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the celtic connection

ISSUE 24 VOLUME 7

Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991

SEPTEMBER 2015



[COVER ARTWORK: by John Emanuel Shannon]

FROM LIGHT INTO DARKNESS – On Wednesday, September 23 at 1:22 AM, PDT, the autumnal equinox momentarily pauses the sway of Time in our world. The great wheel of the Celtic year is bound – is created – in human time. For those who perceive the world through a Celtic lens, life begins in the dark.

[Read more by Cynthia Wallentine on page 19]



HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS of migrants and refugees have traveled to Europe this year, but the EU is struggling to form a cohesive strategy for handling the influx. The crisis has rapidly developed into a humanitarian emergency with thousands of people stranded at various transit points and borders from Greece to Hungary. On September 9, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker used his first State of the Union address to the EU Parliament in Strasbourg, France, to urge leaders to undertake a comprehensive response to the crisis by increasing aid and imposing quotas for the bloc's 28 members. Juncker said the bloc immediately needs to distribute 160,000 refugees across the EU, and participation by member nations should be mandatory.

[Read more on pages 2, 9, 15, and 20]

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President Higgins to visit Seattle



MICHAEL D. HIGGINS, the President of Ireland, with his wife Sabina on his election in November 2011. President Higgins is expected to make his first visit to Seattle next month.

[Read more on page 17]

CRISIS AT STORMONT:

Northern Ireland coalition on brink of collapse over IRA claims

[See page 15]



ELEVEN people were killed and 16 others injured in the worst air show disaster in the UK since 1952. Victims of the Shoreham air disaster on August 22 – (L-R) [Top]: Matt Jones (24), Matthew Grimstone (23), Jacob Schilt (23), Daniele Polito (23), Mark Trussler (49), James Mallinson (72). [Bottom] Maurice Abrahams (76), Mark Reeves (53), Richard Smith (26), Dylan Archer (42), Tony Brightwell (52).

WIN A FREE CD

Win **Blackthorn's** new CD, **Open Skies**, (See page 5 for more CD information). Entry by September 25. Mark your entry: Blackthorn. 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.



• NORTH AMERICAN GAA
CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CHICAGO
SEE PAGES 17 - 18 - 19

• WESTERN CANADA
GAA CHAMPIONSHIPS
IN EDMONTON
SEE PAGE 19

• ALL-IRELAND
HURLING FINAL
SEE PAGES 10 & 11

New book by Irish-Canadian author

VANCOUVER – Anakana Schofield, author of the award-winning *Malarky*, will launch her new book in Vancouver at Book Warehouse on October 6.

Her new novel *Martin John* (A footnote to *Malarky*) is published in North America by Biblioasis.

In 2013, *Malarky* won the Amazon.ca First Novel Award and the Debut-Litler Prize for Fiction in the United States and was a finalist for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize.

It was named on 16 Best Books of 2012 lists and was selected as a Barnes &

Noble Discover Great New Writers Pick.

The Globe & Mail has listed *Martin John* as one of the 20 Most Anticipated Books you'll be reading and talking about for the rest of the year.

Schofield is an Irish-Canadian writer who was born in England. She lived in London and in Dublin, Ireland until moving to Vancouver, British Columbia in 1999.

Everyone is invited to attend the launch of *Martin John* at 7 PM at Book Warehouse located at 4118 Main Street in Vancouver.

MP for West Tyrone speaker at Vancouver 1916 Centenary prelude

VANCOUVER – The Vancouver Easter Rising committee will present a prelude to Vancouver's 1916 Centenary event on Saturday, September 26 at 7 PM at Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood Pub located at 3728 Clark Drive in Vancouver.

The guest speaker Pat Doherty is the MP for West Tyrone and his address will be followed with live music.

Pat Doherty was born in Glasgow of Irish emigrant parents, both originally from Donegal.

He moved back to live in Donegal in April 1968 and is married to Mary. They have five children.

Pat was elected as Assembly member for West Tyrone in the 1998 elections and served as an MLA until 2012.

He was elected MP for West Tyrone in the 2001 Westminster election and successfully defended this seat in subsequent elections.

Pat has played a major role in promoting and supporting the strategy of the peace process.

He served as Sinn Féin vice-president from 1988 to 2009 and headed the Sinn Féin delegation to the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation, organized by the Dublin government following the IRA cessation of August 1994.

He is a leading member of the Sinn Féin negotiations team and has been centrally involved in the party's dialogue with the Dublin government and British government.

Pat has travelled extensively for the party in relation to conflict resolution and has met with senior politicians in both Washington DC and Brussels, seeking support for the Irish peace process.

Pat has two offices in the West Tyrone constituency, one in Strabane and one in Omagh, and travels throughout the constituency on a daily basis.

He also travels to London on a weekly basis lobbying for constituents and also to set out Sinn Féin's opposition to Tory austerity policies in the north, the case for Irish unity and the need for a hands-on approach to the political process.

Admission is by donation with a suggested donation \$10. All proceeds to the Centenary event. For more information, call Bernard at (604) 929-7607.

ABOUT OUR COVER ARTIST

Our cover artist this month is John Emanuel Shannon who was born in Sheffield, England. Ten years ago he moved to the beautiful islands of Malta where he lives with his son Julian. Although John says he is a latecomer to the world of art, he has always had an interest in fantasy, especially the works of Tolkien and it is from there that he gets most of his inspiration. For more about his work, visit: www.jeshannon.com.

THE CELTIC CONNECTION

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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

The Refugee Crisis in Europe: Echoes of our own not-so-distant past

By MAURA DE FREITAS



WHILE the situation has been developing for some time, in recent days it has become increasingly impossible to deny the refugee crisis unfolding in Europe and beyond.

For many it took a photograph of one small boy lying dead on a beach to bring the scale of the tragedy into focus.

This is just one child in a sea of humanity on the move – many seeking asylum in Europe and beyond – with countless others dying in the process.

The world is facing the worst humanitarian crisis since the Second World War and it didn't start yesterday....on a global scale the number of displaced people just continues to escalate.

The strength and determination of these people to find a place of refuge – to escape the chaos in their own country, and find a better life for themselves and their children – just takes my breath away.

The Irish are no strangers to these scenes....it wasn't that long ago they faced hatred, fear, and discrimination with signs in the new world reading "no dogs or Irish."

Hundreds of thousands died of hunger and undertook perilous journeys across oceans to survive.

Here in North America – Canada and the United States – the very fabric of our society is built on immigration.

In the past we have been global leaders reaching out to those in need of refuge. It is hard to understand how closed we have become and how hardened to the suffering of others.

Most readers of this newspaper are either immigrants themselves or the children, grandchildren or descendants of people who came here to find a new beginning.

A number of years ago I made a visit to Ellis Island in New York City where I heard the stories of the destitute and dispossessed who found hope for the fu-

PRESSURE to take political action over the crisis rose sharply after pictures flashed around the world of a drowned three-year-old Syrian-Kurdish boy, Alan Kurdi, washed up on the beach of a Turkish resort. His death personalized the collective tragedy of the refugees fleeing war and persecution.

ture on the shores of America.

Upon arrival, they travelled far and wide across this continent, they raised families and built new communities.

It was a very powerful and moving experience to view the treasured possessions they carried with them and to learn how so many went on to become success stories in their new homeland.

Engraved on a bronze plaque and mounted inside the lower level of the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty is a sonnet by American poet Emma Lazarus (1849–1887), written in 1883.

A quote from *The New Colossus* reads: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Many of us owe our very existence to the strength and courage of these survivors.

Here in Canada, Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site of Canada commemorates the tragic events experienced by the Irish immigrants in this country, primarily during the typhoid epidemic of 1847.

Thousands of Irish fleeing starvation during the Great Hunger arrived to a

scene of one of the most horrific events of human suffering on Canadian soil.

Up to 5,000 men, women and children – mostly enfeebled Irish – are buried on the island, many in mass graves.

We must never forget our past. Rather we must forget about what this country or that country, or this neighbour or that neighbour is doing today....we must ask ourselves "what are we doing?"

To turn our head away is to be complicit in the problem....sometimes it is as simple as a cup of tea and a warm blanket as many civilians across Europe have taken it upon themselves to offer.

Whatever human kindness we can offer matters – financial or otherwise – because this crisis is not going away any time soon.

According to figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, about 49 percent of the 320,000 or so migrants who have reached Europe this year are from Syria and only three percent from Iraq. About 12 percent are from Afghanistan and eight percent from Eritrea.

But Europe is not alone in taking them all in. There are two million in Turkey, a million in Lebanon, a million in Jordan, 250,000 in Iraq. That means that one in four people in Lebanon is a refugee.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has announced that Germany is willing to take up to 800,000 this year and has opened its borders to accept hundreds of thousands of those fleeing conflict and destruction.

On Sunday, September 6, Pope Francis announced that he will give temporary housing in the Vatican to at least two refugee families and asked that every European parish, monastery, and shrine do the same.

"Faced with the tragedy of tens of thousands of refugees fleeing war, death, and hunger, who are on their way toward life's hope, the Gospel calls us to be near to the smallest and abandoned," the pontiff said.

How can we respond to this human tragedy that extends far beyond the borders of the Middle East and Europe? The answer must lie in each of our own hearts.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The Stolen Child

Where dips the rocky highland
Of Sleuth Wood in the lake,
There lies a leafy island
Where flapping herons wake
The drowsy water rats;
There we've hid our faery vats,
Full of berries
and of reddest stolen cherries.

Come away, O human child!
To the waters and the wild
With a faery, hand in hand,
For the world's more full of weeping
than you can understand.

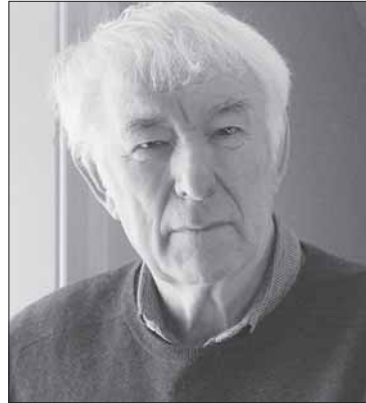
— By William Butler Yeats

[WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS (13 June 1865 – 28 January 1939) was an Irish poet and one of the foremost figures of 20th Century literature.

A pillar of both the Irish and British literary establishments, he was a driving force behind the Irish Literary Revival. Along with Lady Gregory, Edward Martyn, and others, founded the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, where he served as its chief during its early years.

In 1923, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature as the first Irishman so honoured for what the Nobel Committee described as “inspired poetry, which in a highly artistic form gives expression to the spirit of a whole nation.”]

Simple headstone unveiled on anniversary of poet's death



NOBEL laureate Irish poet Seamus Heaney died two years ago at the age of 74.



THE INSCRIPTION on the headstone is a line from Seamus Heaney's poem *The Gravel Walks*.

DERRY – A headstone for Seamus Heaney's grave, inscribed with a quotation from one of his poems, has been unveiled just ahead of the second anniversary of his death.

The inscription is a line from Heaney's poem *The Gravel Walks*, which he used in his 1995 Nobel prize acceptance speech. It reads: “Walk on air against your better judgement.”

He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature “for works of lyrical beauty and ethical depth, which exalt everyday miracles and the living past.”

Heaney previously explained why he chose the quotation to include in his Nobel acceptance lecture, as the *Irish News* reports.

“A person from Northern Ireland is naturally cautious,” he said.

“You grew up vigilant because it's a divided society. My poetry on the whole was earth hugging, but then I began to look up rather than keep down.

“I think it had to do with a sense that the marvellous was as permissible as the matter-of-fact in poetry.”

The former professor of poetry at Oxford University said *The Gravel Walks* focused on heavy work as well as the “paradoxical sense of lightness” when lifting heavy things. It also alludes to a popular traditional Irish reel of the same name.

“I like the in-betweenness of up and down, of being on the earth and of the heavens,” he added.

“I think that's where poetry should dwell, between the dream world and the given world, because you don't just want photography, and you don't want fantasy either.”

Professor Fran Brearton, director of the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's University Belfast (QUB), said it was a line that referenced his early work about digging in his native home.

She explained: “It is about being able to see beyond your moment, he says it is a reminder to himself about what poetry can do.”

Heaney passed away in August of 2013 at the age of 74, and is buried in Bellaghy, Co. Derry which was his birthplace and the inspiration for much of his early work.

He was laid to rest in St. Mary's Parish churchyard in a quiet corner beneath a sycamore tree.

His grave has attracted hundreds of visitors – many travelling from overseas to pay their respects.

Irish Famine museum puts records of the Great Hunger online

HAMDEN, CT – The Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut has launched a digital database of materials relating to Ireland and its devastating famine of 1845 to 1852.

The new database offers students, scholars, historians, and interested members of the Irish diaspora free access to over 1,500 articles and illustrations.

They include excerpts from illustrated newspapers and publications such as *The Illustrated London News*, *Punch*, *The Pictorial Times* and *The Graphic*.

The database officially launched with a December 16, 1848 sketch from *The Illustrated London News* depicting a starving family that had been dragged from its cottage and forced to spend Christmas in a hole, burrowed in the ground “like otters and snipes.”

The museum acquired the volumes of the pictorial newspapers from Kennys Bookshop and Art Gallery in Galway.

Four scholars from the museum worked for over a year to ready the scans for public viewing.

Learn more about the Ireland's Great Hunger Museum, the world's largest collection of visual art, artifacts and printed materials relating to the Irish Famine, by clicking online at: <http://ighm.nfshost.com>.

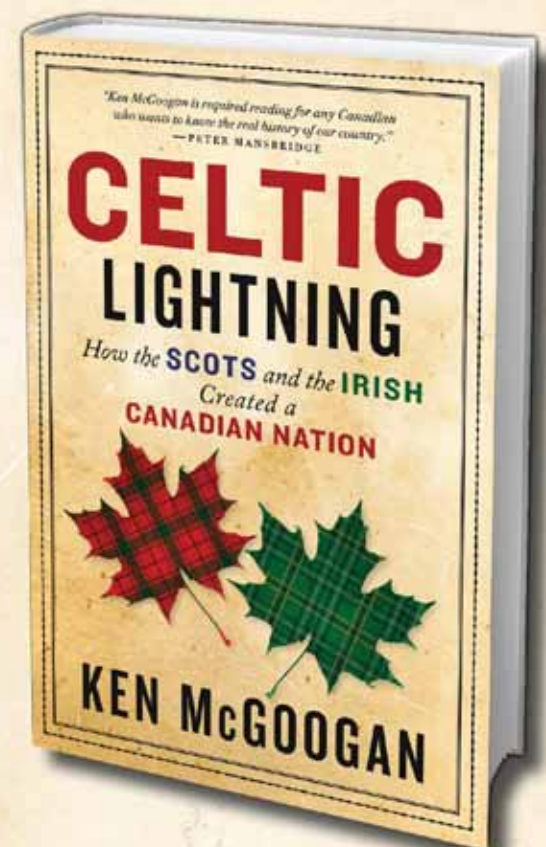
In the nineteenth century, two charged traditions came together and gave rise to a Canadian nation. That is when Celtic lightning struck.

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OR IRISH HERITAGE

“Ken McGoogan is required reading for any Canadian who wants to know the real history of our country.” —PETER MANSBRIDGE

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Great Celtic music line-up for the Rogue fall season

VANCOUVER – Where did August go? Seems like months since I was at the **Edmonton Folk Music Festival** – but was less than six weeks. Yet August seems to have gone by in a blur – or at least a heat haze!

This year's Edmonton affair featured but two Irish bands (last year there were dozens!) Dublin band **Lynched** made their Canadian debut and they were mightily impressive.

The first song I heard them sing was *The Tri-Coloured House* – from their album *Cold Old Fire*.

Instantly recognizable for its common *Child* ballad roots with Simon and Garfunkel's *Parsley Sage Rosemary & Time* this version ran for over nine minutes and was utterly compelling.

I picked up a copy of the album in the CD tent at the first opportunity! **Lynched** features Dublin brothers **Daragh and Ian Lynch** on guitar and fiddle, with uilleann piper **Cormac MacDiarmada** and singer **Radie Peat**.

It is hard to imagine a band so distinctively Dublin as this! The songs are alternately amusing and rivetingly trad, but with a refreshing approach and the thickest Dublin accents this side of, well, The Dubliners! Or perhaps Damien Dempsey.

The other Irish band was **I Draw Slow**, a sort of Irish Americana combo, led by siblings **Louise and Dave Holden**.

I'd seen them at Folk Alliance in Kansas City in February but this was a more prolonged exposure and they were excellent.

They have three CDs to their name, the latest being *White Wave Chapel*. Theirs are mostly original songs, with the occasional trad or old time song added for good measure. Their sound is appealing and catchy, a lovely blend of Americana and Irish roots.

Oysterband and **Finbar Furey** played at **The Rogue** the following week. Two sold-out shows in rather extreme heat!

The Oysters were in fine form, and rated it their favourite gig on their Canadian tour – which was very gratifying to hear.

As was the audience sing-along at the end, when the band moved in front of their mics to play *Put Out The Lights* on acoustic instruments.

Dublin piper and songwriter **Finbar Furey** was in irrepressible form two nights later.

It was not easy to cut through his strong accent at times, and he rarely played the pipes or whistle, but it was extremely moving to see all those Irish faces enraptured to be witnessing the great man in their adopted home so far away from Ireland, playing the music they had grown up with.

After the show he was more than happy to pose for photos and engage in



By
**STEVE
EDGE**

THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB

long conversations with all and sundry.

The event was a beautiful, loving tribute to a wheelchair-bound woman – one of whose last wishes was to share a Finbar Furey concert with her family and friends – and the music lovers of Vancouver.

Finbar spent a long time hunched over her after the show, deep in conversation and further enhancing the experience and underlying the emotion of the occasion.

The Rogue launches the fall season with a rare concert featuring Scots guitarist, songwriter and activist **Dick Gaughan**. His last show here was in 2009.

Sadly, his visit to B.C. was cut short due to immigration problems at Edinburgh and he had to cancel his two shows on Vancouver Island.

Luckily for us he will be playing at **St. James Hall** (3214 West 10th Avenue) on Saturday, September 12.

Dick is best known as a solo performer, indeed his 1980 album *Handful Of Earth* was voted "Album of the Millennium" by the readers of British magazine *fRoots*, but he also starred in such hugely influential bands as **Boys of the Lough**, **5 Hand Reel**, and **Clan Alba**.

Since then he has recorded many fine albums, featuring an increasing number of original songs which reflect his view of these troubled times and champion the cause of the downtrodden and disadvantaged (that's most of us, I guess. With 1% owning 99% of everything).

So his songs resonate with passion and rail against injustice. Underpinned with his stunning voice and incredible guitar work, a Dick Gaughan concert is a remarkable occasion and could change your life!

The following **Saturday, September 19**, Vancouver Celtic quartet **Blackthorn** launch a fine new CD, *Open Skies*, at the same venue.

The album showcases the powerful fiddle of **Rosie Carver** and the sparkling voice and flute of **Michelle Carlisle**, with **Tim Renaud** and **Michael Viens** adding their voices and multiple instrumental skills to the infectious mix.

My favourite tracks are Andy M Stewart's *Queen Of Argyll*, *Jolly Rovin' Tar*, and the instrumental medleys that follow them and those that stand alone as testament to the variety and quality of their collective musicianship.

There's also a moving slow air – and a faster tune – dedicated to one of their late band members, **Dianne Foster**.

Tunes and songs from Quebec add to the mix, and there's even a Portuguese ceildh tune!

The title track was written by Carlisle as a tribute to her home province of Saskatchewan, which coincidentally is

also the birthplace of our next guest performer, **Connie Kaldor**, whose new CD *Love Sask*.

Connie returns to The Rogue after a six year absence from these climes.

She was one of the pioneering Canadian songwriting women who followed on from Joni Mitchell and revitalized the music scene in the Seventies and Eighties and beyond.

She is also one of the most entertaining and downright funny performers you will ever see!

I first saw her at Expo 86 – when she added **Spirit of the West** to her backing band when they couldn't get a gig at the Folklife Pavilion for love or money, due to some very short-sighted programming – and I've been a fan of hers ever since!

She's played 12 times at The Rogue down the days, and we can't wait to hear her new songs – and those great tales of prairie life.

Two guitar masters – Ontario's **Don Ross** and England's **Jon Gomm** – come to The Rogue on September 27.

Don often describes his music as "heavy wood" and both these players use percussive fretwork to great effect.

Don grew up in Montreal, and his Scots father was an opera singer and bagpiper!

Luckily for us, his sister introduced him to the guitar and he has become one of the most celebrated guitarists on the planet, with a succession of brilliant CDs and mind-blowing live performances to his credit.

Like Don, Blackpool's Jon Gomm adapted rock anthems to the acoustic guitar and has just released his third CD, *Live In The Acoustic Asylum*.

We are delighted to present his first Vancouver concert – and Don's 25th Rogue show!

Another treat for fans of Irish music is the return of **Bothy Band** and **Patrick Street** fiddler **Kevin Burke**, who now lives in Portland.

He was raised in London, but his family travelled to Ireland for summer holidays and he was fortunate to have a wonderfully open-minded violin teacher as a child.

Jessie Christopherson encouraged him to play all sorts of music, but realised that his first love was Irish fiddle music, especially that played by **Michael Coleman** ("that man finds the soul of his instrument," she said, introducing young Master Burke to the notion of instruments with soul).

Kevin certainly has found the soul of his violin, too!

His concert – The Naked Fiddle of Kevin Burke – is at The Rogue at St. James Hall on Sunday, October 4.

"With the great popularity of various groups over the last 25 years or so, many people have forgotten that this kind of music used to be played mainly solo.

"The bands, groups and accompanists are a relatively recent development... so I thought it would be interesting to let people hear the 'naked' fiddle once more," he says.

See you down the Rogue!
Steve



LEGENDARY fiddler Kevin Burke will make a return to the Rogue with his 'Naked Fiddle' concert on October 4.



VAN MORRISON was welcomed home to his native Belfast in August where he performed for 3,000 fans on Cyprus Avenue.

Van Morrison's 70th birthday gigs entertains thousands

BELFAST – Van Morrison has celebrated his 70th birthday with once-in-a-lifetime concerts on the east Belfast street he immortalised in his masterpiece *Astral Weeks*.

Three thousand fans squeezed into Cyprus Avenue – the "avenue of trees" as he called it in the seminal album – for two intimate shows in the epicentre of his homeland.

Hundreds travelled from dozens of countries for what had become a pilgrimage, since the gigs were first announced last year.

Tickets which quickly sold out with a face value between £50 and £80 traded on online auction sites for up to £400.

Despite the heavens opening for a deluge of rain at the start of his first show at 3 PM, poncho-covered devotees

gave the six-time Grammy award winner a standing ovation.

Opening songs included classics *Moondance*, *Brown Eyed Girl* and *Baby Please Don't Go*.

Politicians, playwrights, screen actors and fellow musicians were among those who braved the weather for the special birthday concerts.

The recently-knighted genre-defying singer and multi-instrumentalist was born close to Cyprus Avenue, in a small two-up two-down on Hyndford Street, on August 31, 1945.

A brass plaque marks the house he shared with his mother Violet and his father George, who worked as an electrician at the nearby Harland and Wolff shipyard.

He once described the much more affluent, 85-tree lined Cyprus Avenue up the road as "a very mystical place" and somewhere "where I could think."



BLACKTHORN members are Rosie Carver on fiddle and vocals; Tim Renaud on vocals, bass, bodhran and octave-mandolin; Michael Viens on vocals, guitars, bodhran and harmonica; and Michelle Carlisle on vocals, flutes, piccolo, whistles and fife.

Popular Celtic folk group Blackthorn release a new album

By CATHOLINE BUTLER

Fans of the popular Celtic folk group Blackthorn will be delighted to learn about the release of their new album *Open Skies*.

The band has four albums to their credit, with the last one released in 2008, and now the wait is over. The new CD offers 12 tracks of traditional and original music.

Blackthorn has been entertaining audiences of all ages for 26 years.

Formed in Vancouver in 1989, the band's extensive repertoire is rooted in the music traditions of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England and French Canada.

Lively jigs and reels, with toe-tapping and hand-clapping choruses, feature alongside soulful ballads and some of their own creative original compositions.

Blackthorn consists of four talented musicians, three of whom share lead vocals with all expertly proficient in a variety of instruments.

Members are Rosie Carver on fiddle and vocals; Tim Renaud on vocals, bass, bodhran and octave-mandolin; Michael Viens on vocals, guitars, bodhran and harmonica; and Michelle Carlisle on vocals, flutes, piccolo, whistles and fife.

In true Blackthorn tradition all four musicians contributed their own unique talents to producing this CD.

The title track, *Open Skies*, was written by Michelle, who was inspired by a Blackthorn tour of her home province of Saskatchewan whose motto is "Land of the Living Skies."

Along with her own composition, Michelle lends her voice to *Country Life*, an old English favourite; *Jolly Rovin' Tar*, a rollicking sailor song; and the beautiful and timeless, *Loch Lomond*, accompanied by their good friend Jim McWilliams on bagpipes.

In an impressive arrangement, McWilliams also plays a pipe set called *Bonnets Aflame*.

Rosie provided the beautiful and colourful cover artwork. She also does some fancy fiddling on the *Mouth of the Tobique* set, which contains some



French Canadian flavour mixed with a bit of Scottish spice.

As well as being a bass player, Tim sings Andy M. Stewart's *Queen of Argyle* and is the singer/guitarist on the Irish classic *P Stands for Paddy*.

Michael's heritage is represented by two songs where he is featured, *Rattlin' Roarin' Willie*, a Robbie Burns song, and in French, *V'la l'bon vent*.

Michael grew up in the historic settlement of Maillardville in Coquitlam, B.C., where French is still spoken. He continues to perform there regularly as a Voyageur canoe guide.

Finally, Michelle and Rosie each composed a tribute to their band mate Dianne Foster, who sadly passed away in 2008. These instrumentals are *Song for Dianne* and *Mad Dog*.

Blackthorn are like fine wine....they get better every year.

Everyone is invited to hear Blackthorn live and enjoy the exciting music from this new album at their CD release party on Saturday, September 19. It will be held at 8 PM at St. James Hall, 3214 West 10th Avenue in Vancouver.

Tickets \$20 (\$16 members) and available at The Rogue Folk Club, (604) 736-3022. Other locations include Highlife Records, Prussin Music, Red Cat Records and Rufus Guitar Shop and www.roguefolk.bc.ca.

Space is limited, so get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.



TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR SEPTEMBER

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

www.worldbeatcanada.com.

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <i>Kometens Hales</i> by Jansberg - Terra Nova on GO' Danish. | 6. <i>Queen of Argyle</i> by Blackthorn - <i>Open Skies</i> on Independent. |
| 2. <i>The King's Shilling</i> by Cassie & Maggie - <i>Sterling Road</i> on Independent. | 7. <i>Leaving of Liverpool</i> by Homeland - <i>That Show</i> on Independent. |
| 3. <i>The Vapourer</i> by Spiro - <i>Welcome Joy and Welcome Sorrow</i> on Real World Records. | 8. <i>Catch Me</i> by The Real McKenzies - <i>Rats in the Burlap</i> on Fat Wreckchords. |
| 4. <i>What You Do With What You've Got</i> by Cristina & Quinn Bachand - <i>Little Hinges</i> on Independent. | 9. <i>Tired Of Your Tears</i> by Feufollet - <i>Two Universes</i> on Feufollet Records. |
| 5. <i>Au revoir Grand Mamou</i> by Steve Riley & The Mamou Playboys - <i>Voyageurs</i> on | 10. <i>Nunca James</i> by The Paperboys - <i>At Peace With One's Ghosts</i> on Independent. |

Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:
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A grand tour around the country despite the soggy weather

POSTCARD FROM BOURNEMOUTH



By
ELFAN
JONES

BOURNEMOUTH – Greetings from soggy Bournemouth, where sales of umbrellas are reaching their seasonal average and bewildered families are wondering why on earth they didn't go to Spain.

In the last four weeks I have visited Wales, Norfolk, Kent, Birmingham and London. Everywhere I went it was raining, but I was assured that there had been sunny weather until I arrived. It has obviously been an average British summer.

My few days in the north coast of Norfolk were very enjoyable despite the weather.

I stayed two nights with friends in Blakeney, a coastal village which is a popular destination for sailors and bird watchers.

The area is part of a National Nature reserve and presumably, when it stops raining, is stunningly beautiful. It was pleasantly dry inside The Kings Arms, which is a damn good, traditional 18th Century pub in the middle of the village.

My pleasure was enhanced when the landlord greeted me in Welsh and several happy hours were spent propping up the bar calculating how Wales will win the forthcoming rugby World Cup. I do believe in miracles.

Near Blakeney is Burnham Market, and if you are ever in this area then go there because it is a little gem of a town.

Visit the various galleries and enjoy the individuality of the small shops dotted around the main street, and afterwards rest a while at the Hoste Spa Hotel, which in days gone by was a regular watering hole of Norfolk's favourite son Lord Nelson.

Today this elegant Georgian building is the favourite haunt of the well-heeled "London Set" that own weekend homes in the area.

The next morning it was onwards to Sheringham Golf Club, to be treated to a birthday game of golf by another pal.

The sun appeared as if by magic and as the course follows the coast, the scenery was majestic.

On one side the North Sea and on the other the North Norfolk steam railway which chuffed its way the 16 miles between Sheringham and Holt.

It is straight out of Edith Nesbit's book



CAFÉ BRITANNIA located in the former Britannia Barracks with spectacular views over Norwich is a social enterprise offering training, rehabilitation and employment to current and ex sex offenders.

The Railway Children (1906) and I am sure that on two occasions the engine driver saw me bending over a putt before tooting the whistle, making me miss a three footer.

I stayed the night in Norwich, an ancient and vibrant small city, and in the morning went to Norwich jail for breakfast.

The restaurant, which is called The Britannia opened this January. It is run as a social enterprise and gives the prisoners the chance to work within the kitchen and front of house.

The employment helps them gain skills and work experience which they need to be more employable, giving them an alternative to returning to crime on release from prison.

Cardiff prison started the scheme in 2012, with a quaintly named restaurant called The Clink and several other prisons have taken up the idea in the last three years.

It was the first I had heard of the scheme and on approaching the formidable building confess to being a trifle nervous, not helped by my Irish friend Kieran's comment "I hope the poisoner isn't working in the kitchen this morning."

I need not have worried, the full English breakfast of bacon and eggs, local sausages, mushrooms, baked beans etc. etc. was a classic cardiac arrest special. So, if you are in Norwich, go to jail.

Whilst on the subject of people who are in jail, this brings me to a group of people who are not in jail, but some of them certainly deserve to be.



LORD SEWEL of Gilcomstoun who was responsible for "overseeing standards" in the British House of Lords has resigned after a tabloid exposé showing him snorting cocaine and cavorting with prostitutes.

The House of Lords has again been in the news beginning with a juicy scandal, starring Baron John Sewel.

Lord Sewel of Gilcomstoun who was responsible for "overseeing standards" in the House of Lords had previously written that British peers taking a seat in the House of Lords obeyed "the seven principles of public life" – these being integrity, honesty, openness, accountability, selflessness, objectivity and leadership.

Ten days after this was published, the married 69-year-old was caught in a sex sting by journalists from the *Sun* newspaper.

A video shows the life peer wearing a red bra and snorting cocaine through a five pound note, off the breasts of two £200 a night prostitutes.

You really couldn't make it up could you?

This has got the media hopping and there are many reports that £360,000 was claimed over the past five years by members of the Upper House simply for turning up to claim their £300 a day without participating in any vote or debate.

There is a catalogue of abuse by the peers Lord Hanning, Lord Taylor, Lord Paul, Baroness Uddin, Lord Truscott, Lord Mackenzie, all caught fiddling in one way or another.

The government's response is today they have appointed an additional 45 new members to the House of Lords.

That should fix it!

Happy Days
Elfan



CILLA BLACK died on August 1, 2015 after a fall in her Spanish villa. In 2013 she celebrated 50 years in show business and British television network ITV honoured this milestone with an entertainment special called *The One & Only Cilla Black*.

Singer Cilla Black was 'Liverpool's daughter'

LIVERPOOL, UK – Hundreds of fans lined the cortege route as 'Liverpool's daughter' was brought home to her final resting place.

Championed by her friends the Beatles, Cilla began her career as a singer in 1963, and her singles *Anyone Who Had a Heart* and *You're My World* both reached number one in the UK in 1964.

Black had 11 Top Ten hits on the British charts between then and 1971. In May 2010, new research published by BBC Radio 2 showed that her version of *Anyone Who Had a Heart* was the UK's biggest selling single by a female artist in the Sixties.

Along with a successful recording career in the Sixties and early Seventies, Black hosted her own variety show, *Cilla*, for the BBC between 1968 and 1976.

After a brief time as a comedy actress in the mid-Seventies, she became a prominent television presenter in the Eighties and Nineties, hosting hit entertainment shows such as *Blind Date* (1985-2003) and *Surprise Surprise* (1984-2001).

In 2013, Black celebrated her 50 years in show business. British television network ITV honoured this milestone with a one-off entertainment special which aired on October 16, 2013.

The show, called *The One & Only Cilla Black*, featured Black herself and was hosted by Paul O'Grady.

Cilla was born Priscilla Maria Veronica White in Liverpool and her parents were John Patrick White and Priscilla Blythen.

She had a Welsh grandfather, Joseph Henry Blythen, who was born in Wrexham, and Irish great-grandparents on both her father's and mother's sides of the family.

Determined to become an entertainer, Cilla White gained a part-time job as a cloakroom attendant at Liverpool's Cavern Club, best known for its connection with the Beatles.

Her impromptu performances im-

"We...have been deeply touched by all the kind messages of support from her friends, fans, the public and media."

pressed the Beatles and others.

She was encouraged to begin singing by a Liverpool promoter, Sam Leach, who booked her first gig at the Casanova Club, on London Road, where she appeared as "Swinging Cilla."

She became a guest singer with the Merseybeat bands Rory Storm and the Hurricanes, Kingsize Taylor and the Dominoes and, later, with the Big Three.

Meanwhile, she worked as a waitress at the Zodiac coffee lounge, where she later met her future husband Bobby Willis.

She was featured in an article in the first edition of the local music newspaper *Mersey Beat* by the paper's publisher, Bill Harry, who mistakenly referred to her as Cilla Black, rather than her real surname, White. She then took the name Black as part of her stage name.

Cilla died accidentally at 72-years of age on August 1, 2015 after a fall in her villa in Estepona, Spain.

Her three sons, Robert, Ben and Jack, brought her body back to her native Liverpool for burial.

In a statement, they said, "We are devastated by the sad loss of our mother, but have been deeply touched by all the kind messages of support from her friends, fans, the public and media."

"We would like to thank everyone, especially the people of Liverpool. The tributes and condolences have really helped us through these difficult times."

Cilla was laid to rest in a private ceremony at Allerton Cemetery alongside her parents following a funeral mass at St. Mary's Church in Woolton.

The following day, the compilation album *The Very Best of Cilla Black* went to number one on the UK Albums Chart; it was her first number one album.

Shoreham Air Show plane crash: Pilot was too low says official report

LONDON – On August 22 thousands were gathered at the Shoreham Airshow in Shoreham-by-Sea to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

At 1:20 PM the scene turned to horror as a vintage 1950s Hawker Hunter plane crashed into a busy A27 bypass, hitting at least four cars – including a wedding limousine.

Eleven people were killed and 16 others injured in the worst air show disaster in the UK since the 1952 Farnborough air show crash, which killed 31 people.

The aircraft, a Hawker Hunter T7, failed to complete a loop manoeuvre and crashed onto vehicles on the A27 trunk road.

The 51-year-old former RAF pilot Andy Hill survived the crash, and was placed in a medically-induced coma and is now in stable condition.

As a result of the accident, all Hawker Hunter aircraft in the UK were grounded, and restrictions were put in place on civilian vintage jet aircraft displays over land, limiting them to flypasts and banning high energy aerobatic maneuvers.



THE crash which killed 11 people and injured 16 is the worst air show disaster in the UK since 1952.

Air Accidents Investigation Branch has now published interim report into the crash showing the pilot began his fatal loop-the-loop hundreds of feet lower than his licence allowed.

Hill began the maneuver at 200 feet when he was licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority to perform such maneuvers at 500 feet and above.

The AAIB report said, “The aircraft ... commenced a descending left turn to 200 feet above mean sea level approach-

ing the display line at an angle of about 45 degrees.

“The aircraft then pitched up into a maneuver with both a vertical component and roll to the left. During the descent the aircraft accelerated and the nose was raised but the aircraft did not achieve level flight before it struck the westbound carriageway of the A27.”

An inquest into the deaths was opened and adjourned at a hearing in Horsham on September 2.



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The Year of the Canadians

EDINBURGH – A wise man once told me that he didn't realize how many cyclists there were until he started cycling.

In other words, you often only notice things when you are consciously looking for them.

For several years I have wandered the streets of Edinburgh during the festival period keeping an eye open for Canadians, but even my state of raised consciousness didn't yield much success.

However, that seems to be changing. Pushing my way through the crowds on the Royal Mile recently, I spotted a number of Canada hockey sweaters, various other forms of NHL regalia and a flutter of Maple Leaf flags attached to passing backpacks.

Apart from the long Canadian tradition of sporting maple leaves to distinguish themselves from you know who, the most obvious reason for this visible Canadian presence is the recent increase in ways to get to the auld country.

For the last few years, the tour operator Canadian Affair has been plucking people from Canadian cities and depositing them in Glasgow.

Two years ago Canada Rouge introduced a seasonal flight from Toronto to Edinburgh. And this year they've been



By
**HARRY
McGRATH**

joined by WestJet who have a new summer flight from Halifax to Glasgow.

The new flights have been the beneficiary of some interesting Canadian initiatives and at least one happy coincidence.

The year began with the Bicentennial of Sir John A. Macdonald, a major reception in Glasgow where he was born, and a consequent rise in media interest around Scotland/Canada connections in general.

There was a second foregathering in Glasgow a few months later to celebrate the launch of the new WestJet flight which also got some media attention.

And just last month the Canadian High Commission in London and La Délégation générale du Québec à Londres hosted a reception in Edinburgh to celebrate Canadian content in the Edinburgh festivals.

The latter reception was held on the rooftop garden of an Edinburgh hotel which stands in the shadow of Calton

Hill and its 'Edinburgh's Folly', the unfinished National Monument of Scotland modelled on the Parthenon in Greece.

And it was soon obvious that the 'Athens of the North' was playing host to an incredible array of talent from the Great White North. The reception featured acrobats from Quebec City, clowns from Red Deer and a brass ensemble from Montreal, among others.

Elsewhere in the city, one of the major attractions of the entire festival was the world premiere of French-Canadian playwright Robert LePage's 887 which explored memory and identity from 1960 to the October crisis.

Another was Canadian poet Ann Carson's translation of Sophokles's Antigone which starred Juliette Binoche.

Montreal's Julie Favreau and Calgary's Derek Michael Besant represented Canada at the Edinburgh Art Festival with Favreau commissioned to present a new film installation at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art.

There were concerts by Angela Hewitt, Chilly Gonzalez and the St. Lawrence String Quartet at the Edinburgh International Festival.

The book festival featured Canadian authors Sean Michaels, Kathleen Winter, Rachel Cusk and Moira Young, and readings by three Innu poets: Joséphine Bacon, Natasha Kanapé Fontaine and Naomi Fontaine.



VIEW of Calton Hill with the unfinished National Monument of Scotland modelled on the Parthenon in Greece, otherwise known as 'Edinburgh's Folly'.

Finally, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival hosted over 30 Canadian acts in comedy, theatre, music, cabaret, dance and circus.

Back at the rooftop garden, we were being plied with Canadian wine, bathed in sunshine (to everyone's astonishment) and entertained by a brass ensemble from Montreal called Buzz.

Their flyers said that they present 'a fabulous theatrical odyssey that travels through space and time at a thrilling tempo to explore the music of the Western world from pre-historic times to the present day.'

And so they did. The evening ended on a surreal note with Buzz blasting the theme tune from 'Hockey Night in Canada' across the rooftops of the ancient city of Edinburgh.

Canadian content at the Edinburgh festivals is, of course, only part of the story.

Glasgow hosted the World Pipe Band Championships including Simon Fraser

University and other Canadians and Vancouver indie folk-rock band Dan Mangan + Blacksmith played at the Oran Mor in the west end of the city earlier in the summer.

The WestJet promotion for its new flight to Glasgow used the slogan 'Aye, let's go' and that appears to be what many Canadians decided to do in 2015.

A second happy coincidence should help sustain the momentum. There is already some anticipation in Scotland concerning Canada's 150th anniversary (or sesquicentennial) in 2017.

While the main focus of the celebrations will be attracting people to Canada, there's an obvious opportunity for Scotland to emphasize its own connection.

Canada's first prime minister was born in Glasgow; the second in Logierait in Perthshire. The Canadian health service can trace its origins to Falkirk where Tommy Douglas was born. Who wouldn't want to take a Canadian sesquicentennial tour of Scotland?

Delta Police Pipe Band Plays the Okanagan Military Tattoo

By COLIN ABEL

DELTA, BC – The Delta Police Pipe Band traveled to Vernon on the weekend of July 25 and 26 to play in the second annual Okanagan Military Tattoo.

A total of 500 performers took part in the festivities which consisted of performances on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.

Other pipe bands taking part were from the Winnipeg Police, Kamloops, Kelowna and Vernon.

Military brass bands included the Vancouver Navy Veterans Band, The Royal Canadian Artillery Band, the 15th Field Artillery Regiment and various cadet organizations. Scottish and Irish dancers, the RCMP Ceremonial Troop and many other acts rounded out the cast.

The Delta Police Pipe Band was the lead pipe band during the tattoo and



PHOTO: Jim Provost

THE Delta Police Pipe Band will perform in the Netherlands Military Tattoo this September, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Holland by Canadian forces. The band is honoured to be the only Canadian pipe band invited to this prestigious event.

played in the opening and closing ceremonies and also played a 10 minute solo performance which featured their own regimental dancers.

As usual, the regimental dancers brought the house down with their performance.

The Delta Police Pipe Band is led by Pipe Major Craig Moffatt and Drum Major Moe Coll. The regimental dancers are led by piper Jim Wishlove.

In September the band will travel to Rotterdam, Holland to play in the Netherlands Military Tattoo. The tattoo is celebrating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Holland by Canadian forces.

The Delta Police Pipe Band is honoured to be the only pipe band from Canada to be invited to this prestigious event.

During the band's individual performance, a video will be shown on the big screen of band members' fathers, uncles and other family members who were part of the Canadian forces in Holland in 1945.

It will be a great honour for the band to represent Delta, British Columbia and Canada at this tattoo.

Police Scotland Chief Constable to step down early

STIRLING – Sir Stephen House has announced his intention to step down as chief constable of Police Scotland by the end of 2015 – a year earlier than planned.

The move follows a series of high-profile incidents which saw the police chief come under growing pressure and facing calls to resign.

House told a meeting of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) in Stirling, "The dilemma is that as the leader of a national organisation that provides a vital public service 24 hours a day, every day of the year, there is never going to be a convenient time to move on.

"But after nearly 35 years as a police officer, with the last nine as a chief constable in Scotland, I believe the time is right for me to try and take up new challenges and also to allow the start of a process to recruit my successor."

He told the meeting, "I'd like to take the opportunity also to pay proper tribute to the men and women of Police Scotland who deserve all the recognition and who deserve recognition from the public for all that they do.

"I'm immensely proud to be the first chief constable of Police Scotland and to lead the men and women in it, but for me the time has come to move on, to take up new opportunities."

As former chief constable of Strathclyde Police, House oversaw the amalgamation of Scotland's eight regional police forces into the single national force, which came into being in April 2013.



POLICE Scotland Chief Constable Sir Stephen House.

But the force has been hit by a series of controversies since.

It came under fire following the M9 collision in July in which Lamara Bell (25), and John Yuill (28), died. The couple spent three days in their crashed car after a call to police was not properly logged, prompting the chief constable to issue an apology to their families.

The force has also faced criticism over issues such as its stop and search tactics and an investigation by the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC) over the death of 31-year-old Sheku Bayoh in custody.

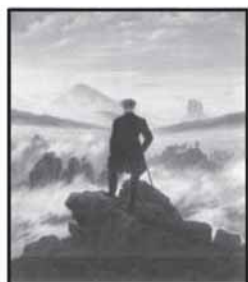
Referring to these cases, House said, "What I want to say is that every death quite clearly is a tragedy for the families and the friends of the victims."

He added, "I want to give my sincere commitment that where mistakes have been made, we will learn from those mistakes, and any recommendations which will improve the performance of Police Scotland in relation to incidents like this will be taken on board without question."

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Queen attends landmark Braemar Gathering



QUEEN ELIZABETH II at the Braemar Gathering on Sunday, September 6. She has attended virtually every year since coming to the throne in 1952. Her reign would be the longest of any British king or queen.

BRAEMAR, Scotland – The Queen made her annual visit to open the Braemar Gathering – the biggest event in Scotland's Highland Games calendar.

The event is held a short distance from the Royals' summer retreat on the Balmoral estate in Aberdeenshire and this year's gathering marks the 200th anniversary of the society which runs it.

About 17,000 spectators were expected to cheer on competitors in the tossing of the caber and tug-of-war contests.

She may be just a few days short of claiming Queen Victoria's record for the longest reign in British history but this Queen is not going to be diverted from her regular routine.

And so on a sunny September afternoon in the Scottish Highlands, the Queen watched cabers being tossed, hammers being thrown and tug of war being contested, all to the strains of the dozen pipe bands attending the Gathering.

The Queen first attended the Braemar Royal Highland Gathering as a seven-year-old child in 1933. She has attended virtually every year since coming to the throne in 1952.

As she arrived the announcer reminded the crowds that in a few days her reign would be the longest of any British king or queen. The crowds in Braemar celebrated the fact, just as many more elsewhere in the country will do in coming days.

The Queen was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles and her eldest grandson Peter Phillips, and his wife Autumn.

Queen Victoria first attended Braemar in 1848 and since then it has been regularly visited by the reigning monarch and other members of the royal family.

Braemar Royal Highland Charity, which organises the event, said, "Every gathering is a memorable occasion and that of 2015 will be no exception."

Alberta dancer first-runner up at Highland dance championships

CALGARY – A young dancer from Okotoks, Alberta is celebrating a great showing at the World Highland Dance Championships in Scotland.

Seventeen-year-old Melissa Carnegie took home the first runner-up trophy at the dance championships, finishing second among a field of 100 competitors in her age group.

"It's pretty cool," she said. "There have been a lot of high quality dancers from Calgary and it's nice to be part of that."

The competition comes just a few weeks after Carnegie finished in top spot at the Canadian championships in London, Ontario.

It's part of carrying on a long family tradition: her mom is a piper and Highland dancer, and her grandmother made kilts and helped run a pipe band.

"It's fantastic," said Carnegie's long-time dance teacher, Lauren Geib. "It's nice to see a girl that works so hard at her craft do so well."

Carnegie starts classes in September at the University of Calgary, hoping her kinesiology studies will lead to a career as a physiotherapist.

But she's by no means hanging up her dancing shoes, she's planning on competing again next year in the adult category at the world championships in Scotland.



SEVENTEEN-year-old Melissa Carnegie took home the first runner-up trophy at the dance championships, finishing second among a field of 100 competitors in her age group.

Majority of voters back British exit from EU according to poll

LONDON – A shock poll has suggested that a majority of voters in the UK want Britain to leave the European Union.

The Survation poll found that if a referendum was held tomorrow 51 percent would vote to quit the EU against 49 percent who would vote to remain.

The figures are a blow for the prime minister who faces a series of votes as he tries to steer the EU Referendum Bill through parliament, with Tory backbenchers already angry over his foot-dragging on agreeing to a purdah period for the UK Government during the short campaign in the referendum.

And the issue has been made more difficult with the immigration crisis grip-



The figures are a blow for Prime Minister David Cameron who faces a series of votes as he tries to steer the EU Referendum Bill through parliament.

ping the EU and threats by other heads of government that the UK needs to take a quota of refugees from Italy and Hungary if Cameron wants agreement on a new deal for the UK's membership of the EU.

According to Survation, the margin in favour of leaving could grow if the migrant crisis gripping Europe continues, with 22 percent of those who said they would vote to stay indicating they could change their minds if the situation worsened.

The overall findings run counter to a string of recent polls which have consistently shown comfortable majorities in favour of staying in.

As recently as July, a Survation poll gave the "in" camp a 54 to 46 percent advantage.

Politicians will be wary of reading too much into one survey, particularly given the closeness of the margin.

Nevertheless it is likely to set alarm bells ringing in Downing Street ahead of Cameron's promised referendum, which must take place before the end of 2017.

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ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING FINAL - SUNDAY, S

Kilkenny 1-22 - Galway 1-18



GREETING early morning patrons at the door to watch the All-Ireland Hurling (L-R) Gerard Mahony, owner/manager at Mahony and Sons Public House at Burrard Landing with hostesses, Emily and Stacey.



A PROUD DAD holding his baby son Sean who is wearing a Galway headband.



WATCHING the hurling final at Doolin's (L-R) Ciaran, Eimear, Joan and Nigel.



TWO buddies cheering for different sides (L-R) James for Galway and Kyle for Kilkenny. Every All-Ireland Kyle sits in the same seat at Mahony's, wearing the same cowboy hat for luck...and it works!



By
CATHOLINE
BUTLER

On Sunday, September 6 many people were just turning over in their beds with the satisfaction of knowing they could sleep a little longer.

Meanwhile, another group of die-hard or crazy fans were making their way in the early morning hours to Mahony's Irish establishment and Doolin's Irish Pub in downtown Vancouver to watch a 7:30 AM live broadcast of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final from Croke Park in Dublin.

The Celtic Connection was also on the road to both establishments. Because the game was being televised at both locations, fans seemed evenly split between both pubs.

I noticed early in the game there didn't seem to be the same intensity or hoopla among the patrons watching the game on the screen as in past hurling finals.

It almost seemed a foregone conclusion that Kilkenny would win, although Galway supporters were hoping and praying for a better result from their team.

It looked good for Galway in the first half but Kilkenny came roaring out in the second half to spoil the party.

The Kilkenny Cats made it an incredible 11 Liam McCarthy Cups in 17 seasons and the Cats were on top again.

You would think that after 11 Liam McCarthy Cups the passion and intensity would have dimmed a bit for Kilkenny manager Brian Cody...but not a bit. The passion and intensity is still there...he is amazing

It's been 27 long and painful years since Galway has lifted the Liam McCarthy and telling the disheartened players and disappointed fans that there's always next year rings hollow.

There is no consolation when the prize was so close. Galway players probably don't even want to look at the replays or even think about next year.

But some year a team will come along to claim the Liam McCarthy from Kilkenny...it's like the lottery...you just never know.



EARLY morning All-Ireland fans at Doolin's (L-R) Colm, Jenny, Kristian and Bryan.



ALL-IRELAND hurling fans at Mahony's (L-R) Sean, Bernard and Paul.



ENJOYING every minute of the game at Doolin's are Martin and Susan.



KILKENNY FANS at Doolin's (L-R) Michael, Catriona, Bernadette, Leanne and Carmel. Carmel had her face painted with cat whiskers for Kilkenny.



ANXIOUS Galway fans at Mahony's (L-R) [Back] Shane and David. [Front] Tracey, Sharon and John.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2015



GALWAY supporters at Mahony's, (L-R) [Back] Brian, Derek and Dara. [Front] Justine, Owen, Carol and Carmel.



KILKENNY has been crowned All Ireland Hurling Champions for the 36th time when they saw off the challenge of Galway in Croke Park on Sunday, September 6. Kilkenny were three points in arrears at the break but a powerful second half display saw them retain the Mc Carthy Cup on a 1-22 to 1-18 final scoreline.



JUBILANT Kilkenny fans at Mahony's (L-R) Emmet, Kenny and Robbie.

Man who streaked in front of 10,000 Kilkenny fans ordered to do community service

KILKENNY – A man who stripped off and streaked in front of 10,000 fans and the victorious Kilkenny hurling team has appeared in court.

Stephen Clifford, Emmet Street, Kilkenny ran out onto the pitch wearing only his socks at the Cats Homecoming celebrations at Nowlan Park on Monday, September 7.

At Kilkenny District Court Clifford entered a plea to engaging in threatening, abusive and insulting behaviour.

He was convicted and ordered to carry out 80 hours of community service in lieu of six weeks in prison. He was also fined EU200 for being intoxicated in a public place.

Inspector Joe Carton outlined how Stephen Clifford, Emmet Street, Kilkenny entered the pitch at Nowlan Park, where there were approximately 10,000 fans present cheering on the All-Ireland winning hurling team from the stands.

Solicitor Michael Lanigan said that his client had attended the Homecoming and had "too much to drink" and "a colleague dared him to run across the field."

The defendant was quickly apprehended by gardai and stewards and was arrested and brought to Kilkenny Garda Station.

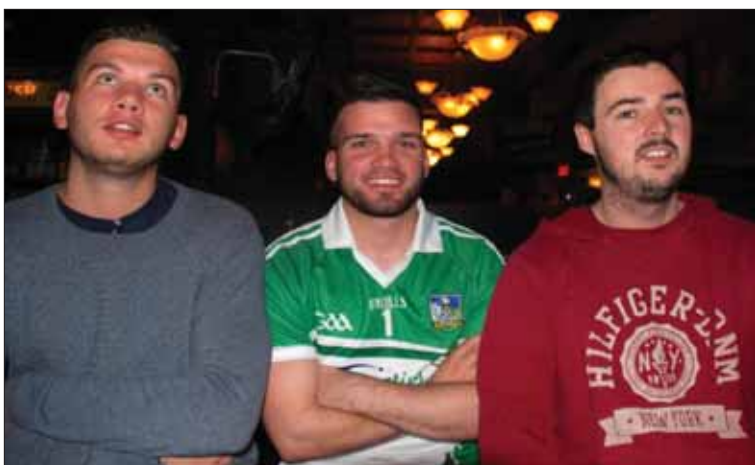
"He had too much to drink and was overcome by exuberance. He wants to apologise to everyone that was present and to the gardai and the court," said Lanigan.

Judge Colin Daly remarked that the defendant would "be better off to tog out and try for the Kilkenny team."

The judge added that he was taking into consideration that the defendant pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity.



GALWAY fans at Mahony's (L-R) Owen, Anthony and Peter.



CONCENTRATING on the screen at Doolin's (L-R) Brian, Brian and Tommy.

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Tx's: Irish Club or edmontongaasecretary@gmail.com
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Oct 24 – Mattierin Halloween Quiz
Oct 31 – Children's Halloween Party – Call club for details
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Margaret Rogers McKay

June 25, 1937 - August 8, 2015

MARGARET ROGERS MCKAY, beloved wife of the late Sean McKay, passed away peacefully on August 8, 2015, surrounded by her family.

Margaret was born in Dublin, Ireland on June 25, 1937 and her family immigrated from Ireland to Vancouver in 1965.

She worked at the University of British Columbia for 34 years starting in the maintenance department, eventually becoming supervisor. She was promoted to UBC management and eventually became proctor at the Student Union Building on campus.

Margaret was always generous with her time as a volunteer in the local community.

She served on the executive of the Irish Cultural Society and was a member of the Catholic Women's League at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Vancouver.

She was also vice-president and entertainment chair at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 30 in Kerrisdale eventually becoming president of that legion until she passed away.

Margaret was a devoted mother to Peter, Mark, Caroline, Brendan, Daniel, Marion, Shirley and Ailish.



MARGARET ROGERS MCKAY

She is sadly missed and remembered fondly by her daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, brother, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family and many friends.

Irish Club of White Rock's annual picnic

By ANNE BOYLE

President, Irish Club of White Rock

WHITE ROCK, BC – On August 9 many members of the Irish Club of White Rock and the football players and families of the Fraser Valley Gaels got together to enjoy a very beautiful Sunday afternoon at Peace Arch Park in sunny White Rock.

This was the fourth annual picnic for the club, and the perfect weather, great food, and wonderful attendance made this picnic our best ever.

The Irish Club continues to be extremely well supported by the Fraser Valley Gaels football team, and their presence adds such energy to events.

Our average age also goes from about 70 to 40 or even less as there are so many children around.

The youngest in attendance baby McCloskey was probably eight months old, and the most senior attendee, Mary McNulty was around 94 years young.

Thank you to everyone especially Robert Holland for all his work on the barbeque, and to the other club members who did the shopping or helped with set-up.

Is mise le meas, Anne Boyle



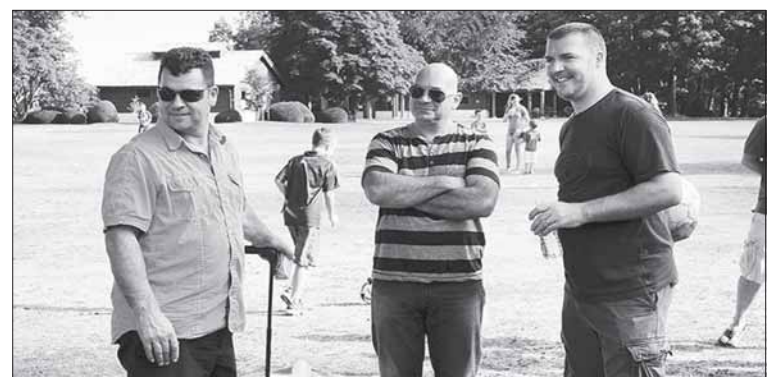
MARY MCNULTY and baby Lauren – The youngest and the oldest [left photo]. Connie and Ger Cronin [right photo].



ROBERT HOLLAND - Chef of the day.



IRISH CLUB of White Rock president Anne Boyle with friends.



DEREK, Robbie and Vinnie.

Mary Ann Meegan

September 12, 1928 - August 16, 2015



MARY ANN MEEGAN

MARY ANN MEEGAN, founder of Mary Ann Meegan Insurance Agency Ltd. in Coquitam, B.C. passed away on the evening of Sunday, August 16.

Mary Ann, a native of County Louth, Ireland, was born on September 12, 1928, the youngest of nine children. She was orphaned at the age of nine, and was subsequently raised by her older sister, Katie Wynne. Mary Ann left school at age 12.

Mary Ann emigrated from Ireland with her husband Jimmy and their young family in 1959, settling in Ocean Falls, B.C.

The couple already had three children – Brigid, Michael and James – and Peter was born a year after their arrival.

Jimmy and Mary Ann both worked for

Crown Zellerbach Pulp and Paper in Ocean Falls, with Jimmy working the dayshift in the mill, and Mary Ann working at night as a custodian.

While living in Ocean Falls, Mary Ann began taking insurance courses and by 1970 she was working in insurance part-time while holding down a full-time night shift job at the mill.

In 1972 the Meegan family moved to Coquitlam and shortly after settling there Mary Ann founded her own insurance agency. As a woman, she was a ground-breaker in what was then a male-dominated industry.

Mary Ann grew her business and forged relationships with people in all walks of life. She was deeply involved in her church, from organizing formal events to quietly helping to pay for the funeral of a family who couldn't afford one.

She was also passionate about her heritage and often travelled back to Ireland. She took great joy in taking part in St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Vancouver with many people enjoying her Irish soda bread and the currant buns she would bake specially for the day.

Each year Douglas College presents the Myrna Popove Lifetime Award to a deserving candidate who is nominated by the community. In 2014 Mary Ann was the highly popular choice to receive the award.

Always willing to help the less fortunate, Mary Ann was described as a 'guardian angel' by many who knew her. May she rest in peace.



IN MEMORY OF ED GRIFFIN

Ed Griffin, the powerhouse behind the Surrey International Writers Conference, passed away in Surrey Memorial Hospital on July 23, 2015. He was 78 years old.

Ed had been battling cancer and suffered complications from a stroke.

A former priest, American city councillor and social worker, Griffin had a passion for writing.

In the early 1990s, he went to a writers conference in Seattle and thought Surrey could easily support such an event.

In 1993, he started the first Surrey International Writers Conference. What started out the first year with 100 people participating, the numbers grew steadily and now amount to thousands.

In 2001, he completed his first book, *Beyond The Vows*. The main protagonist, JP Lacey, is a priest conflicted by his calling and a world mired in injustice. That priest was based on Griffin's life.

For almost a decade prior to writing that book, Ed was going to Matsqui Prison to teach inmates the art of writing.

He went on to write a popular hit *Prisoners of Willowaw*, about 300 prisoners released onto Adak Island, in the Aleutians off Alaska.

Besides a rich description and well-developed characters, Griffin managed to use it as a critique of our current prison system. He once said if there's a theme to his life and his books, it's a fight for social justice.

Ed Griffin is survived by his wife Kathleen (Kathy), son Kevin, daughter Kerry and sister Joy.

For many years the Griffin home in Surrey, B.C. has been a distribution point for *The Celtic Connection*. Both Ed and his wife Kathleen volunteered delivering the paper in the area.

The Celtic Connection would like to offer our deepest sympathy to Kathleen and the Griffin family. We will miss you Ed – rest in peace.

NOVENAS

Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary (never known to fail). O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God. Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. O show me herein you are my Mother, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You gave me the Divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me. This prayer must be said for three days, even after the request is granted and the favour received, it must be published. – KLSMC, PMKMC, MJF, DF, ADB, CSKB, CC, CKB, LC, SLMKR, CTK

Novena to St. Anthony

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 hu-

man 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, CC.

Novena to St. Anthony

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. – SVS

Novena to St. Clare

God of mercy, you inspired Saint Clare with the love of poverty. By the help of her prayers, may we follow Christ in poverty of spirit and come to the joyful vision of your glory in the Kingdom of Heaven. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. – SVS

Mark your calendar now for 2016 CelticFest Vancouver

VANCOUVER – CelticFest Vancouver is pleased to announce a new board of directors for CelticFest 2016 and a new executive festival producer.

CelticFest Vancouver is western Canada's largest annual Celtic Festival.

This 10-day festival includes Celtic music, dance, workshops, food and product as well as Vancouver's annual St. Patrick's Day parade (recently included in www.topeventscanada.com as one of the top 20 festivals in Canada).

The 2016 events will be held between March 5-17 in Vancouver's Entertainment District, where organizers hope that you will join in the festivities.

Founded in 2004, CelticFest has focused on the inclusion of the seven

Celtic nations – Brittany, Cornwall, Ireland, Isle of Man, Galicia, Scotland and Wales – to showcase culture, art and history.

Every year attendance has grown to draw over 250,000 people annually, appealing to all cultural backgrounds.

With hundreds of stories about CelticFest resulting in over 8.3 million earned impressions, media coverage of the event over the past 10 years has increased dramatically.

In 2015, more than 1,000 people marched in the 11th annual St. Patrick's Day parade.

The festival also featured over 75 performances and events, with almost all of them free and for all ages.



New Executive Producer for CelticFest Vancouver 2016

CelticFest Vancouver is pleased to announce the appointment of the new executive festival producer for CelticFest 2016.

John Coughlan who was president of CelticFest last year and vice-president the year before, is pleased to accept his new role of executive festival producer for CelticFest.

John, who has an extensive business background, is looking forward to taking on the challenges associated with his new role within the organization.

His responsibilities will include coordinating all aspects of CelticFest Vancouver Society Festival and festival events. He will report to the board of CelticFest Vancouver.

For all inquiries, please feel free to contact John at: john@celticfestvancouver.com or call or text: (604) 612-6708.

New periodical from Crosscare Migrant Project

DUBLIN – *Le Chéile* is a new periodic newsletter from Crosscare Migrant Project for people and organisations working for the welfare of Irish emigrants.

Le Chéile has a particular focus on innovative projects and initiatives, new and emerging challenges for Irish emigrants across the globe and different ways of dealing with common challenges.

Across the world there are countless one to one connections and small and big networks of people that are a testament to the solidarity that Irish emigrants can show to each other. *Le Chéile* will endeavour to shine light on some of the actions that have grown from this solidarity.

The Crosscare Migrant Project is the main Irish based NGO that assists Irish emigrants before they leave the country and upon their return to Ireland.

The organisation is funded by the Irish Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and has been working with Irish emigrants since the 1940s.

Given the recent increase in Irish people immigrating to Canada, the organisation is looking to keep in touch with the issues Irish emigrants are facing or potentially may face in Canada.

To subscribe to this newsletter or if you know of any projects or initiatives that you think would make a good article for *Le Chéile*, e-mail migrantproject@crosscare.ie.



Irish Women's Network presents 'Ladies Who Brunch' and new social calendar

By NICOLA DUNNE

VANCOUVER – Would you like to reconnect with friends after the summer? Or are you new to Vancouver and looking to connect with the Irish community and meet new people?

The Irish Women's Network of BC is delighted to announce an exciting new calendar of social events this fall open to all in the Irish community.

The first event to kick off the season, 'Ladies Who Brunch', will be hosted on Saturday, September 26 at 11:30 AM at Mahony & Sons, Stamps Landing (False Creek).

Everyone is invited for bubbles and a social brunch in a relaxed and friendly setting.

This gathering will be a great opportunity

to catch up with old friends and to make some new ones.

To RSVP, you can join the event on Facebook via the Irish Women's Network Facebook Group, or if not on Facebook, e-mail: irishwomensnetwork@gmail.com.

Other upcoming events will include the popular Newcomer's Seminar offering information and tips on job searches and networking, a pub quiz and a Christmas social night.

Following the success of the Nollaig na mBan lunch last year, the IWN also plan to host this event again in January.

Details of all upcoming events will be posted on Facebook and on the Irish in Vancouver Calendar of Events: www.irishinvancouver.com/whats-on.

Irish and Living in Vancouver?

If you are Irish and living in Vancouver and require a new Irish passport you can contact several local Irish organizations for your application form.

George McDonnell with the Irish Heritage Society of Canada has forms available and he can be contacted either by e-mail at: crumlin@eastlink.ca or call (604) 948-2885.

The Irish Women's Network can also provide assistance. You can e-mail: irishwomensnetwork@gmail.com.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

October 7, 2015

Time: 7:00 PM through 9:00 PM

Place: Doolin's Irish Pub (Irish Lounge in the Pub)
654 Nelson Street, Vancouver

All members and friends are welcome to be in attendance

Call George for more info: (604) 948-2885

E-mail: crumlin@eastlink.ca

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Lies, Damn Lies and Documentaries: Part One

DUBLIN – In June this year, RTE's documentary series *Prime Time* screened a feature length documentary film, *Collusion*, which investigated British collusion in loyalist killings over the span of the Northern Irish Troubles.

In several of the cases under examination, collusion has been established beyond any reasonable doubt.

Yet, criminal convictions, a measure of justice for the families of the victims, are as rare as hen's teeth. Why so?

As Dublin's top diplomat in Northern Ireland in the 1970s, Sean Donlon, stated in this documentary, "we would raise it [collusion], the British would deny it, that was it."

The British emphasised to Donlon that they were fighting the IRA and therefore had no time to fight loyalist atrocities.

Donlon pointed out that such appeasement (or worse) was the seed of an unsavoury culture of permissiveness towards state sponsored murder.

Collusion hones in on several high profile cases of collusion such as the Glenanne Gang (a group of police, terrorists and British soldiers) and Supergrass Brian Nelson.

Nelson pleaded guilty to his crimes and left copious police statements behind which, seen by a rigorous judiciary, should have been used as evidence in criminal processes against the colluding members of the police force.

Unsurprisingly, The Ulster Defence Force (UDF) and The Ulster Defence Association (UDA) were almost gleeful about the level of British assistance they received in perpetuating murder.

The UDA would paste intelligence documents delivered to them by the British, facilitating their crime rampage, on Belfast walls accompanied by graffiti stating, "we've plenty more."

Collusion illustrates that during the Troubles sentences handed down by the magistrates on collusion cases did a great deal to destroy any possibility of trust in the police and the law among the Northern minority.

In their verdicts, magistrates were at pains to insist that the language used to designate guilty police officers – on the rare occasion when one was convicted – be distinguished from the language used to describe the IRA, even if a more objective observer may find it difficult to discern any difference.

If Margaret Thatcher truly believed that "there is no such thing as political murder, political bombing or political violence...there is only criminal murder, criminal bombing and criminal violence" she might have acted decisively on this travesty of the British criminal justice system.

Collusion, developed by Ed Moloney (of the Boston College tapes fame), is a brave and comprehensive examination within the bounds of delicate legality.

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By MAURICE FITZPATRICK



A SHOCKING RTE documentary offers concrete evidence of British Government collusion with loyalist paramilitaries. The documentary features interviews with most of the major players in policing and security in Northern Ireland over the last three decades.



GERALDINE FINUCANE widow of Pat Finucane with her daughter Katherine following a meeting with British Prime Minister David Cameron. On February 12, 1989, Pat Finucane, a human rights lawyer, was shot dead in front of his wife and three children at their home in north Belfast. The murder was one of the most controversial of the Northern Ireland Troubles, with allegations that the state colluded with the paramilitaries to facilitate the killing.

Even in a documentary made for, and screened in, the Republic, names of alleged colluders were beeped out throughout the film.

Its narrator, John Ware, is effective: as he suggested to an interviewee in a provocative moment, "the non-response as it were by prime ministers and officials to your request for a legal framework was 'carry on, but don't get caught'. Is that a fair comment?"

Former Special Branch head, Raymond White replied, "Yes. I think that captures it in a nutshell."

Former British Security Minister Michael Mates emphasises in this film the eerie longevity and the legal complexity of the official British collusion in Northern Irish crimes: compared to Kenya or Cyprus.

These were foreign territories where no scruple on the part of the British about breaking a law was evident, Northern Ireland was part of the UK

during the decades of the Troubles and yet the State had no qualms about murdering its own subjects.

David Cameron acknowledged in the British House of Commons on 12 December 2012 that "frankly shocking levels of State collusion" had taken place.

So, one would assume, that in post-conflict Northern Ireland the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) set up in Northern Ireland would be given every assistance in its task to uncover historical crimes perpetrated by the state?

Dream on. When the head of the HET, Dave Cox, resigned in September 2013 in high dudgeon, it was clear that as soon as he and other detectives strayed into the prickly subject of killings perpetrated by the British that his job was undoable.

The following year the HET was closed due to "budget cuts."

The progress after decades of investigators' hovering around the subject of British collusion is minimal.

Nuala O'Loan, Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman 1999-2007, stated in this documentary that as Police Ombudsman there was "pressure not to report" on certain issues and that she was not "going any further" on camera.

What is the entity behind this collusion which has managed to elude investigation at every turn, and which was not explicitly stated by Cameron in his House of Commons admission?

It is MI5, the British secret intelligence and security service.

Cameron was even so naive as to almost admit that MI5 are pulling the puppet strings in British Government when he met the family of Pat Finucane.

He informed them that he could not open a formal court trial into Finucane's killing "because there are people all around this place [10 Downing Street] who won't let it happen."

What he did not say (but he might as well have said) is that those people who govern the government were also responsible for Finucane's murder.

What MI5 cannot countenance is exposure.

The most a journalist, a documentary filmmaker, a diplomat, a lawyer or even an ombudsman has so far succeeded in exposing about the MI5's actions in the North over the past four decades is the near certainty of its involvement in facilitating loyalist terrorists who carried out assassinations and bombings in Northern Ireland.

When the moment comes to provide evidence or witness testimony in a court trial (as in the famous, costly and lengthy Saville Tribunal into Bloody Sunday, for instance) the British system conspires at the very top to frustrate the process.

For the British to acknowledge MI5 collusion in murders would be a most grave admission because this would show the British Government to have been a terrorist agent in the North, relentlessly murdering innocent men and women and, even more spectacularly, doing the same outside its jurisdiction – the Dublin and Monaghan bombings being a prime example.

The MI5's chokehold on every relevant organ of the British state has proved to be powerful enough to ensure that the full truth about collusion remains tucked away in secret vaults. I will return to this subject in next month's column.



THE MIAMI Showband were one of Ireland's most popular cabaret bands. Des Lee [fourth from left] is pictured in the band's line up in early 1975. The men who died were Tony Geraghty, Fran O'Toole and Brian McCoy. Ray Millar [third from left] and Stephen Travers [far right] also survived.

Miami Showband massacre: Survivors remember 40 years on

DUBLIN – Forty years after the Miami Showband massacre surviving band members Stephen Travers and Des McAlea say they still carry it with them every day.

On July 31, 1975, a UVF gang stopped their minibus on the A1 road at Buskhill near Newry in Co. Down at what appeared to be a routine military checkpoint.

Five people were killed in the atrocity, including three band members – frontman Fran O'Toole (29), guitarist Tony Geraghty (23), and trumpeter Brian McCoy (32) – who were shot dead.

It became one of the most high profile atrocities of the Troubles and three Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) members were later convicted of the murders but were later released under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement.

The victims' families continue to campaign with justice groups for official acknowledgment of their collusion claims, which were flagged in a Historical Enquiries Team report in 2011, and to bring the other perpetrators to justice.

At the time the band, then dubbed the Irish Beatles because of their popularity, had been travelling home to Dublin late at night after a performance in Banbridge, Northern Ireland.

After getting band members to stand at the side of the road, two of the gunmen got into the bus to hide a bomb – but it exploded prematurely and killed them. UVF men Harris Boyle and Wesley Somerville were killed in the blast.

The force of the bomb threw Travers (then aged 24) into the air where he was struck by a dum dum bullet which travelled through his body before exploding inside him.

McAlea (also then aged 24 and whose stage name is Des Lee), was, in his words, "miraculously blown clear of the minibus into a ditch where I played dead."

Des, who is from Belfast, said, "I went to the van to get my saxophone to show the soldiers that was what I had with me, but instead of being third in the line where I then stood beside the van, the bomb then threw me into the field.

"From there all I could hear was wild gunfire and screaming and shouting. But I was face down in the grass and I held my breath for as long as I could and prayed and that saved me.

"I remember shouting for Fran, Brian

and Tony and there was no reply. I then called for Stephen and I heard groaning.

"Then somehow I managed to get up to the road and tried to stop a lorry but he wouldn't stop probably thinking I was one of those involved.

"Then a young couple stopped and gave me a lift to Newry police station and I am forever grateful to them."

Forty years on from the atrocity, he said, "I remember everything from that night, everything that was said, everything that happened."

He said the band never believed they would be targeted because they were simply musicians who helped people escape the brutal reality of the Troubles for a couple of hours a week.

"All we were doing was entertaining, putting a smile on people's faces," Des added. "We played at ballrooms and halls all over the place. We helped people to forget all the horrible things that were happening for just a couple of hours in a very, very bad time.

"We played for all colours and creeds. I just think it is despicable to target innocent musicians who had absolutely nothing to do with terrorism."

Those charged were: Lance Corporal Thomas Raymond Crozier (25); Sergeant James Roderick Shane McDowell (29); and former Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) soldier John James Somerville (37).

On Sunday, August 2, 2015, a wreath laying ceremony was held in Buskhill. This was the first time a ceremony has been held at the scene of the atrocity.

Wreaths were also laid a day earlier at a monument to the showband in Dublin where Travers said he will never relent until the truth is revealed, and all of the perpetrators of the attack are brought to justice.

"There are some today who want us to be silent, who want us to tone down and sanitise our rhetoric," he said of the murders, which many suspect were the direct result of collusion between agents of the British state and loyalist paramilitaries.

"We are obliged to openly bear witness to that appalling crime until those, who to this day continue to cover up their central role in it, accept responsibility for their actions and the actions of their agents. Only then will true reconciliation be possible, and our ghosts finally laid to rest."



FUNERAL of Kevin McGuigan, father of nine, whose death has sparked a crisis in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland coalition on brink of collapse over IRA claims

BELFAST – Crisis talks led by the British and Irish Governments are due to begin at Stormont on September 8.

Northern Ireland Secretary Theresa Villiers is expected to convene cross-party negotiations to resolve the current difficulties facing the region's badly divided political institutions.

The powersharing Executive has been under threat of collapse since police said IRA members were involved in the murder of republican Kevin McGuigan in east Belfast in August.

Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Chief Constable George Hamilton believes that the IRA still exists and some of its members are implicated in McGuigan's murder, albeit without sanction of the IRA leadership.

The news has created a political firestorm with First Minister Peter Robinson, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) announcing there would be no further routine meetings of the Executive until the latest crisis was resolved.

It is understood police believe McGuigan was killed by individual members of the Provisional IRA in revenge for the death of prominent republican Gerard "Jock" Davison in May.

Hamilton has insisted the IRA is not back on a war footing but disclosure that the organization still exists has rocked the political establishment.

If the latest round of crunch talks, expected to last for four to six weeks, are unsuccessful, Robinson has warned he would pull his ministers out, triggering an election.

The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) withdrew its only Executive minister Danny

Kennedy in August claiming it could no longer trust republicans.

Villiers will be joined at Stormont House by Irish Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan.

She is expected to outline the government's view of the situation at Stormont during a speech in the House of Commons before travelling to Belfast.

The killings have overshadowed wider issues at Stormont, where divisions over the implementation of controversial welfare reforms have already plunged the devolved Assembly into financial peril.

Villiers has said the British Government would legislate on welfare if the parties in Northern Ireland could not reach agreement.

Northern Ireland Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness has warned that if Stormont fell, "it would create a vacuum which would be exploited by violent elements on all sides."

He condemned the killing of McGuigan, saying it was carried out by "low-life criminals who are attempting to destroy this peace process and who are absolutely no friends of the Sinn Féin leadership."

McGuinness also again rejected the PSNI chief constable's assessment saying, "I am working on the basis that the IRA have left the stage and present no problem whatsoever."

"They are gone and gone forever, and have handed over responsibility for moving politics forward to the politicians here."

McGuinness said it was a time for political leadership. "We will contribute in whatever way we can to find a resolution of the present difficulties."

DUBLIN – Defence Minister Simon Coveney has lashed out at critics of plans for Ireland to take a "very generous" approach to the worst migrant crisis to hit Europe since the Second World War.

Ireland is expected to accommodate in excess of 2,000 refugees who are fleeing conflict zones in North Africa as part of a European Union-wide response to the crisis.

"Some people will have a problem with that – particularly people who are relying on services from the State, people struggling to find housing and people who are concerned about homelessness," said Coveney.

"This is another issue we have to solve and we have to take it on," he added.

In another sign of the escalating crisis, Irish naval ship LÉ Niamh was involved in the rescue of 100 refugees on board a small vessel off the coast of Libya on the morning of Saturday, September 5.

After a two-day meeting with his EU counterparts in Luxembourg, Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan said Irish ships have played a key role in saving the lives of almost 6,000 refugees.

The LÉ Niamh will return in October and be relieved by the LÉ Samuel Beckett.

Flanagan also said the EU will move to target criminals "preying on vulnerable migrants."

Tánaiste Joan Burton and Public Expenditure Minister Brendan Howlin met recently to discuss proposals to tackle the crisis, which took centre stage after pictures emerged of the tragic death



RESCUE WORKERS cradle refugee babies after saving them from boats foundering in the Mediterranean.

of three-year-old Alan Kurdi, who was washed up on a beach in Turkey.

Howlin's department will now draft a position paper ahead of crunch EU talks on September 14 in Brussels.

The paper will set out Ireland's proposals to deal with the crisis and take into consideration the funding available.

It will also look at ways to ensure the additional expenditure on the migrant crisis does not affect funding needs already in place.

Despite very strong exchequer returns and a growing economy, the Coalition is hamstrung by strict EU budgetary rules which limit its spending.

The Irish Government is expected to suggest that the EU loosen these rules so that any funding on the migrant crisis does not impact on current budget spending plans.

Labour is especially keen that funding available for homeless services are not redirected into the migrant crisis at the expense of families seeking accommodation in Ireland.

"We don't want an existing service to lose out because of the spending we are dedicating to help and assist refugees," a senior government source said.

Coveney said Ireland has a chance to show "real leadership" in the face of the migrant crisis and described those who are reluctant to help refugees as "inward looking."

"Some people say we have problems at home so those people can get sorted out by someone else.

"I strongly reject that thinking. That would be very inward looking and an unacceptable approach and that's why you will see a very generous offer from Ireland. Ireland can show real leadership on this," he said.

In Cork, hundreds supported a rally to show solidarity to the refugees on Europe's borders. The rally, organised by Anti Deportation Ireland (ADI), was organised on the theme of 'Stop the Slaughter'.

Those attending the rally warned that proposed figures of 1,100 to 2,000 refugees for settlement in Ireland is simply not sufficient.

LÉ Samuel Beckett deploys to help Irish navy mission in Mediterranean

DUBLIN – The LÉ Samuel Beckett will replace the LÉ Niamh in the Mediterranean at the end of September, the Irish Government has confirmed.

The Irish Naval Service will extend its presence in the Mediterranean, assisting Italian authorities in humanitarian search and rescue operations.

Defence minister Simon Coveney has confirmed, "The success of the operations carried out to date by LÉ Eithne and LÉ Niamh involving recovering over 6,000 migrants demonstrates clearly the value of Ireland's participation in this important humanitarian response.

"I believe that we should continue to support Italy in a practical manner as far as possible and the Italian authorities have indicated that ongoing support is welcome."

The LÉ Samuel Beckett will take over operations in the Mediterranean from the end of September, replacing the LÉ Niamh, and will deploy until the end of November – depending on operational demands.

This is the third vessel the Irish Government has sent to partake in operations in the Mediterranean, with the LÉ



PHOTO: Irish Defense Forces.

SO FAR this year Irish crews have saved more than 6,000 migrants adrift at sea.

Eithne having been initially involved back in June.

It comes as the United Nations Special Representative for International Migration, Peter Sutherland, has said Ireland needs to take more refugees.

On September 9, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker used his first State of the Union address

to the EU Parliament in Strasbourg, France, to urge leaders to undertake a comprehensive response to the crisis by increasing aid and imposing quotas for the bloc's 28 members.

Juncker said the bloc immediately needs to distribute 160,000 refugees across the EU, and participation by member nations should be mandatory.

Murder charge dropped against Irish nanny in U.S. girl's death

BOSTON – A lawyer for an Irish nanny who was accused of killing a one-year-old girl in her care and served more than two years in prison only to have a murder charge against her dropped on August 31 called the prosecution a "complete disgrace" and "a rush to judgment."

Melinda Thompson said, "It was a tragedy that a child died, but, quite frankly, the way this prosecution was handled was a complete disgrace."

She was speaking hours after Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan

dropped a first-degree murder charge against 37-year-old Aisling Brady McCarthy. She was accused of killing Rehma Sabir in Cambridge in January 2013, and had been the girl's nanny for about six months

She had been in prison from the time of her 2013 arrest until May 2015, when she was released on bail and ordered to wear a GPS monitor while awaiting an October trial.

The shock announcement by prosecutors came after a state medical examiner reversed an earlier decision declaring the death a homicide caused by shaken baby syndrome.



(L-R) DÓNAL MCKEVITT, Rose Boyle, Rich Peterson, Michael & Eileen O'Reilly, Jim Foskin, Fr. John Madigan, Tom O'Connell, Pete Sullivan, Maureen and John Keane at the dedication of the new statue of St. Patrick at St. Patrick Cemetery in Kent on September 3



SEATTLE GAELS Gaelic football team manager Jon Choitz, with the North American Junior C Shield won at the GAA Finals in Chicago on the Labor Day weekend.



SEATTLE GAELS Gaelic football team which won the North American Junior C Shield at the GAA Finals in Chicago on the Labor Day weekend.



SEATTLE GAELS hurling team which competed at the GAA Finals in Chicago on the Labor Day weekend.



THE SEATTLE GAELS Camogie team which was defeated in the North American Junior Championship Final at the GAA Finals in Chicago on the Labor Day weekend.

SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

PASSINGS

• Mike Sexton (78), a native of Dublin, died in Seattle on August 31.

• Nora Duggan (95) whose parents and late husband were from Ireland, died in Tacoma on July 25.

• Mary Brigid "Mazie" McFarland (96), a native of Co. Tipperary and longtime Seattle-area resident, died in Yakima on July 20.

• Henry W. K. Hopkins (83), a native of Bray, Co. Wicklow, and the father and the father-in-law of Susanna Hopkins and Tom Lagan, died in Tacoma on July 16.

• Valerie Nishimura (67), who along with her husband Mike Nagan was a longtime Irish dancing organizer in Seattle, died on June 25 following a long battle with cancer.

• Father William Sullivan (84), former Seattle University president and grand marshal of Seattle's St. Patrick's Day parade in 1991, died June 16 in Milwaukee.

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

SENIORS LUNCH – The Irish Immigrant Support group has scheduled another Irish Seniors' luncheon at the Wilde Rover Irish Restaurant in Kirkland at noon on Saturday, September 19.

The main purpose of these luncheons is to provide an opportunity to meet and greet old and new friends.

Over 500 different Irish seniors have attended these luncheons over the past seven years, and all have been wonderful, fun occasions.

The cost for the buffet lunch is \$10 for seniors and \$15 for non-seniors and all are welcome, but advance reservations are required to (206) 915-1878.

IRISH REELS FILM FESTIVAL – The 2015 Irish Reels Film Festival is September 25-27 at the SIFF (Seattle International Film Festival) Center at the Seattle Center (just west of the fountain).

The festival is dedicated to bringing the best of contemporary Irish film to U.S. audiences, providing a platform for Irish filmmakers to showcase their independently-produced feature films, documentaries, short films and animation.

A complete program of features, documentaries, shorts and animations can be seen in full at www.IrishReels.org.

SENIOR REELS – There will be an Irish Reels Special senior presentation of *John Ford: Dreaming the Quiet Man* on Saturday, September 26 at 2 PM at SIFF FILM Center at the Seattle Center.

General Admission is \$10 and Seniors \$5. Tickets are available at the door or will be available for free to seniors at the Irish senior lunch on September 19.

OCEAN SHORES IRISH FESTIVAL – 2015 will herald the 12th year of the Galway Bay Irish Music Festival, celebrating Irish songs, ballads, players and bands in Ocean Shores, WA with music and fun this October 21-25.

An eclectic mix of 30 Irish bands,



By
JOHN
KEANE



JIM FOSKIN and Michael O'Reilly at the dedication of the new statue of St. Patrick at St. Patrick Cemetery in Kent on September 3.

choirs and dancers hailing from throughout the United States, Canada and, of course, Ireland will

be rounding out this year's entertainment performing on 10 stages rotating through three separate venues.

Feature performances by Celtica Pipes Rocks (from Vienna, Austria) and Irish fiddler Sean Keane. More information at www.galwaybayirishpub.com.

IRISH PLAY – Discovery Bay Players present the pre-Samhain premiere of *Winter Bird: A Gothic Fantasy in Three Acts* (www.discoverybayplayers.com) by Irish-American playwright Steve Treacy.

Irish-American actor Sean Boyle match-makes a Rare Book Room librarian with a blond sub-Arctic vampire.

Play runs October 2-25 at the Eclectic Theater (www.eclectictheatercompany.org), 1214 10th Ave (at Union), Seattle.

Discount tickets at: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2055241.

Discovery Bay Players produces or helps to produce full professional-level productions of literate transformative plays, especially those by Irish and Irish-American playwrights.

GAA FINALS – The Seattle Gaels were well represented at the North

[Continued on next page....]

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MAZIE MCFARLAND

Mazie McFarland was a 96-year-old native of Co. Tipperary who died on July 20 and was buried in Lynnwood, north of Seattle, where she had lived for over 60 years.

This note was sent by her family in Ireland.

Today, July 24, Mass was offered for our dearly beloved Aunt Mazie at the Church of St. Nicholas, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary, Ireland.

This is the church where Mazie was baptized in January 1918 and where she attended Mass hundreds of times in the intervening years.

We remember our lovely aunt with great affection. She wasn't some distant person away in the U.S.

She visited Ireland several times during the late 1950s and early 60s and then every second year for a period of at least 20 years after she had retired.

We remember her many attributes but especially the love she expressed towards others in her generosity of spirit and in her generosity of practice.

We remember when we were children, the big boxes which would arrive early December without fail each year. After our Santa presents had been opened Aunt Mazie's parcel would be ripped apart.

There would be warm hats and gloves and sweaters and so on, but what we children prized the most was the Wrigley's chewing gum.

We considered ourselves very posh as nobody else around here got anything like that for Christmas!!!

There are so many other memories: The laughter and fun, the family gatherings and the outings to various places. Then the tears on parting.

I could go on about how we have missed her and will continue to miss her but let's end on a happy note.

Mazie loved and lived life to the full. Often that love of life found expression in taking to the dance floor. She danced at Highgate up to recently.

So, as you recite the rosary today prior to Mazie's funeral Mass, we will be doing likewise 6,000 miles away.

Distance is irrelevant. We are thinking of all Mazie's friends. We are thinking especially of Mazie's immediate family and friends in the USA.

From the Blackmore Family and all of Mazie's nieces and nephews in Ireland.

Irish President Michael D. Higgins Expected to visit Seattle in October

ALTHOUGH not confirmed, it is expected that Irish President Michael D. Higgins will visit Seattle on October 22 and 23, 2015.

One of the main reasons for his trip to Seattle is to meet with the Irish community and tentative plans are being made for an Irish community reception.

To receive more information on his visit once it is confirmed, please e-mail IrishPresident@irishclub.org.



His Excellency Michael D. Higgins is the ninth President of Ireland. Inaugurated in November 2011, he was directly elected by the people with the highest vote ever in a national election.

President Higgins served from 1993 to 1997 as Ireland's government minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht with direct responsibility for the promotion of the Irish language and for the economic and social development of Irish-speaking areas in the State.

He has also served as Labour Party spokesperson for foreign affairs in the Irish Parliament, is a founding member of the Joint *Oireachtas* Committee on Foreign Affairs, served as mayor of Galway on two occasions, as member of the *Seanad* for nine years, and *Dáil Éireann* for 25 years.

Prior to his career in public service, President Higgins previously lectured in political science and sociology at the National University of Ireland, Galway, and in the United States.

President Higgins studied at University College Galway, the University of Manchester, and Indiana University in the United States.

He has campaigned for human rights worldwide and in 1992 was the first recipient of the Seán MacBride Peace Prize from the International Peace Bureau in Helsinki. He is a writer and poet and has published two collections of essays and four collections of poetry.

The president is expected to be accompanied by his wife Sabina on his first ever visit to Seattle.

[Continued from page 16]

American GAA Championship Finals in Chicago on the Labor Day weekend.

- The Gaels hurlers had the toughest weekend, with a first round loss to Portland, Maine on Friday.

They rallied on Saturday, and came up only a point short after a really great second half, losing out to Twin Cities 1-6 to 1-7.

There were solid performances all around, but midfielder, Lorcan French was awarded player of the tournament for the Gaels.

- The Gaels camogie team had a terrific weekend. They beat the Chicago St. Mary's team in the semi-final on Saturday (after getting a bye on Friday) and advanced to the Junior Championship on Sunday against Twin Cities.

The ladies played with more heart and grit than you can possibly imagine, through 90 degree weather and high humidity.

It was an incredible first half, and they went into the second half up 1-6 to 1-1. Unfortunately Twin Cities came on strong and put it away with strong play and a few goals. It was an amazing game, and in true Gaels spirit, the ladies left it all on the pitch.

The cup will travel back to Seattle next year – and given the perform-

ance from Seattle Camogie, the odds are good it will stay here.

Team captain Vanessa Peterson was honored by the team as player of the tournament.

- The Gaels men's football fell to Western 2-4 to 4-8 on the first day, but came back hard Saturday and took the win against St. Louis, 2-7 to 1-6, to advance to the Shield Finals on Sunday.

They beat Denver in the semi-final, 3-11 to 3-1 on Sunday, and then closed it out by beating a very good Cayman Islands team, 3-8 to 2-6 to bring home the Junior C Shield.

A lot of tough games in the hot sun, and remarkable teamwork and determination all around. Tommy Burke was the pick for player of the tournament.

- Altogether, over 100 teams from 50 cities and more than 2,000 athletes competed in Chicago, with 8,000+ spectators watching the competition over the Labor Day weekend.

Next year's finals will be in Seattle on the Labor Day weekend, September 2-4, 2016.

CONGRATULATIONS – Kudos to Tara Academy dancer Julia Gats who is a troupe member for the North American *Riverdance* tour which will be in Seattle from October 30 - November 1 at the Paramount.

Julia joined the cast of *Riverdance* last summer after a successful audition in Dublin and has already toured the UK, Germany, Austria, and Japan with the show and just returned from spending the summer performing at the Gaiety Theatre in Dublin.

Julia started with Tara when she was 6 years old!

FRIENDLY GALWAY – Seattle's sister city of Galway is the world's friendliest city, and three Irish cities make the top 10, according to the readers of U.S. magazine *Travel + Leisure*.

Galway took the highest accolade due to its festive nature, lively population and "musicality".

The cover article says, "friendliness, be it instinctual hospitality, or a warm smile at every storefront, does a lot to make a city more accessible to travelers."

Ireland is the only country with three cities in the top 30.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The next Irish book club meeting is Tuesday, September 15, in north Seattle to discuss *History of the Rain* by Niall Williams. Contact (206) 361-1713 for details.

- Galway Traders will host their annual Samhain harp concert around Halloween – call (206) 784-9343 for dates and times.



CEOL CASCADIA Concert in Seattle on July 25 – (L-R), Josh Dukes on guitar; Angelina Carberry on tenor banjo; Josephine Marsh on button accordion; Tom Creegan on uilleann pipes; Patsy Hanly on flute. Standing (L-R) Antoin MacGabhann on fiddle; Randal Bays on fiddle; Sean Gavin on flute; and Alicia Guinn, sean-nós dancing.

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GROUP PHOTO of Seattle Gaels players and supporters who attended the GAA Finals in Chicago on the Labor Day weekend.

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PHOTO: Elan Park

SUCCESSFUL Vancouver Men's and Ladies teams in Edmonton cheering after both winning the Western Canada Championships.

2015 Western Canada GAA Finals: An exciting weekend of great sport

By SHARON WHELTON



EDMONTON – This year's Western Canadian GAA

finals were held in Edmonton over the August long weekend, and what a scintillating weekend of Gaelic games was witnessed by all present.

Edmonton were delighted to welcome teams from Calgary, Red Deer, Regina, Fraser Valley and Vancouver for the weekend and all teams brought a hugely competitive aspect to the games.

The weather quite the mixed bag for the two days, but the sun shone for all finals, which brought the perfect end to the weekend.

On Saturday, the Fraser Valley Gaels upset the odds, beating the hot favourites, the Calgary Chieftains, in their round robin clash to qualify for their first senior semi.

Edmonton edged Vancouver in their group match, to set up two provincial tussles in the senior tournament.

In the men's senior football final, Vancouver (who beat Fraser Valley) and Edmonton (winning a Battle of Alberta semi) met up in a repeat of last year's final.

Edmonton were vying to become champs for the third straight year, but a great game of football came down to three crucial first half goals.

It was Vancouver who scored those goals and, fittingly just over a month after the passing of the great man himself, claimed the Tom Butler Cup, much to the delight of the Vancouver following.

Regina were earlier crowned junior football winners following a well-deserved win over Calgary's second team.

The ladies final saw Calgary and Vancouver battle it out in an absorbing encounter, and it was the ladies from B.C. that got off to the better start.

Despite the slow start, the Calgary girls



PHOTO: Elan Park

THE agony and the ecstasy -- Vancouver Harps Ladies were crowned 2015 Western Canada GAA champs at the season finals in Edmonton.

took some great scores and were just a couple of points adrift at half-time.

However, the Vancouver ladies showed their experience and were once again crowned Tom Gibbons Cup champions, making it a double win for the Vancouver senior football teams.

History was made as Calgary and Edmonton met in the first ever Western Canadian hurling final, and it was another great game with some hugely impressive skills shown throughout the course of the game.

There was great excitement at the final whistle, with Calgary crowned deserving winners following some very strong performances throughout the weekend.

Earlier in the day, Regina were crowned junior winners following their win over Vancouver, making it a double for the Regina lads.

Overall, it was a wonderful weekend of GAA and it was fabulous to witness some of the skills and talent displayed over both days – Gaelic games really are flourishing here in Western Canada.

A huge thanks must also be extended to Edmonton and particularly Dennis O Sullivan for doing a great job in hosting this year's finals.

2015 GAA Western Canada winning teams:

Vancouver – Senior Men's Football and Senior Ladies Football
Regina – Junior Men's Football and Junior Hurling
Calgary – Senior Hurling

VANCOUVER LADIES OWN CHICAGO

JP Ryan's Camogie and Vancouver Harps football teams win NA Ladies Intermediate Championships

By COLIN O'FLYNN

VANCOUVER – If last year's trip to Boston was a successful one for the Vancouver Boys, then Chicago was made for the ISSC Ladies.

On Thursday September 3, the Vancouver ISSC sent a very strong showing to the Windy City, with five teams representing. Most significantly, the first-ever Camogie team from Vancouver travelled to the North American Championships in Gaelic Park Chicago with hope and expectation for the weekend ahead.

While the club travelled in confidence, what preceded to unfold over the weekend will live long in the memory for the players and management.

CAMOGIE DEBUT

On Friday afternoon, the JP Ryan's Camogie took the field to what would be their first competitive game as a group versus Indianapolis Camogie team.

For the first 10 minutes the team were nervous and Indy got on top early on, however they gradually brought themselves into the game with a flurry of quick scores which included an outstanding solo goal effort from Michelle Healy, while Emma Lane and Rita Burke popped up with some exceptional scores.

This proceeded right through until the second half with the unnerving Martina Tallis sending over and exception long range point to keep the scoreboard clicking over.

The JP Ryan's Men also represented the club admirably. Bringing two teams this year, the Senior Men convincingly disposed of Toronto, 2-21 to 0-12, gaining the Canadian bragging rights.

Paudie Green and Andy Doohan pitched in with the goals, and were supported brilliantly by Robert Dunphy and Oisín Daly.

The Vancouver Men's Senior Footballers fell to a strong Philadelphia team, in their Quarter Final clash.

A close run match that was in the melting pot until the final 10 minutes, with Philadelphia haring away to in 5-11 to 3-7.

The Harps, with Keith Reville, Tommy Bourke, Stephen Donald, and Peter Stevenson working very hard, can hold their heads high at their performance.

A BUSY SATURDAY

The Vancouver Ladies Footballers learned that they would have to wait until Sunday for their only game of the weekend, a late drop-out allowing them to advance to the final.

The Junior Hurlers played their semi-final, against Washington DC Gaels, and though they were on a par with their opposition, they found the scoring difficult. Alan Rosales, and the two Colins, Young and O'Flynn, fought for every ball.

The latter Colin, O'Flynn, brushed that defeat off, to attend to his Camogie team, facing San Francisco in their semi-final.

Though San Fran were more experienced, from the first whistle Vancouver, with early goals from Emma Lane and Michelle Healy, set the tone.



PHOTO: Elan Park

NORTH American Intermediate Camogie Championship Cup – (L-R) Martina Tallis, El Marie Cronin, Rita Burke and Grainne Warren.



THE JP RYAN'S CAMOGIE Championship winning team including management. JP Ryan's Vancouver Panel: Claire Judge, Emer Kelly, El Marie Cronin, Martina Tallis, Sinead Hughes, Caithlin Harper, Rita Burke, Ghirseach Ni Ionnraictaigh, Trisha O' Driscoll, Emma Lane, Grainne Warren, Andrea Brennan, Michelle Healy, Aoibheen Shields, Orla Fegan and Natalie Behan. Management: Manager Colin O' Flynn Selectors: Fiona Forde and Jonny Kavanagh.

Every single member of the team played their part, from Caithlin Harper keeping her marker scoreless from play, to Martina Tallis attacking the left wing and picking out passes in her sleep, to Rita Burke mopping up everywhere.

Special mention to the ladies in Midfield – Sinead Hughes and Ghirseach Ni Ionnraictaigh. Vancouver would win in style, 4-12 to 2-4, moving onto face a strong Atlanta team in the final.

The hurlers were unable to match the ladies's result their semi, bowing out to eventual Senior Champions, Harry Bolands of Chicago.

The home side were good, but the final score-line does not do justice to a fine performance by the Ryan's and a great match. Strong displays by Kevin Foley and Eoin Ryan couldn't prevent this defeat, by 0-13 to 1-23.

LADIES SUNDAY

In the soaring heat with temperatures well over the mid-thirties, the ladies teams took the field looking to create their own history.

The Ladies Footballers had set the championship winning tone early in the day by winning Ladies Intermediate Football Championship.

A true team effort, with every player working hard for their enigmatic captain, Jillian Vieira. Vancouver scored 3-13 to Clan na Gaels 1-3, to dominate in their final.

With a number of overlapping players this was going to be a tough ask – how-

ever this Ryan's Camogie team were adamant that after getting to the final they would not leave empty handed from Gaelic Park.

From the first minute, Vancouver got on top, a quick point followed by an Emma Lane goal settled the nerves and they began to play their own game.

Vancouver at half-time, 1-5 to 1-1, and it was only late in the game that the nerves were finally settled with a second goal by Michelle Healy.

Subs Aoibheen Shields, Orla Fegan and Natalie Behan came into the game and provided additional stability to see the game through to the final whistle. Vancouver winning out, 2-9 to 2-2 – captain El Marie Cronin accepting the cup on behalf of the team.

Renewed energy was found and the celebrations started and went right through the night.

Though the Harps and Ryan's men had an unusually quiet Sunday at North Americans, the support they showed for the pioneering Vancouver JP Ryan's Camogie team and the Harps Ladies Footballers, was magnificent!

The Seattle Camogie team joined all the Vancouver teams in roaring that amazing Camogie team that came to be through the tireless work of Rita Ritchie and El Marie Cronin.

A special mention also for Tyson van Beek, a JP Ryan's hurler. The whole club is thinking about you and wishing you a speedy recovery.

Human hearts held within seasons of the Celtic world

By CYNTHIA
WALLENTINE

Beginning, endings, and in between – on Wednesday, September 23 at 1:22 AM, PDT, the autumnal equinox momentarily pauses the sway of Time in our world.

The great wheel of the Celtic year is bound – is created – in human time.

For those who perceive the world through a Celtic lens, life begins in the dark.

Samhain, on October 31 coils into November 1, the Celtic winter, New Year, and the darkest part of any year.

Imbolg, on February 1, steps in with light, with hope, and gives way to the brilliance of the year at Beltaine, on May Eve.

Lughnasadh, just passed, on August 2, marks the going to ground, the harvest, and the cooling year.

These are the fire festivals of the Celtic year.

The celestial events of the year, the equinoxes, and solstices, add to these lunar festivals, balancing dark and light,



human toil and divine destiny.

Within that frame we are born, we live, and we die – walking in time with these great seasons – the aging of our bodies, and the beating of our hearts.

From Time, from the delicate, deadly, and divinatory dance between human and heaven were these festivals created.

The habits and harbingers of each festival may seem happenstance, but each is deeply rooted in the need of the human psyche for containment, for reflection – and for help.

The great fire festivals, and the important moments of spiritual and religious movements around the world are born of the shared breath of mortal and myth, human and non-human.

It is only in those shared moments, in old – and new – traditions that humans can call into being the diffuse agents from beyond our realm that might offer

protection, or more importantly, presence. Spiritual practices strengthen the relationship between here, and there.

Beyond these meeting places, Time does not exist.

Loosed from endings, and beginnings, from the expectation, clutching, and calculation of humanity, Time disappears and nature is again as beneficent as it is heartless.

Fertile, churning, endless, limitless, there is no comfort of a familiar threshold – ever. It is a place that only *is*.

In that place, beyond even archetype, human psyche cannot bear. Without frame, no *then*, no *as yet*, no punctuation – a human caught unawares will find only psychosis.

It is only Time that civilizes nature into patterns we can recognize. Minute, week, month, year – lifetime. Grammatical rules that enforce orderly, horizontal Time.

And Time marches on. With the tilt of the earth, and its orbit around the sun, there is momentary equality between night and day – equinox. Neither here, nor there...it just *is*.

And the moment passes, and we again move forward, toward year end at Samhain, the ending that begets all beginnings.

Huge ritual arena discovered near Stonehenge

BRADFORD, UK – Archaeologists have discovered the remains of a massive stone monument buried under a thick, grassy bank only two miles from Stonehenge.

The hidden arrangement of up to 90 huge standing stones formed part of a C-shaped Neolithic arena that bordered a dry valley and faced directly towards the river Avon.

Researchers used ground-penetrating radar to image about 30 intact stones measuring up to 4.5 metres tall. The fragments of 60 more buried stones, or the massive foundation pits in which they stood, reveal the full extent of the monument.

Referred to as a “super henge,” this immense ritual monument has a circumference of more than 1.5 kilometers (0.93 miles) and is believed to be the largest of its type in the world.

Of the abundant new information, head of the project Professor Vince Gaffney, an archaeologist at Bradford University said, “This radically changes our view of Stonehenge.

“In the past we had this idea that Stonehenge was standing in splendid isolation, but it wasn’t...it’s absolutely huge.”

The stones are thought to have been hauled into position more than 4,500 years ago to form the southern edge of a ritual arena centred on a natural depression.

“We presume it to be a ritual arena of some sort,” said Gaffney, whose team has mapped the terrain and subsurface features around Stonehenge with a rich suite of instruments. He will describe the latest findings from the site at the



ARTIST’S IMPRESSION of how the Durrington Walls monoliths might have looked more than 4,500 years ago.

British Science festival in Bradford.

Images of the buried stones show them lying down, but Gaffney believes they originally stood upright and were pushed over when the site was redeveloped by Neolithic builders.

The main monument stands at the heart of a landscape rich with burial grounds, pits and chapels. Last year, researchers found the remains of 17 new chapels and hundreds of other archaeological features scattered across the site.

Two huge pits have been discovered in

a two mile-long monument called the Cursus that lies to the north of Stonehenge.

The pits seem to form an astronomical arrangement: on midsummer’s day, the eastern pit’s alignment with the rising sun and the western pit’s alignment with the setting sun intersect where Stonehenge was built 400 years later.

The wealth of new discoveries will continue to reshape how archaeologists understand the landscape of Stonehenge and its development over a period of more than 11,000 years.

First Global Celtic Mythology Short Story Competition

Irish Imbas Books is set to launch the world’s first global short story competition for Celtic mythology on September 10, 2015.

The Celtic Mythology short story competition – which will be accepting entries until December 10, 2015 – is looking for the best short stories based on (or derived from) Celtic mythology from the Celtic diaspora all over the world.

Any kind of fiction short story will be considered (action, romance, drama, humour etc.) as long as they meet the required criteria:

Celtic mythology or folklore forms a fundamental element of the story. Any Celtic folklore or mythological reference used in the story should be as authentic as possible. The story should have a compelling theme with engaging characters.

Brian O’Sullivan, director of Irish Imbas Books said “this competition offers a rare opportunity for contemporary writers of the Celtic diaspora to yank our stories back out from the shadows of children’s literature.”

Full details, including rules and conditions, can be found at the Irish Imbas Books Website at: <http://irishimbasbooks.com>.

How can you downsize your stress?

THE Sláinte household is in the process of decluttering, cleaning, packing and selling. In the midst of this flurry of activity the heir apparent is getting married on the opposite coast.

The long-term effect of all this commotion is a smaller, more ordered home but the short term effect is stress. Stress is the body’s response to a perceived threat.

In Sláinte’s case the threat is the fear of missed deadlines, no buyer interest in the house, and the inability to waltz at a wedding.

The body quickly goes into high gear preparing to fight the threat, flee from it, or freeze to hide. This is called the fight, flee, or freeze response (previously called the fight or flight response).

Most stressors our ancestors ran into were physical threats. When their brains recognized the danger that a lion presented, a tiny gland called the hypothalamus would spring into action and prepare the rest of the body to fight, flee or freeze.

As our ancestor attempted to look cool under the gaze of his prey, his hypothalamus was barking out orders to the rest of the body.

In response, his heart beat faster and stronger, his core blood vessels expanded to increase blood flow to his muscles while more peripheral vessels constricted to prevent blood loss, more glucose was produced to supply energy, bronchi in his lung dilated to bring in more air and oxygen, and his blood thickened so it could clot faster in case of an injury.

Fast forward 20,000 years and the situation has changed. You go over and over the big meeting in your head as you drive to work but soon traffic is backed up.

You use finger gestures to let the inept drivers know how you feel but you are still late. Now your hypothalamus is confused; it knows you are under stress but where is the threat?

No lions in the car. By the time you arrive at your office, your heart is pounding and your blood pressure is rising.

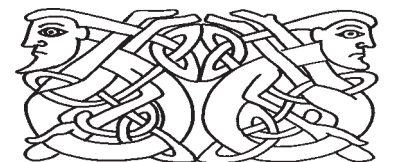
You are no sooner inside when your manager comes charging at your desk obviously upset over something. “Aha”, says the hypothalamus, “here is a saber tooth tiger attacking us.”

As the manager approaches, your hypothalamus floods your body with hormones. You want to look calm to discuss the problem with your boss but your body won’t let you.

Hormonally your body is all dressed up with nowhere to go. The rest of the day you slowly stew in your own unused hormones.



By
MAUREEN
KEANE



The stress response’s main messenger molecule is a hormone called cortisol.

It is responsible for regulating blood pressure, cardiovascular function, and the body’s use of proteins, carbohydrates and fats.

When it is over produced, the stressed person ends up with high levels of sugar, insulin, and fat in the blood.

This is not dangerous when it happens short term but long term these levels are associated with heart disease.

There is also research that links stress to inflammation, cancer, diabetes, impotence, and even obesity. What can you do to alleviate the effects of stress?

Exercise regularly. This promotes physical fitness, emotional well-being and allows you to use up some of the stress hormones your body has produced.

Get plenty of sleep. Fatigue and insomnia can cause stress and stress can cause fatigue and insomnia.

Have a glass of beet and berry juice with lunch and/or dinner. The beets will increase the nitric oxide in your blood vessels and dilate your constricted arteries while the berries reduce the chronic low grade inflammation promoted by stress.

Avoid junk food. Make sure you eat at least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables every day.

Avoid foods that increase blood sugar like those made with white sugar and white flour. Substitute whole foods instead.

Since you often cannot control what happens outside the house, make the inside your refuge. Reduce environmental stressors such as noise and tension-producing television shows. Indulge in hot baths and showers to relax muscles.

Eat dark chocolate. Researchers fed volunteers, who identified themselves as feeling highly stressed, one-and-one-half ounces of dark chocolate every day for two weeks.

At the end of the study, researchers found participants had reduced levels of stress hormones.

Keep in mind that sex is one of the best stress relievers since it has a positive effect on both the body and the mind.

Finally, have a cup of tea. It contains beneficial polyphenols.

Maureen Keane MS CN is the author of 14 books on health and diet and a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Read her blog at keanenutrition.com

Vancouver Welsh Society prepares for annual Welsh weekend

VANCOUVER – The Vancouver Welsh Society has drawn up plans for this fall's annual Vancouver Welsh Weekend.

The first event will be a 'Vancouver Celebrates Wales' concert on Friday, October 30 at West Point Grey United Church.

On Sunday, November 1 a bilingual church service will be held in the Cambrian Hall at 11 AM, followed at 2 PM by the annual *Gymanfa Ganu*.

The Point Grey concert will feature some popular return guests as well as some exciting new performers.

Accomplished folk musician Huw Evans, from Neath, South Wales, will make a return visit following his popular appearance at the 2012 Welsh Weekend.

In addition to presenting popular Welsh folk songs, Huw also plays the flute and viola.

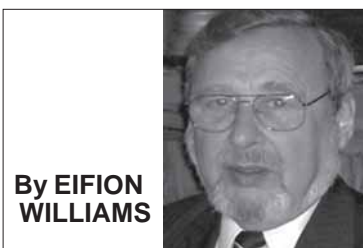
He is a lawyer by profession and has performed at festivals and clubs around the UK and in Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland.

Another welcome return visitor is Nerys Jones, the popular mezzo-soprano from Seattle.

Born in Llanfair Caereinion, Wales, Nerys has performed with the world's leading opera companies and has hosted her own television show, *Yng Nghwmni Nerys Jones* (In the Company of Nerys Jones), on the Welsh station S4C.

She also performs regularly with the Puget Sound Concert Opera and Seattle Opera.

Another soloist at the concert will be Richard Williams, who for the past eight years has been artistic director of Opera Pro Cantanti, Canada's only reper-



By EIFION WILLIAMS

tory opera company.

Richard has a distinguished professional career. Born and raised in western Canada, he has performed throughout Canada and in Frankfurt, London, Geneva and Paris. He has also been director of vocal studies at the International School in Geneva.

The Lady Larks, a group led by Karen Lee Morlang, will also perform at the concert. This group has impressed audiences throughout B.C. since coming together in 2010.

Karen Lee Morlang has been described as "a pianist extraordinaire" and her quartet, The Lady Larks, as "bringing virtuosity, humour and charm to their performances of vintage harmonies and striking arrangements."

Karen Lee Morlang is currently the accompanist for the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir during the temporary absence of regular accompanist David Buchan.

The Cambrian Chorus, a combined male voice group from the VWMC and the Vancouver Orpheus will sing at the Point Grey concert.

The *Gymanfa Ganu*, the traditional Welsh hymn-singing festival, will be conducted this year by Rupert Lang, organist and director of music at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver.

Rupert Lang has a long list of prestigious achievements in the music world.



HUW EVANS, from Neath, South Wales will make a return appearance at the event.



ANOTHER welcome return visitor is Nerys Jones, the popular mezzo-soprano from Seattle.

Born in Red Deer, Alberta, he obtained his first music degree at the University of Manitoba, before going on to graduate from London's Royal School of Church Music and the University of Cambridge's St. John's College.

Rupert Lang has an impressive list of achievements as a composer and conductor. Among his accomplishments is founding the Vancouver Children's Choir.

The October 30 concert at West Point Grey Church, 4595 East 8th Avenue, will start at 7:30 PM. To reserve tickets (\$20 adults/\$10 children and students), contact Pat Morris at (604) 536-9556, or Heather Davies at (604) 734-5500.



A PICTURE speaks a thousand words: Daniel Etter's picture of Laith Majid landing in Kos with his children touched the hearts of millions around the world in August. European leaders are struggling to deal with rising tides of humanity seeking refuge while many of the migrants desperately try to reach the UK.

40 UK Councils pledge to offer refugees sanctuary

LONDON – More than 40 local councils across Britain have responded to an appeal to offer sanctuary to people fleeing the fighting in Syria.

Members of the public have also shown their support by donating hundreds of thousands of pounds to charities working to help refugees.

David Cameron has bowed to intensifying political pressure and announced that Britain would take "thousands more" refugees from the camps in countries around Syria.

Elsewhere in Europe hundreds of refugees, many of whom hope to reach Germany, made their way to the Hungary-Austria border.

Buses, provided by Hungary's Government, were pictured near the border at Hegyeshalom after Austria and Germany said they would allow them entry.

Labour leadership contender Yvette Cooper – who called for the UK to take 10,000 refugees – said local authorities around the country had shown a "rising sense of moral purpose."

The shadow home secretary said that within 24 hours of her asking councils in England, Scotland and Wales if they would be prepared to help in providing places for refugees, more than 40 had written back offering support.

Cameron had been under intense pressure to act after the publication of pictures of the body of three-year-old Alan Kurdi washed up on a Turkish beach shocked the world.

Cooper said it was now up to the government to work with local authorities to ensure as many people as possible were helped.

"Already councils from across the country have said they want to work with the government to help Britain offer sanctuary to more refugees," she said.

"There is a real determination and rising sense of moral purpose across Britain to help desperate families. But now the prime minister needs to match it."

In a speech Cooper argued that if every London borough and county council took 10 families and Scotland, Wales and the English regions all played their part, it would be possible to create almost 10,000 places within a month.

During a visit to Portugal and Spain,

"There is a real determination and rising sense of moral purpose across Britain to help desperate families. But now the prime minister needs to match it."

– Yvette Cooper
Shadow Home Secretary

Cameron said the UK would act with "our head and our heart" with a major expansion of the program to resettle vulnerable refugees from the camps bordering Syria.

He said the scheme would avoid the need for the refugees to make the hazardous sea crossing of the Mediterranean to reach sanctuary in Europe which has seen thousands perish over the course of the summer.

Critics complained his statement said nothing about helping the tens of thousands who have flooded into the EU and are struggling to make their way across the continent in the hope of claiming asylum in the wealthier nations of the north.

However a Populus poll of 1,689 people, reported in *The Times*, suggested the country was divided over the right response to the crisis with a narrow majority – 51 percent – saying that they did not believe the government needed to go any further.

International Development Secretary Justine Greening dismissed the prospect of Britain joining a proposed EU plan to redistribute some 160,000 migrants already in Europe saying it "simply fuels the people smuggling business."

So far, just 216 Syrians have been admitted to the UK under the scheme to help the most vulnerable people in refugee camps.

Labour risks 'annihilation' if Corbyn is elected leader says Blair

LONDON – The Labour Party risks "annihilation" if Jeremy Corbyn wins the party's leadership contest, former prime minister Tony Blair has warned.

In an impassioned letter printed in the *Guardian*, Blair said the party was walking "over the cliff's edge."

The Electoral Reform Society has said Labour should delay sending out ballots while checks are made on new members.

Labour said 610,000 were signed up to vote in the contest. It had 200,000 members before the general election.

The society is not involved in running the contest, but its deputy chief executive Darren Hughes said it was obvious there were some people who did not genuinely support Labour who had signed up to vote and should not be allowed to take part.

Voting for the contest starts on Friday, September 11 and the result will be declared on September 12.

Blair said, "It doesn't matter whether you're on the left, right or centre of the party, whether you used to support me or hate me. But please understand the danger we are in."



LABOUR LEADERSHIP candidates: Liz Kendall, Andy Burnham, Yvette Cooper and Jeremy Corbyn.

"The party is walking eyes shut, arms outstretched over the cliff's edge to the jagged rocks below."

"This is not a moment to refrain from disturbing the serenity of the walk on the basis it causes 'disunity'. It is a moment for a rugby tackle if that were possible."

Last month Blair, who won three elections and served as prime minister between 1997 and 2007, warned against the party moving further to the left and electing Corbyn the party's new leader.

But in a further intensification of his warnings, he said, "If Jeremy Corbyn becomes leader it won't be a defeat like

1983 or 2015 at the next election. It will mean rout, possibly annihilation."

Corbyn, a backbencher who was seen as a rank outsider at the start of the campaign, has been packing out meeting halls across the UK, with many of his supporters joining the Labour Party to vote for him.

The YouGov poll for *The Times* of 1,400 eligible voters put Corbyn on 53 percent, 32 points ahead of Andy Burnham.

Corbyn urged caution in response to the polls, saying while his campaign was "going very well," ballot papers had not yet been sent out.