8 percent stake in the Irish carrier.

The low-cost operator said its board had voted to accept the deal, saying the IAG offer “maximises Ryanair shareholder value.”

Ryanair was left as kingmaker in the deal after a 1.4 billion euro offer was accepted by the Aer Lingus board and given the green light by the Irish Government, owner of a quarter of the company, in May.

But the offer was conditional on acceptance by at least 90 percent of shareholders and there had been speculation that Ryanair might choose to “play hardball” and force IAG to return to the table with a higher bid. IAG said it would not raise the terms.

The background to the transaction is complicated by a long-running battle fought by Ryanair against UK competition authorities, which have ordered it to cut its stake in Aer Lingus.

Ryanair chief executive Michael O’Leary said, “We believe the IAG of-



RYANAIR chief executive Michael O’Leary.

fer for Aer Lingus is a reasonable one in the current market and we plan to accept it, in the best interests of Ryanair shareholders.

“The price means that Ryanair will make a small profit on its investment in Aer Lingus over the past nine years.”

He said the offer was “timely” because its original strategy of using Ryanair as a mid-priced brand to compete with flag carriers at major airports had been overtaken by its own Always Getting Better program with a similar aim.

The revamp, also intended to improve its image and attract business customers, is credited with helping latest annual earnings soar by 66 percent.

Of Heaven and Earth: 500 Years of Italian Painting from Glasgow Museums

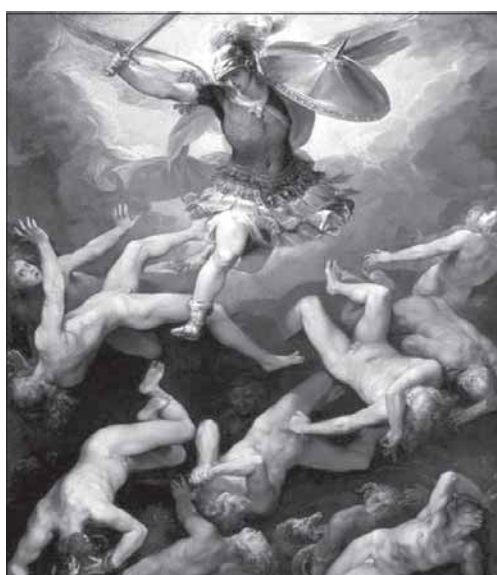


PHOTO: Courtesy American Federation of Arts
ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND THE REBEL ANGELS [1592-93], by Cavaliere d'Arpino, is featured in the exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery. This painting was bequeathed by Archibald McLellan in 1856.

VANCOUVER – Works by some of the greatest names in European art will feature in an exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery from June 12 to October 4.

“Of Heaven and Earth: 500 Years of Italian Painting from Glasgow Museums” offers some of the Scottish collection’s finest and most popular Italian paintings.

This prestigious exhibition examines the thematic and stylistic developments in Italian art – from the religious paintings of the late Middle Ages and Renaissance to the secular neoclassical and genre paintings of the 19th Century.

The remarkable breadth of the exhibition showcases the outstanding quality of works by figures such as Giovanni Bellini, Sandro Botticelli, Domenichino, Francesco Guardi and Titian alongside other lesser-known masters.

The works range from a golden-hued 1500 masterpiece depicting Christ and the Magi to Francesco del Cairo’s tragic 1645-1650 portrait “Death of Cleopatra” to Luigi Garzi’s dramatic rendering of the Roman legend of the “Sacrifice of Marcus Curtius.”

If you’re interested in history, religion, or mythology, there is something in this exhibition that will interest you.

You can have a wide range of interest in the humanities or culture or even if you just want to look at art that’s just beautiful, there’s really so many ways that you can enjoy this exhibition.

The accompanying catalogue will feature essays on Glasgow’s collections and the museum’s Italian paintings by guest curator Peter Humfrey, an internationally renowned specialist in Italian art history who teaches at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Tidal lagoon power station planned for Swansea Bay

By EIFION WILLIAMS

The beautiful wide expanse of Swansea Bay has become a central focus of the continuing effort to develop more sustainable forms of energy in the UK.

The Welsh Government gave planning permission last month for one of the most ambitious 'green' energy schemes ever seen in Britain.

The project is not yet 100 percent confirmed as it must still wait on a separate decision by the government to guarantee future subsidies.

The UK Government has already indicated that it supports the project as it promises to contribute to the Welsh economy by providing clean energy, jobs, investment opportunities and recreational facilities.

The plan involves the construction of a 9.5 kilometre U-shaped sea wall in Swansea Bay that would harness the strength of the tides.

A number of hydro turbines would be built under water, generating energy from the incoming and outgoing tides. Swansea Bay has one of the highest tides in the world.

Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay plc maintains that the power station could produce enough zero-carbon electricity to power every home in Swansea for 120 years.

As an extra benefit, the project would create a giant man-made lagoon in Swansea Bay that would attract thousands of visitors to enjoy water sports within the wall.

A road will be constructed along the



ILLUSTRATION of the proposed Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon. If fully approved, the plan would be one of the most ambitious 'green' energy schemes ever seen in Britain.

length of the wall for pedestrians, cyclists and possibly electric people transporters.

The Company's Chief Executive, Mark Shorrocks, said on receiving the planning permission,

"Wales led the way providing the fuel for the industrial revolution.

"We are now entering the era of the climate change revolution – de-carbonizing our world in time to avoid two degrees of global warming – Wales can now lead this next revolution."

Shorrocks also maintains that if the Swansea Bay project is successful, more tidal energy projects could be built in other parts of the coast such as Colwyn Bay in North Wales and Liverpool Bay.

He says that such projects could generate 10 percent of the country's electricity by 2023.

Environmental groups have generally approved the plan. However, there has

been opposition from several sources.

The Wildlife Trust has warned of the possibility of a loss of breeding grounds for birds or spawning areas for fish that the birds feed on.

Some groups have also expressed concern over the visual impact of the project, although the company says that the outer wall will be barely visible from shore.

More serious opposition has been expressed in Cornwall over a tentative plan to mine stone for the Swansea Bay breakwater in an old quarry near St. Ives and shipping it through a marine conservation zone.

It has also been pointed out that the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon project will produce cleaner and more reliable energy than the 19 wind turbines being proposed for Mynydd y Gwair Common just north of Swansea, a project that has received a great deal of public opposition.



THE RHONDDA TUNNEL was shut down in 1969. The photo above was taken during the first officially organized inspection of the tunnel in more than 40 years.

New lease on life for the Rhondda Tunnel

SWANSEA – A two-mile Victorian railway line which was shut down 50 years ago under a program of sweeping closures could reopen as Britain's longest cycle tunnel.

The disused Rhondda Tunnel, which runs 1,000 feet beneath the Welsh hills, was closed as part of the Beeching cutbacks, a project which spelled the end for thousands of stations across the rail network in Britain.

But engineers visited the 3,148 mile tunnel this month for the first time since it closed to see whether it is safe to use as a cycle route.

Cyclists and walkers could retrace steam locomotives' route from Rhondda to Swansea. It would be world's second longest cycle tunnel, after 4,000 mile Snoqualmie Tunnel near Seattle, Washington.

Leanne Wood, leader of Plaid Cymru, said, "There is a real buzz about this project which could transform these valleys if the tunnel is opened up."

The railway tunnel, the seventh biggest in Britain, runs beneath the mountains under the Dunraven Forest in the South Wales Valleys.

It was opened in 1890 during the coal boom, after a five-year building project, which was overseen by the tunnel's chief engineer Sydney William Yockney, a pupil of Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

But both ends of the tunnel – at Blaencwm in the Rhondda and Blaengwynfi in the Afan Valley – were filled in during the 1970s.

It came following a report by Richard Beeching, a civil servant from the Isle of Sheppy, who wrote a report called Reshaping of British Railways, which led to far-reaching changes in the transport network.

The engineer had been employed to make the entire network more profitable, prompting him to recommend the closure of stations and railway lines which did not make money.

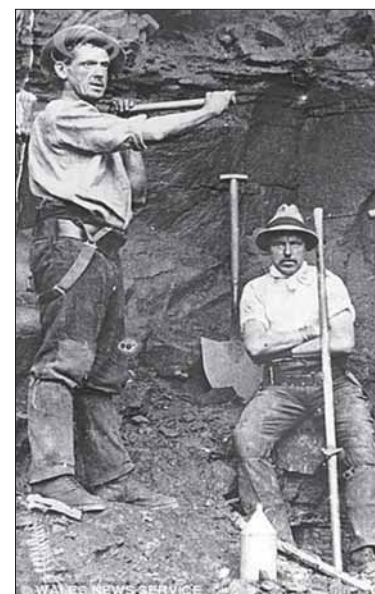
Although some 3,000 miles of railway lines were closed before the report, he became infamous for causing the closures of several rural stations. The report became commonly known as the Beeching Axe.

After falling victim to the report, the abandoned Rhondda Tunnel lay dormant until the Rhondda Tunnel Society formed a few years ago in a bid to secure funding for the tunnel's excavation.

The Highways Agency Historic Railways Estate has now contracted a construction and engineering company to undertake the three-day inspection of



THE TUNNEL was built by the demands of the coal industry to run from pit villages Blaencwm in the Rhondda Valley under the mountains to Blaengwynfi in the Afan Valley.



WORKERS at the Rhondda Tunnel. It was a five-year building project which began in 1885.

the tunnel, alongside the Mines Rescue Service.

The feasibility study boosts the society's hopes for the tunnel and will help it develop a business case. It will also help identify potential funding sources for the project and will engage local communities.

Society chairman Stephen Mackey said, "It's a major step forward for us to see it in black and white. To have it written down and confirmed and knowing that it's commencing right now is very exciting indeed."

He said, "The engineers will be walking the length of the tunnel across three days looking at the safety of the structure to see what it's like after 47 years and to see if it is possible to re-open the tunnel.

"As well as the structural integrity they will be checking for such things as sulphuric acid which can occur in stagnant water and to check carbon dioxide levels to make sure it's breathable down there."

Clydebank Shipyard to be transformed into homes and hotel development

GLASGOW – Hundreds of homes, a hotel and a public boulevard could be built on a Clydebank shipyard that has lain unused for more than a decade.

West Dunbartonshire Council have agreed to a £15.62 million regeneration deal of John Brown's shipyard, paving the way for more than £250 million of private investment.

After publicly-funded infrastructure and ground works are undertaken by the council, land owners Clydeside Regeneration are expected to build 1,000 new homes (including 200 social homes) alongside a retail unit, hotel and a pub/diner.

Also included in the developer's proposal is a new public boulevard leading from Clydebank town centre to the riverside.

The housing and retail development comprising 10 separate land packages will be known as Queens Quay.

The former John Brown's shipyard was the birthplace of some of the world's greatest ships including the Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen Mary and HMS Hood.

After the last ship was built there in 1972, the yard was used to build oil rig platforms until the gates finally closed in 2001.

The site was bought by Clydeside Regeneration in 2004 and the public-private Clydebank Urban Regeneration Company later spent £16 million on clearing and decontamination.



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION of the rejuvenation project where hundreds of homes, a hotel, and a new public space will be built on the John Brown's Shipyard Clydebank.

It is expected that works will start early in 2016 with the road infrastructure and site enabling work due for completion by summer 2017, and the remaining works by early 2018.

Construction estimated at £250 million is expected to create around 2,000 short-term construction jobs and support more than 50 apprenticeships.

The work will support developments already under way on the site including the Titan Crane visitor centre, the development of West College Scotland and a new £22 million leisure centre.

The council have also launched plans for a £19 million health centre and a £10 million care home for the area.

Patrick McGlinchey, convener for infrastructure and regeneration, said, "This deal sets Clydebank up for the most exciting period the town has enjoyed for decades.

"It is the biggest and most influential project the council has ever been involved in as we look to transform the former John Brown's yard into a bustling community hub.

"To see over 1,000 new homes built at this stunning location overlooking the Clyde, as well as a range of other amenities, will help to drive population growth and bring a number of economic benefits to Clydebank."

Council leader Martin Rooney said, "For too long our once proud shipyard has been a derelict site at the heart of Clydebank, but that is all about to change.

"The potential benefits are huge and it is really exciting to see how the plans to link up the Queens Quay site with the existing town centre will progress in the coming years.

"A great deal of thanks must go to the council officers for their hard work in getting us to this stage and to our private sector partners for working with us to make this happen.

"We still need to keep the momentum going and my focus will be on working with the Scottish Government to secure partnership funding to support the social housing element of the development plans."