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ISSUE 24 VOLUME 8

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OCTOBER 2015



KATHLEEN LYNCH, Irish minister of state for primary care, mental health and disability with Michael Hurley, deputy head of mission with the Irish Embassy in Ottawa, along with Adrian McLaughlin, private secretary to Minister Lynch in Vancouver. Read our interview with Michael Hurley [on page 14] inside. Watch our November issue for an interview the minister who discusses new steps to address the suicide rate in Ireland.



THE Irish Women's Network of B.C. hosted 'Ladies who Brunch', a social at Mahony and Sons' newest location, Stamps Landing on September 26. For the full story and more photos, turn to pages 14 & 15 inside.



Is Darkness Friend or Foe at Samhain?

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE

In the gathering darkness is something. Something invisible. Depending on your belief system, it is either out there, up there, down there, or within. Nonetheless, it is there.

In the Celtic year, we are at Samhain, year end, and the beginning of winter – the restless devolution from above to below.

The Celts, and especially the Irish, are touched with a particular madness of the invisibles.

From the Cycles of Irish mythology, to deep-rooted folklore, the invisibles never really leave us. Occupying dream and

nightmare, church and rath, there are spirits enough to go around.

Maybe it is the invisibles that cause the Irish such torment.

A peculiar second sight, of seeing through one's own eyes, as well as the eyes of others – some mortal, some not. Causing a schism of the greatest beauty, and the deepest sorrow.

Today, or yesterday, people are driven by things we cannot see, cannot understand.

Before it acquired a different meaning, the word "genius," referred to a guiding deity, accompanying ourselves, or family, from birth on into eternity.

The Irish banshee is a not-so-distant fragment of the idea.

Early Greeks believed a genius, or *daimon*, arrived with each soul, compelling that person toward their destiny.

Daimon or demon, believe it or not, it is there, standing just off the darkness of the doorway.

Compelled to good or evil, the path of least resistance for any human is to follow its bidding, to *find your calling*, and give human life to the image borne by the daimon that lights your way – for the better, or for the worse.

There is a spirit for every being, and also the spirit of the times in which we live.

In concert, or discordant cacophony, it is up to us to follow the tunes that lead us home or to Away.

It would take a toughened soul now, not to feel the rippling march of humanity on the move. Others, not unlike us, try to find a better way, and to escape violence.

We are but flesh and electrical impulse, the thing between dust and deity.

In the darkness, in the in between times like Samhain, there are choices.

Choices of character, to exercise care, to hold the power of the universe within ourselves and leave peaceably with it – for simply the price of remembering that which walks with us...above, below, within and without.

At Samhain, the harvest and the year conclude. Winter and the New Year begin on November 1.

No season is better suited to self-re-

flection than Samhain, its carnival mirrors tell more truth than lie.

In the dark brightness, what do you see? What do you hear? Compulsion to cruelty, a drive to love or benevolence, or simply chattering fear?

Only you and the daimon know what you do in the dark. Summon your perception, cast your spell, and understand the responsibility of the art of darkness.

Friend or foe in the darkest season of the year? The agency, and choice, are yours. Blessed Be.

Publication
Mail Agreement:
4009398



ONE of Ireland's best known playwrights Brian Friel has died aged 86. He passed away at his home in Donegal on the morning of October 2.

Brian Friel dies at 86

DUBLIN – One of Ireland's foremost playwrights, Brian Friel, has been remembered as a giant of world theatre after his death at the age of 86.

The teacher turned writer, who shunned the spotlight, is best known for *Dancing At Lughnasa*, which won three Tony awards in 1992 and was adapted for a film starring Meryl Streep.

Irish President Michael D. Higgins led tributes, describing him as a warm and gritty friend, full of generosity.

Friel was born in Killyclogher, near Omagh, Co. Tyrone, in 1929.

At the age of 10 he moved to Derry with his family and then to Greencastle, Co. Donegal, in the 1960s, where he penned most of his great works.

He was educated at St. Columb's College, Derry – also the alma mater of Nobel Prize winners Seamus Heaney and John Hume.

Friel studied for a career in the priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, however, he decided to follow his father's footsteps to become a teacher and later studied at St. Joseph's Teacher Training College, Belfast.

His major breakthrough was *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* which gained critical and public acclaim when it showed in Dublin in 1964.

Two years later, from his new home in Donegal, he penned *The Loves Of Cass McGuire*, *Lovers*, *The Mundy Scheme*, *The Freedom Of The City*, *Volunteers*, *Living Quarters* and *Faith Healer*.

He also co-founded the Field Day Theatre Company in 1980 with actor Stephen Rea.

The groundbreaking company's first production was Friel's play *Translations*, the premiere of which took place at Derry's Guildhall in 1980 and which was awarded the Ewart-Biggs Peace Prize.

Friel is survived by his wife Anne and his children Mary, Judy, Sally and David. He was predeceased by his daughter Patricia who died in 2012.

Irish Heritage Society of Canada to organize more Irish Seniors' Luncheons

By MAURA DE FREITAS

VANCOUVER – For over seven years, Irish seniors in the Vancouver Lower Mainland gathered to sing and dance and share memories at the Irish seniors' luncheons hosted by the Irish Benevolent Society (IBS) of B.C.

Christmas 2014 was the last one on the

calendar and so many seniors have since spoken about the wonderful times they enjoyed with all the fun and laughter at these luncheons.

I'm very pleased to announce that next year the Irish Heritage Society of Canada (IHSC) will assume organizing these luncheons once again and will apply for the 2016 Irish Emigrant Support Grant to help fund these events.

This will be music to the ears of so many friends who enjoyed these luncheons.

I would like to offer a big thank you to Marie Morris who has served as Irish community co-ordinator for the IBS since 2008 and board members Sharon Brown and Catherine Schwarz who volunteered helping to organize the luncheons.

Special mention to Mark Downey and

Mary Brunner of Roolya Boolya who provided wonderful entertainment and welcomed audience participation at each event hosted by the IBS.

The Government of Ireland is committed to supporting the Irish Diaspora and the grant programme is focused on supporting cultural, community and heritage projects that foster a vibrant sense of Irish community and identity.

In particular the programme supports organisations that deliver frontline advisory services and community care to Irish emigrants, particularly to the more vulnerable and marginalised members of the Irish community abroad.

The Irish Heritage Society is delighted to keep the tradition alive with our local Irish seniors and look forward with much anticipation to organizing the upcoming events.

In the meantime, the IHSC and the IBS will jointly host an Irish seniors' Christmas luncheon this year on Thursday, December 10, 2015.

All Irish seniors are welcome. Please note the venue has changed.

Details are as follows: Hilton Hotel Metrotown – Crystal Ballroom (at the Skytrain Station with easy access via the pedestrian walkway). Plenty of free underground parking.

Doors open at 11 AM and entertainment will be provided by popular local musicians Blackthorn. Cost is \$15 per person. Pass the word along to your friends and other Irish seniors.

To book, call George McDonnell at (604) 948-2885, or e-mail: crumlin@eastlink.ca, or Tony McCamley (604) 765-1595, or e-mail: mccamley@nwgypsum.com.

CELTICFEST VANCOUVER PRESENTS

The Barra MacNeils Christmas concert will put you in a festive holiday spirit

VANCOUVER – CelticFest Vancouver is proud to present The Barra MacNeils Christmas Show at Andrew Wesley United Church in Vancouver.

The Barra MacNeils – widely considered an east coast treasure – bring their east coast Christmas tour to Vancouver on November 21.

"The response to the shows has always been wonderful," Stewart MacNeil says in advance of their performance at the Andrew Wesley United Church at 1012 Nelson Street in Vancouver. "A lot of people say the show gets them in the mood for the season."

Delivered with distinctive harmonies and top-notch musicianship, the group offers up a generous mix of music culled from Christmas ceilidhs, midnight masses and beyond.

Much of it brings to mind the traditional 'kitchen parties' that unite family and friends in homes throughout Canada's east.

"Around the holiday season it is pretty common to pull out the fiddles or guitars and sing some songs," says MacNeil. "It is a nice way to celebrate."

The tour follows the release last year of the group's third seasonal album, *O*

Christmas Three, which showcases songs by the likes of Ron Sexsmith, the late Rita MacNeil and others.

"We feature music from all three albums during the show," says Stewart. "There are a lot of stories involved, talking about growing up and what Christmas was like. It really is a show for all ages."

Song selections range from plaintive ballads that tug at the heart-strings to lively stompers that are guaranteed to have listeners moving in their seats.

Now in its sixteenth year, the annual tour has become a favorite of fans and the band alike.

"There is something special about rolling into town leading up to Christmas and seeing all the decorations," MacNeil says. "It is just very festive and I think we are very lucky to be able to do it."

The tour wraps up in late December in Halifax, "just in time" for some well-deserved time with family, he adds.

Tickets to the Barra MacNeils' November 21 concert at the Andrew Wesley



THE BARRA MACNEILS' Christmas concert will be presented at Andrew Wesley United Church in Vancouver on Saturday, November 21.

United Church are \$45. This is expected to be a sold out show and CelticFest recommends that you get your tickets early. Tickets will be available on October 11 on the CelticFest website www.celticfestvancouver.com and on the CelticFest Vancouver Facebook page.

THE CELTIC CONNECTION

ISSUE 24 VOLUME 8 - Established in 1991

#452 - 4111 Hastings Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5C 6T7

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Canada Post Canadian Publications Agreement 40009398

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Irish President confirmed to Visit to Seattle, WA

By JOHN KEANE

SEATTLE — It is now confirmed that Irish President Michael D. Higgins and Sabina Higgins will visit Seattle on October 22 and 23.

Michael D. Higgins is the ninth and current President of Ireland, in office since November 11, 2011 with his term scheduled to end in 2018.

A passionate political voice, a poet and writer, academic and statesman, human rights advocate, promoter of inclusive citizenship and champion of creativity within Irish society, Michael D. Higgins has previously served at almost every level of public life in Ireland, including as mayor of Galway, and as Ireland's first Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht.

Michael D. Higgins was born on April 18, 1941 in Limerick city and was raised in Co. Clare.

He was a factory worker and a clerk before becoming the first in his family to access higher education.

He studied at the University College Galway, the University of Manchester and Indiana University.



MICHAEL D. HIGGINS
The President of Ireland

Michael D. Higgins is married to Sabina Higgins, and they have four children.

Like many in Ireland, he has seen generations of his own family emigrate and he has a strong interest and solidarity with the Irish abroad.

The main purpose of his Seattle visit is to connect with the Irish community here.

The highlight of his Seattle visit will be an Irish community reception at McCaw Hall in Seattle on the evening of October 22.

The reception is being hosted by the Irish Consulate in San Francisco and admission is by invitation only.

If you are interested in attending the reception for the president, please contact the Irish organization with which you are involved as a member or volunteer, and request an invitation.

If you are not involved with a specific Irish organization but would like your name to be submitted to the Consulate in San Francisco, please e-mail: IrishPresident@irishclub.org.

The e-mail should include your full name and address and the full names and addresses of anyone you wish to bring with you. All invitations will be issued no later than October 15.

While in Seattle, President Higgins will also visit with Irish employees at Microsoft, with students at Skyline High School in Sammamish which has incorporated Gaelic football and hurling into their PE program, and he will speak to students at the University of Washington.

He is also expected to meet Governor Jay Inslee, while Seattle Mayor Ed Murray will also host the president at a formal dinner on Friday evening, October 23.

To receive more information on the President's visit, please e-mail: IrishPresident@irishclub.org.

[More Seattle Irish news on page 16]

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The Rogue Folk Club celebrates the birth of the Beatles this month

VANCOUVER – How often do you get to meet someone who went to school with **John Lennon**, and was there for the birth of the biggest band of all time?

Combine this with sets by one of the best Rockabilly bands in the world, and a Juno award winning Blues artist – all on one stage.

Come and celebrate the early music of **The Beatles** and of the band that started it all back in 1957, **The Quarrymen**, with some of Vancouver's very best musicians! It will be a party. As **Paul McCartney** sang in the song *Long Tall Sally*: We're gonna have some fun tonight! Oh yeah!!

The evening (Friday, October 16 at St. James Hall, 3214 West 10th Avenue in Kitsilano) will start with **Rod Davis** presenting songs, stories, and slides from the early days of The Quarrymen.

Rod was born in Liverpool in 1941 and lived for his first 20 years in the village of Woolton, about six miles south of the city centre.

Somewhere around 1946 John Lennon went to live there with his Aunt Mimi and she sent him to Sunday school at the local church. John joined a class of a couple of dozen kids which included Rod Davis.

Rod became a founding member of The Quarrymen along with John Lennon, Len Garry, Colin Hanton, Pete Shotton, and Eric Griffiths.

He was in the band the day John met Paul McCartney; the day Paul taught Lennon the proper words to *20 Flight Rock*, *Come Go With Me*, and other songs popular at the time. Paul also taught John how to tune his guitar!

A book called *The Day John Met Paul* was written by Liverpool author **Jim O'Donnell** in 1994, and the audio book is narrated by Rod Davis.

Rod's place in The Quarrymen was eventually taken by McCartney; George replaced Eric; Len and Pete left (Pete was "sacked" when Lennon smashed his washboard over his head!) and Colin was the last to leave.

Few people know it was John, Paul, George and Colin for a while there! **The Original Quarrymen**, with Rod Davis and John Lennon and co. updated their repertoire from skiffle to rock and roll, became – briefly – **Johnny & The Moondogs**, then **The Silver Beetles**, and eventually **The Beatles**.

Rod Davis' mother famously told him, "You're not going to Hamburg with that Lennon!" His place in the band was taken by Paul McCartney. And the rest, as they say, is history...

I recommend the 2009 movie *Nowhere Boy*. It tells the story of Lennon's school days and the birth of The Quarrymen as a skiffle band and their development into the great rock & roll outfit that would later return from Hamburg as The Beatles.

The Original Quarrymen played a Rogue gig back in 1999 – sans John, of course – and Rod was last here with Guy Davis – appearing as **The Davis**



By
**STEVE
EDGE**

Brothers in December 2009!

The second half of the evening will feature **The Aggregates**, which is a play on words, sort of related to a Quarry, and reflecting the *aggregation* of musicians in this one-off band.

These "Aggregates" are Jim, Paul, Keith & Jessie. Jim Byrnes, Paul Pigat and members of his band **Cousin Harley** will celebrate the early days of The Beatles, and perhaps throw in some skiffle songs, with Rod joining them on washboard or banjo.

For more info about The Quarrymen, visit: www.originalquarrymen.co.uk.

Popular American songwriter Dar Williams returns to The Rogue on Saturday, October 24 with her new album – *Emerald*.

Every new album from Dar represents her thoughts and feelings about both her own life and larger forces in the world.

But her ninth studio record marks a particularly dramatic confluence between her experiences and broader contemporary culture – and what it means to be a songwriter at this moment in history. www.darwilliams.com.

On Friday, October 30, **Red Moon Road** from Winnipeg and Vancouver trio **The Wahs** play St. James Hall.

Red Moon Road combines amazing stories and harmonies – and memorable original songs, featuring the remarkable voice of **Sheena Rattai**.

They have just released a wonderful new CD – *Sorrows & Glories*. For more info, visit www.redmoonroad.com.

The Wahs (**Cam Wilson**, **Andy Hillhouse** and **Brent Gubbels**) will open the show.

Cam and Andy used to be in the excellent Celtic funk quintet **Mad Pudding**. Cam and Brent now play in the gypsy jazz combo **Van Django**.

The Wahs made a demo CD back in 2002, before Andy moved east to study ethnomusicology and earn his doctorate.

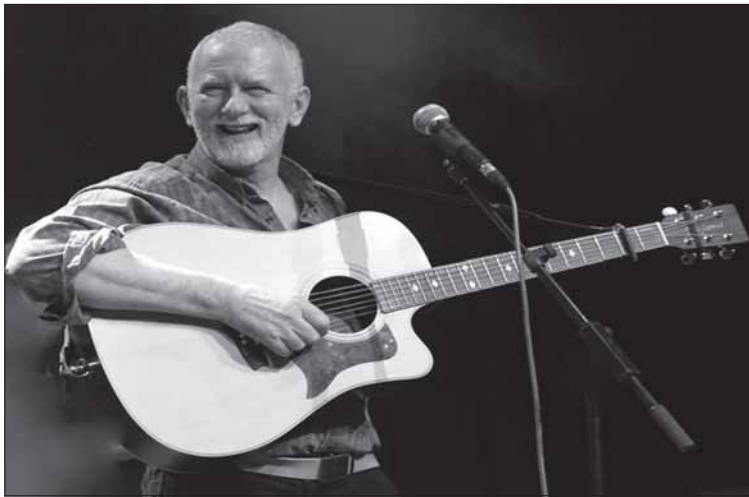
Now that he has moved back to B.C. where he is the artistic director at the Harrison Festival of the Arts and they have reunited this Celtic-tinged trio. Should be another fun night at The Rogue House!

On Friday, November 6, Sean McCann plays St. James Hall. The **Great Big Sea** singer is crossing the country to promote a new collection of original songs which have strong roots in the tradition of Newfoundland Celtic song.

This will be a great night! www.seanmccannsings.com.

Then on Saturday, November 14 the vibrant fiddle player, step-dancer, singer and composer Jocelyn Pettit launches her second CD at St. James Hall. www.jocelynpettit.com.

This month, Margaret and I are off to



ROD DAVIS was one of The Quarrymen back in Liverpool along with his childhood friend John Lennon and Paul McCartney.



RED MOON ROAD from Winnipeg play The Rogue on Friday, October 30.

Cape Breton for the **Celtic Colours Festival**.

We're looking forward to seeing **Loreena McKennitt** for the first time in several years.

We will also catch the likes of Irish quartet **We Banjo 3**, PEI's **The East Pointers**, Newfoundland singer **Matthew Byrne**, Danish fiddlers and singers **Harald Haugaard & Helene**



SEAN McCANN, a former member of Newfoundland Celtic supergroup Great Big Sea, is in town to play a solo concert at The Rogue on Friday, November 6.

Blum and their band, **Paddy Keenan**, **Gino Lupari**, **Liz Doherty** and **Fintan Vallely** from Ireland, **The String Sisters** (including **Liz Carroll**, **Annbjorg Lien** from Norway, and **Catriona MacDonald** from Scotland), Irish harpist **Laoise Kelly**, **Old Man Luedecke**, and heaps of Cape Breton performers including **The Barra MacNeils**, **Ashley MacIsaac**, **Kimberley Fraser**, **Mary Jane Lamond** and **J.P. Cormier**!

The event takes place in various communities around the island. One of the highlights is a candlelit concert in the chapel of Louisbourg fortress, with a Gaelic choir from Scotland and a French choir from Cape Breton.

Full details of the event are on www.celtic-colours.com, and they broadcast one show per day live, so you can experience some of this great music at home.

I'll do my level best to avoid quicksand this time, and will have a full report in next month's issue of *The Celtic Connection*.

Daniel O'Donnell is a new contestant on popular UK dance competition

LONDON – Irish singer Daniel O'Donnell is a contestant on this season's *Strictly Come Dancing* series. The hugely popular BBC1 competition pairs up celebrities with professional dancers to compete in ballroom dancing.

O'Donnell, who has amassed a legion of die-hard fans throughout a career spanning three decades, is performing with his dancing partner Kristina Rihanoff.

The crooner admits that he is nervous and, despite his many years in show-business, feels like he is facing the biggest challenge of his career.

However, after overcoming a difficult foot-swivel manoeuvre during practice, the 53-year-old said the hardest part was remembering the steps.

O'Donnell is a prominent ambassador for his home county of Donegal and earlier this year the Kincasslagh man decided to take a short break from touring.

"I told myself that I would only consider doing something if it was both different and exciting. Well, what could be more exciting than *Strictly Come Dancing*?"

Daniel has sold more than 15 million albums worldwide and has had considerable success in Ireland, the UK, the U.S. and Australia.

In 2002 he was awarded with an Hon-

orary MBE for his services to the music industry and over his 30 year career he has become the only artist to have an album in the Top 40 every year for 25 years.



PHOTO: Hamish Burgess

HAMISH BURGESS recently interviewed Knacker's Yard in Victoria for his radio programme, the Maui Celtic Radio Show [www.maui-celtic.com]. He said: "These young lads in Victoria, B.C. look like rockers, but have an authentic early Irish sound based on The Dubliners. I can't think of any new bands doing that at the moment. They do all the old classics, and are writing new material as well." Knacker's Yard perform around B.C., and play every Monday night at The Irish Times pub in Victoria [www.knackersyard.net].

What did our Celtic forebears bring to an emerging Canadian nation?

CELTIC LIGHTNING:
How the Scots and Irish created a Canadian nation
by Ken McGoogan
ISBN: 978-1-44342-550-6

With *Celtic Lightning*, bestselling author Ken McGoogan plunges into the perpetual debate about Canadian roots and identity: Who do we think we are?

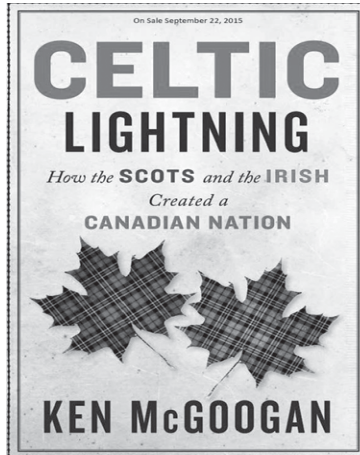
He argues that Canadians have never investigated the demographic reality that informs this book – the fact that more than nine million Canadians claim Scottish or Irish heritage.

Did the ancestors of more than one quarter of our population arrive without cultural baggage? No history, no values, no vision? Impossible.

McGoogan writes that, to understand who we are and where we are going, Canadians must look to cultural genealogy.

He builds on the work of Richard Dawkins, who contends that ideas and values (“memes”) can be transmitted from one generation to another.

Scottish and Irish immigrants arrived in Canada with values they had learned from their forebears. And they did so early enough, and in sufficient numbers, to shape an emerging Canadian nation.



McGoogan highlights five of the values they imported as foundational: independence, audacity, democracy, pluralism and perseverance.

He shows that these values are thriving in contemporary Canada, and traces their evolution through the lives of 30 prominent individuals – heroes, rebels, poets, inventors, pirate queens – who played formative roles in the histories of Scotland and Ireland.

Two charged traditions came together and gave rise to a Canadian nation. That is when Celtic lightning struck.

McGoogan is the best-selling author of a dozen books, among them *50 Canadians Who Changed the World*, *How the Scots Invented Canada*, *Fatal Passage* and *Lady Franklin's Revenge*.

He has won the Pierre Berton Award for History, the University of British Columbia Medal for Canadian Biography, the Canadian Authors' Association History Award, the Drainie-Taylor Biography Prize and an American Christopher Award for “a work of artistic excellence that affirms the highest values of the human spirit.”

Before turning mainly to books, Ken worked for two decades as a journalist at major dailies in Toronto, Calgary and Montreal. He teaches creative non-fiction writing through the University of Toronto and in the MFA program at King's College in Halifax.

Ken served as chair of the Public Lending Right Commission, has written recently for *Canada's History*, *Canadian Geographic* and *Maclean's*, and sails with Adventure Canada as a resource historian.

Based in Toronto, he has given talks and presentations across Canada, and in faraway places as different as Edinburgh, Sydney, Stromness, and Hobart.

Delta Police Pipe Band represents Canada at Military Tattoo

DELTA, B.C. – After months of practice and preparation, the Delta Police Pipe Band recently travelled to the Netherlands last month to perform at the 2015 Rotterdam Military Tattoo.

The band represented Canada while participating in ceremonial events celebrating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Europe and the end of the Second World War.

Delta Mayor Lois Jackson accompanied the band and travelled to the Holten Canadian War cemetery, located 170 kilometres northeast of Rotterdam.

Holten is a small village where approximately 1,400 Canadian soldiers were laid to rest following the end of the Second World War.

The band played a moving tribute as Mayor Jackson, on behalf of the Corporation of Delta, along with Delta Police Pipe Band president Gary Brookes laid wreaths. This was followed by a parade into the village of Markelo.

As the sole pipe band representing Canada, the group performed seven shows at the Ahoy arena in Rotterdam along with bands from the Netherlands, United States, United Kingdom and Poland.

During the Tattoo performances, Delta Police Pipe Band members with family members who served in the war and the liberation of Europe were identified with white feather hackles in their bonnets.

Photographs of their family members were displayed on the huge arena screens, much to the appreciation of the crowds in attendance.

All the Tattoo bands paraded through the streets of Rotterdam as part of the celebrations and Mayor Jackson and Chief Constable Neil Dubord were honored with an invitation to view the grand parade from the reviewing stand in front of Rotterdam City Hall.



MEMBERS of the Delta Police Pipe Band with Delta Mayor Lois Jackson at ceremonies in the Netherlands marking the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Europe and the end of the Second World War.



TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR OCTOBER

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

www.worldbeatcanada.com.

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

1. *Kometens Hales* by Jansberg - Terra Nova on GO' Danish.
2. *The King's Shilling* by Cassie & Maggie - *Sterling Road* on Independent.
3. *The Vapourer* by Spiro - *Welcome Joy and Welcome Sorrow* on Real World Records.
4. *The Irish Brigade* by The Mahones - *The Hunger & The Fight Pt. 2* on Whiskey Devil Records.
5. *What You Do With What You've Got* by Kristina & Quinn Bachand - *Little Hinges* on Independent.
6. *Au revoir Grand Mamou* by Steve Riley & The Mamou Playboys - *Voyageurs* on Mamou Playboy.
7. *Queen of Argyle* by Blackthorn - *Open Skies* on Independent.
8. *Leaving of Liverpool* by Homeland - *That Show* on Independent.
9. *Catch Me* by The Real McKenzies - *Rats in the Burlap* on Fat Wreckchords.
10. *Tired Of Your Tears* by Feufollet - *Two Universes* on Feufollet Records.

Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:
The Mahones - *The Hunger and the Fight Part 2*
(Whiskey Devil Records)



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Friday, OCTOBER 16

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Stunning comeback for Rebekah Brooks

LONDON – Rebekah Brooks is returning as chief executive of Rupert Murdoch's British newspaper empire – a year after she was cleared of all charges in the phone-hacking trial.

News of the World tabloid admitted hacking into thousands of phones to generate stories, including the phone of a murdered schoolgirl.

The eight-month trial became front-page news itself and one of the biggest media and political scandals to hit the country.

Brooks resigned as chief executive of News International in July 2011 with a reported payout of more than £10 million following the hacking revelations.

She had worked her way up from the lowest rung on a newsroom ladder to become a Murdoch protégée, a close friend to the last three British prime ministers, and one of the most influential people in Britain.

The hacking news sparked an uproar that engulfed Murdoch's media empire, forcing the closure of the 168-year-old tabloid and a televised grilling in parliament of the Australian-born tycoon and his son James, who apologized.

A year-long public inquiry also exposed the close ties between senior News Corp executives, the police and leading politicians, with many apologizing for failing to hold each other to account.

In a remarkable comeback, Brooks will



REBEKAH BROOKS

now resume oversight of *The Sun* and *Times of London* newspapers.

News Corp's announcement of her re-appointment said she was "returning to a post that she held four years ago" with added responsibilities for the acquisition and development of digital properties.

Her return to the role has been met with fierce criticism from victims of phone hacking and it comes as prosecutors are considering bringing corporate criminal charges over phone hacking against top executives at the media company.

"I am delighted to return to News UK," said Brooks. "It is a privilege to be back amongst the most talented journalists and executives in the business."

She was found not guilty of conspiring to hack into phones, conspiring to bribe public officials for stories and conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

Highland spirit shines through, rain or snow – the show goes on

CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES

CANMORE, Alberta – What do you do when you have a huge outdoor event planned and it snows overnight? You're just glad everyone's got sturdy woollen garments and you get on with the show!

That's what happened early September in Canmore, Alberta, and the folks who worked so hard to save their Highland games from financial hardship just put on a good face and carried on.

"What's a 25th birthday without a party?" says Three Sisters Scottish Festival Society president Sandy Bunch. The volunteers smiled and just made it happen.

During the Taste of the Highlands event on Saturday evening, the heated tent was cozy and cheerful with five local restaurants and 28 beverage vendors serving tasty samples of gourmet appetizers, micro-brews, spirits and fine wines to a crowd numbering even higher than its inaugural year in 2014.

Rain turned into snow overnight, and then the Games began.

"Even the west coast judges pretended they weren't cold," said board member Sally Garen after greeting one of the piping judges at his early morning competition station.

The showing was miraculous – over 250 dancers, 10 pipe bands, heavy sports



THE 25th annual Canmore Highland Games will be remembered for effort and camaraderie of everyone who carried on despite inclement weather.

competitors, tug-of-war teams, and a long roster of Alberta Celtic talent on stage in the (heated) Ed McNally Big Rock festival tent.

Precipitation held off until around 5 PM, when light rain began to fall.

The Highland raffle grand prize was won by a local volunteer Scott Andrew. The award a \$2,600 value nine-piece full Highland dress outfit was donated by The Scottish Shoppe and A Little Bit of Ireland.

While a full financial picture is not yet available, organizers remain optimistic that the event will flourish into the future.

"Our 'Save the Highland Games' campaign earlier this year helped us gain new sponsors as well and we express heartfelt gratitude to all those who gave and continue to help us along," said Bunch.

"This 25th anniversary will be remembered as an example of the tremendous effort, camaraderie, enjoyment and fulfillment experienced by those people who gave so generously of their time and money, and by those who continue to attend year-after-year or even for the first time to enjoy the presentation of Celtic culture, tradition, tastes and sounds in Canmore. It's the people who make it matter," says Bunch.

Orkney best place to raise children in UK according to Bank of Scotland

ORKNEY – Just off the north coast of Scotland, an archipelago of around 70 islands and skerries creates a glittering array of shapes set against clear blue waters.

The smaller isles of Orkney offer a world of serenity on sandy white shores while the mainland houses the majority of the population and many attractions including an arts and crafts trail.

According to a recent survey, Orkney was voted the best place in Britain to raise children, with low school class sizes and little road traffic.

Children in the Orkney Islands enjoy the best quality of life of any local area district, followed by the Shetland Islands and the Western Isles, according to the Bank of Scotland report.

It placed Orkney in the top spot based on the average primary school class size of 18 pupils, higher spending per pupil at secondary school and the fact they live in an area of low population density with little road traffic.

Children there are also likely to be surrounded by adults who are in employment and who rate their own personal well-being as very high, the Children's Quality of Life Survey revealed.

But just 56 percent of households have access to fast broadband in the area – below the national average of 86 percent.

Both Shetland and the Western Isles scored highly on the education factors,



THE 5,000 year-old remains of Skara Brae in Orkney.



THE RING of Brodgar in Orkney, the third-largest stone circle in the British Isles and thought to date back to 3000-2000BC.

human geography and how adults rate their personal well-being.

The Western Isles have an average of

69 vehicles per square kilometre – compared to the national average of 9,459 – while schools on the Shetland Islands spend more than double the national average per pupil.

The fourth spot in Scotland went to Aberdeenshire – which was rated 20th across Britain.

East Dunbartonshire was the 15th in the table north of the border, with children living there achieving the second best exam results in Scotland while pupils in 11th ranked East Renfrewshire were close behind.

Other local authority areas making up the top 20 in Scotland in the index included Stirling, Aberdeen, Perth and Kinross, the Highlands, West Lothian, East Lothian and Fife.

The Scottish Borders, Argyll and Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, Moray, Midlothian, South Lanarkshire and Angus completed the list.

WestJet launches London flights from 6 Canadian cities

CALGARY-based airline WestJet will fly direct to London, England, from six Canadian cities starting in spring 2016.

The airline will offer flights to Gatwick airport from Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg and St. John's. All in all, there will be 28 flights a week on the airline's new 767s.

During peak periods from early May to early October, Vancouver service will operate six times weekly, Edmonton will operate twice weekly, Calgary five times weekly and Winnipeg once weekly. Flights from Toronto and St. John's will operate once daily.

"This is going to be happy happy times for consumers because in a lot of markets there will be substantial competition," said airline industry consultant Robert Kokonis from AirTrav.

He said the move will likely kick off a price war, which is great news for travellers.

"Who's going to win? Likely who's got the lowest cost structure is going to come out smelling best," Kokonis said.

The move is a major signpost for the company, as it represents WestJet's first transatlantic crossings with its newer, wide-body airplanes.

For much of its 20-year history, WestJet's fleet was almost entirely 737s, which aren't optimized for long-haul flights such as those from parts of central and western Canada to Europe.

But new 767s and other planes on the way are able to handle longer flights more efficiently.

Depending on the city, a one-way ticket will cost between \$199 and \$299, with all taxes included, the airline said in a release.

A ruckus and bizarre month where sports and politics collide

HELLO from sunny Bournemouth where we are enjoying an Indian summer.

I assumed that this expression originated in India but, according to Wikipedia, a Boston lexicographer Albert Mathews discovered that the earliest reference dated from 1778.

It was based on warm and hazy conditions in autumn when the native Americans went hunting buffalo. As the film star Michael Caine once said "Not many people know that."

The month has seen a great deal of political fun and games because the rank outsider, Jeremy Corbyn, won the election to become the new leader of the Labour party.

His support came from the members of the Labour party, not the Labour members of parliament.

Since his landslide win the party has been in a state of shock as most of the labour members of parliament are probably afraid that Corbyn's political views – which appear to be slightly left of Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin – might well cost them their cushy little jobs at the next general election in four years' time.

The media has been busy portraying him as a demented republican who hates the queen, and does not sing the national anthem (which, let's face it, would never win the Eurovision song contest).

The right wing press inform us that if he ever gained power, he would nationalise everything from the railways to Fred's Fish and Chip shop.

And then, because he wants us out of NATO and wants to ban nuclear weapons, would be handing the country over to our nearest enemy (not specified).

Not a day has gone by without some journalist or politician announcing that we are all doomed. It has been jolly good fun reading it.

The conservative government has been, of course, very pleased with this turn of events and were having an enjoyable month.

This was until an unofficial biography, written by a large donor to the conservative party, Lord Ashcroft, was published alleging that our beloved Prime Minister David Cameron, whilst a student, inserted his Tory member into a dead pig's mouth.

This was part of the initiation ceremony for an Oxford University drinking club, called The Piers Gaveston Society.

This members only club is named after the male lover of King Edward II (If you saw the film, *Braveheart*, then Gaveston was the character that Edward I threw out of the window).

It seems to be some sort of elitist drinking and dining club with only 12 members.

The joke following this bizarre news is that Samantha, Cameron's wife, has asked him to stop calling her "babe."

Some sports news.

In soccer, Wales has risen above England in the FIFA Coca-Cola World Rankings.

POSTCARD FROM BOURNEMOUTH

By
ELFAN JONES



A SOON-TO-BE-PUBLISHED biography claims British Prime Minister David Cameron placed a "private part of his anatomy" into the mouth of a dead pig as part of an initiation ritual when he was a student at Oxford.

We are ninth and they are tenth, but for me this will pale into insignificance if Wales can beat England in the Rugby World Cup.

As I write, Canada's rugby team have just narrowly lost their match to Italy.

They played exciting rugby and were unlucky to lose.

Tonight is the crunch game between England and Wales, but a match last Saturday produced the biggest upset in rugby history.

I have watched rugby all my life but never thought that I would witness a packed London pub, with everybody shouting "Come on Japan" as the brave Japanese defeated the mighty, twice world champions South Africans, known as the Springboks.

The odds of them winning were 1,000 to one and in the last five minutes of the game the Japanese were trailing by three points.

They had an opportunity to draw level by kicking a relatively easy penalty, but they turned it down choosing to attack.

People in the pub – most of whom would probably not like sushi, and the nearest they would have been to Japan would be a pint of Asahi beer – were screaming their support and there was a surreal atmosphere.

I don't think there were actually any Japanese people in the pub and if there were any South African supporters there, I didn't hear them.

In the dying moments of the game, Japan scored a try and the whole pub erupted with mass "high fives."

People shaking hands and slapping each other's back as if a British team had won the entire tournament. It was fantastic.

With that, I wish you adieu and COME ON WALES!!!

PS: We Won! We Won!

[READ more World Cup Rugby on page 18]

Poll: Few Britons see Corbyn as capable leader

LONDON – Almost two-thirds of Britons do not see Jeremy Corbyn, the new leader of the opposition Labour party, as a capable leader but consider him to be more honest and in touch with ordinary people, an opinion poll showed last month.

The poll by Ipsos Mori showed 32 percent of 1,255 adults questioned between September 19 and September 23 said Corbyn, a hard-left party veteran, was a capable leader, against 62 percent who said the same about British Prime Minister David Cameron.

Fewer people were satisfied with Corbyn than they were with former Labour party leader Ed Miliband when he first took office with a 41 percent positive rating in October 2010. Only 33 percent of people said they are satisfied with Corbyn.

But Corbyn, who has never held a position in the cabinet prior to becoming party leader, was viewed by 54 percent of people as more honest than most politicians, compared with 30 percent of people for Cameron.

Cameron was also ranked lower in terms of the common touch. Sixty-four percent of people said he was "out of touch with ordinary people," against 39 percent for Corbyn.

"Jeremy Corbyn's appeal as a differ-

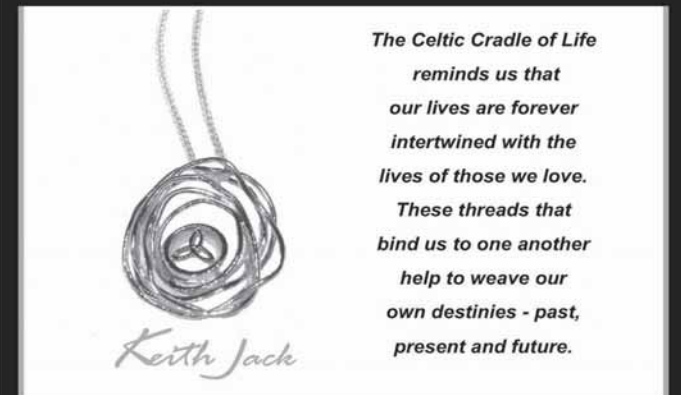


JEREMY Corbyn replaces Ed Miliband as leader of Britain's opposition Labour Party.

ent type of politician is clear – the best ratings on honesty, a stronger personality than Ed Miliband, and he's seen to be leading a party concerned about those most in need," said Gideon Skinner, head of political research at Ipsos Mori.

"But David Cameron still dominates on key prime ministerial attributes such as being capable and good in a crisis, and the sharp rise in perceptions of Labour as divided should worry the party."

The poll also showed that Cameron's ruling Conservative party is seen as more fit to govern than Labour by the British public – 56 percent compared to 35 percent.



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150th anniversary of Patagonia landing celebrated in Wales and Argentina



THE 150th anniversary celebrations commemorating the arrival of 162 Welsh settlers on the tea-clipper *Mimosa* have taken place in Patagonia, Argentina. The anniversary has also received much attention in the Welsh and UK media.

The aim of the settlers in 1865 was to create a new settlement, *Y Wladfa*, where their language, culture and non-conformist religion could be preserved.

Welsh chapels, choirs, tea houses and cultural traditions like the *eisteddfod* are still popular institutions in the various small towns of Chubut Province, such as Gaiman and Trelew on the Atlantic side and Esquel and Trevelin at the foot of the Andes.

But it is the survival of the Welsh language in a land so many thousands of miles from Wales that gives Welsh people so much pride.

It is estimated that there are 5,000 fluent Welsh speakers among the 50,000 Patagonians with Welsh ancestry and many new students are currently learning the language.

The Welsh Language Project (WLP), funded by the Welsh Government and the Wales-Argentina Society, sends three teachers each year to teach Welsh from kindergarten to adult level.

The British Council also promotes projects that help develop the Welsh language in Patagonia.

There are now three bilingual Welsh-Spanish primary schools in the province which are operating at capacity.

Even some Argentine parents with no Welsh connections, are registering their children in these schools because they believe they offer a superior standard of education and the advantages of being bilingual.

In Wales, the anniversary of the landing has received much attention. Ever since the voyage of the *Mimosa* from Liverpool, the story of the Welsh settlement has been part of Welsh history, instilled into the consciences of generations of schoolchildren.

Among the events in Wales to celebrate the anniversary are a multi-media account of the history of the settlement, sponsored by the National Theatre of Wales, and a film, *Galesa*, shown on Welsh-language television station S4C.

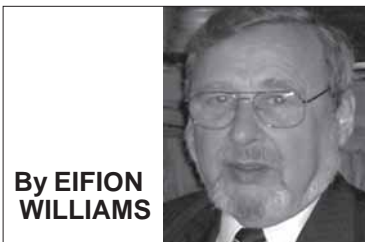
The BBC's leading UK newsreader, Huw Edwards, was heavily involved in the anniversary celebrations.

A much praised BBC1 documentary *Patagonia With Huw Edwards* recorded his travels throughout the Chubut valley interviewing descendants of the first Welsh settlers and assessing future prospects for the Welsh language.

Huw Edwards also unveiled a memorial to the settlers at Princes Dock, Liverpool, on the anniversary of the day the *Mimosa* sailed, May 28, 1865.

During the ceremony, Dr. D. Ben Rees of the Merseyside Welsh Heritage Society said, "This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of *Y Wladfa* and it's appropriate to remember these heroic first settlers and salute the Argentine Welsh community for keeping this heritage alive."

Celebrations were also held in communities across Patagonia, with the main celebration being held in Puerto Madryn, near where the settlers landed.



By EIFION WILLIAMS



WELSH First Minister Carwyn Jones travelled to Argentina to participate in the 150th anniversary celebrations.



CELEBRATIONS in Patagonia marking the 150th anniversary of the *Mimosa* landing.



HUW EDWARDS, the BBC's leading UK newsreader, was heavily involved in the celebrations. On the anniversary of the sailing, he unveiled a memorial to the settlers at Princes Dock in Liverpool.



THE *Mimosa*, with a crew of 18 under the command of Captain George Pepperell, sailed from Liverpool, England on May 28, 1865 to Patagonia, South America with a group of Welsh passengers seeking to establish a new settlement.

Wales' First Minister Carwyn Jones attended the occasion, together with dignitaries from every state in Argentina.

The celebration included a specially-composed piece of music, performances by local schoolchildren and a re-enactment of the arrival of the Welsh settlers.

The first minister is the highest British government official to visit Argentina in many years.

Among the notable absentees at the anniversary ceremony was the controversial president of Argentina, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, who was suffering from a severe case of laryngitis.

She issued the following statement, "It's a real shame to not be with my Welsh and Chubut friends and I wish the First Minister of Wales a warm welcome to this land of integration and dialogue."

Carwyn Jones said ahead of his visit, "The descendants of Welsh settlers in Argentina have a special place in the minds of people in Wales and the reverse is also true.

"I hope this lasts long into the future and I look forward to cementing and celebrating the links that still exist, despite there being 7,500 miles between us."

Orkney peace chapel placed under full-time guard

ORKNEY, Scotland – Full-time custodians are to be appointed at the world-famous Italian Chapel in Orkney in an effort to safeguard the unique structure, which has suffered vandalism and break-ins, including the loss of three hand-carved wooden plaques.

Visitors will also be charged an admission fee for the first time, which curators say is needed to help cover the costs of employing staff next year.

The ornate Roman Catholic chapel on the uninhabited island of Lamb Holm, constructed from two Nissen huts, was built by Italian prisoners of war in 1943 and is one of Orkney's top visitor attractions.

The interior, including the altar, was built from plasterboard and scrap metal, and frescos adorn the paintwork. However, CCTV cameras had to be installed last year as a security measure.

Gary Gibson, chairman of the Italian Chapel preservation committee, said the decision to impose charges had not been taken lightly but was necessary to protect



A SYMBOL of peace and devotion, the Italian Chapel in Orkney has been damaged by wear and tear caused by the sheer number of visitors.

“the future of a building which stands as a powerful symbol of peace and devotion from a time of global conflict.”

“Over the past year in particular, we have seen unprecedented numbers of people visiting the chapel, and the preservation committee is deeply concerned over the impact this is having on the delicate fabric of the building.

“Maintaining and restoring the internal decoration of the chapel has been an ongoing process, but the deterioration is now visibly accelerating because of the large volume of people entering the building at the same time.” Gibson said.

“In addition to the adverse effects of humidity, we are also seeing more damage caused by people rubbing against the painted walls.

“It is therefore vital we try and control throughput at the chapel and avoid overcrowding within what is a very small and fragile space.”

He said the chapel did not receive funding to assist with its upkeep, but relied instead on donations by visitors.

“Whilst the donations made by visitors are very welcome indeed, the only way we can afford to pay for full-time custodians is by introducing a modest admission charge.”

Gibson added, “It will not be a great amount and it is certainly not the intention of the committee to try and make any profit from the fee. We hope people will understand why we are bringing in these measures.”

The hand-carved Stations of the Cross, stolen in August 2014, had been gifted by Domenico Chiochetti, the chapel's creator, in 1964. They were never recovered but his daughter has since supervised the production of replacements.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Hatred is not to be carried in the name of God.

“War is not to be waged in the name of God.”
– Pope Francis

Scotland's Libraries Moving with the Times



EDINBURGH – Entering Edinburgh's Central Library, one can't help but be impressed by the grand renaissance-style tone.

This is courtesy of its original architect Sir George Washington Browne who was also responsible for the Caledonian Hotel in Edinburgh and Central Station in Glasgow.

Inside the library, however, the tone largely depends on what floor you are on.

The upper floor houses the reference collection where folk work away in virtual silence surrounded by stacks of books and traditional card indexes.

The room has barely changed since the library was founded. Like so many public libraries around the world, Edinburgh Central's owes its existence to Scottish philanthropist Andrew Carnegie who supplied the original funding of £50,000.

When it opened in 1890, Carnegie sent a telegram expressing the hope that the library "would grow in usefulness year after year, and prove one of the most potent agencies for the good of the people for all time to come."

I am writing this on the "mezzanine" floor where the definition of usefulness has clearly moved with the times. At one end is the music library which often advertises its wares by playing tunes on the speaker system.

In the centre, there's the "teen gathering area" which can feature anything from studious high school students working cooperatively to less serious ones comparing ring tones on their mobile phones.

And at the far end, gathered on seats around the coffee machine, there is a cross-section of Edinburgh's less fortunate, some with all of their worldly possessions it tow.

Many stay until one of the librarians appears with a hand bell (a reminder of the old ways) and rings it to announce that the library is about to close.

In the interim, the only rule is "no sleeping" and a security guard will magically appear to wake anyone who gives in to temptation.

It is hard to imagine what Carnegie would make of all this. The library is certainly functioning as a "potent agency for good" though perhaps not in ways that he envisaged.

On the other side of the road from the Central Library stands another grand building dedicated to knowledge, the National Library of Scotland and it had a different patron.

The library originated with a £100,000 endowment provided by Alexander Grant of McVitie & Price, the famous Scottish biscuit maker.

Ironically, there was a time when eating a biscuit in the National Library of Scotland was close to the top of a long list of proscribed activities.

Grant's money financed a building to replace the Advocates Library which had functioned as a national collector since 1710.



By
**HARRY
McGRATH**

The entrance features a rather grand stairway the leads up to the reading room.

Many a would-be Scottish scholar remembers trudging up the stairs to be met by an ex-serviceman who guarded the reading room as if it were CIA headquarters. Biscuits were just one of many things that didn't get past him.

Thankfully, that system is no longer in operation.

Not only is there a cafeteria full of biscuits at the foot of the stairs, library-users are made to feel welcome when they reach the top.

A recent announcement also holds some promise for those who would like to use the library's collection without even having to visit the building. Scotland's National Library is going to transform itself into a so-called "digital destination."

It plans to put about one third of its collection of 24 million items online in the next 10 years which, according to a press release, "will allow millions of people to view unique documents including manuscripts of major Scottish writers such as Robert Burns and Walter Scott, fascinating official reports on many subjects, thousands of films on life in Scotland and – bringing things up to date – memorabilia from last year's referendum on Scottish independence among many others."

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs,

has embraced the plan which, she believes, will enhance Scotland's profile at home and abroad.

National Librarian Dr. John Scully also sees the importance of digitisation for those far-removed from the library building.

"We want people to be able to connect to our collections from wherever they are, rather than having to consult material in the Library as has been the case for most of our existence.

"We are committed to removing as many barriers as possible that prevent people accessing our collections and services."

These words will be music to the ears of the five million Scots in Canada or, indeed, anyone across the globe with an interest in Scotland.

Items that are already digitised include the last letter of Mary Queen of Scots, the order for the massacre of Glencoe, the first books printed in Scotland in the 16th Century, the first atlas of Scotland and the First World War official photographs.

Over the next 10 years many more will be added – all accessible whether you are in Edinburgh, Scotland, New Edinburgh in Ottawa or Dunedin, New Zealand.

The music library is playing Bob Dylan's *The Times They Are A-Changin'* and one of my fellow library users has just fallen foul of the no sleeping rule.

Scotland's great libraries are certainly changing and they are all the better for it.

Carnegie and Grant may not have imagined some of the changes, but similar principles are at work.

The public library is still open to anyone and at the National Library across the road technology is being harnessed to provide access to knowledge for anyone "living in or interested in Scotland."

Protected status for London's British Library

LONDON – The British Library, home to documents ranging from Magna Carta manuscripts to handwritten Beatles lyrics, has become one of England's youngest buildings to receive protected status.

The library, the largest public building to be built in the UK in the Twentieth Century, has been given the highest Grade I listed status for its outstanding architectural and historic interest, experts said.

Originally designed by architect Sir Colin St. John Wilson and his partner M.J. Long, the construction of the British Library on the Euston Road, London, began in 1982 and was completed in summer 1997, with doors opened to readers later that year.

Moving the books into the £506 million building took four years and was finally completed in 1998.

The design includes five public floors sweeping upwards from the entrance, with 11 reading rooms surrounding the centrepiece of the King's Library tower containing George III's library.

The library is home to the "treasures gallery" which holds books and docu-



THE BRITISH Library is one of the youngest public buildings to receive protected status in the UK.

ments including two original Magna Carta manuscripts, Lindisfarne Gospels, Shakespeare's First Folio, Gutenberg's 1455 Bible, and Handel's Messiah written in the composer's hand.

With its new protected status, it joins other listed buildings in the vicinity including Grade I St. Pancras Hotel and station and Grade I King's Cross station.

Director of listing at government heritage body Historic England, Roger Bowdler, described it as "one of England's finest modern public buildings."



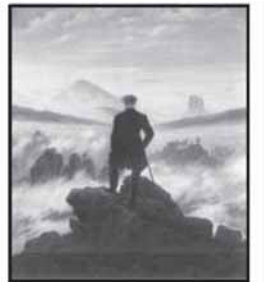
CENTRAL LIBRARY in Edinburgh, opened in 1890, was the first public library building in the city.

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ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL FINAL - SUNDAY

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CIARAN, Brendan and Cici give a thumbs up for the Dublin win at Doolin's.



THE MCCARTHY family at Mahony's – Jerry and Martina with their son Dara.



BERNARD with Dublin ex-pats Jimmy and Maureen at Mahony's....guess who they were cheering for?



GRACE, Nick, Aidan, Dave and Linda kept an eye on the screen at Mahony's.



TADHG Egan and Tom O'Sullivan anxiously watching the match at Croke Park. Tom's nephew Bryan Sheehan was playing for Kerry.



WATCHING the All-Ireland at Doolin's – (L-R) [Back] Ruairi, Lenka and Mark. [Front] Ronan, Anna and David.



Leo, Ann Marie and Lisa were among the early morning fans at Mahony's to watch the All-Ireland.



JORDAN FLYNN, manager of Johnnie Fox's Irish Snug hoping for a Dublin win at Doolin's.



THREE smiling Irish hostesses welcoming early morning fans at Doolin's (L-R) Niamh, Aoife and Janine.



LAURA, Keith and Robert watching the final at Mahony's Burrard Landing in Vancouver.



ANDREW AND AISLING keeping an eye on the action at the live telecast at Doolin's.



(L-R) [Back] Fiona and Daniel. [Front] James, Michael, Stephen and Natalie enjoying the All-Ireland telecast at Doolin's.

AY, SEPTEMBER 20



ALAN, Damien, John, Caoimhe and Rudi at Mahony's to watch the game.



AISLING AND AIDAN enjoying the All-Ireland at Mahony's.



SEAMUS and John with eyes intently on the screen at Mahony's.



RICHIE, Christopher and Alexander at Mahony's, watching the game from their seats at the bar.

An early morning start in Vancouver for All-Ireland fans

IT was an early morning start for die hard fans in Vancouver to watch a live telecast of the All Ireland senior Gaelic football (GAA) final in Croke Park, Dublin, Ireland.

The game was telecast live at 7:30 AM at both Doolin's Irish Pub and Mahony and Sons Public House in downtown Vancouver on September 20.

The Celtic Connection was there to catch the first half of the game at Doolin's and the second half at Mahony's and both pubs had good crowds to watch the game.

The excitement before the game at Doolin's was palpable as they watched 82,300 fans in Croke Park singing the



By
CATHOLINE BUTLER

Irish national anthem – and that was just the fans lucky enough to have tickets. Other fans watched outside the park on huge screens, and in pubs, restaurants, and GAA clubs in Ireland and around the world.

With the first throw-in, a loud cheer went up in Doolin's and then it was on to the rain-soaked battle at Croke Park.

Watching the game at Doolin's was Tom O'Sullivan, originally from Caherciveen, Co. Kerry, and now living in Vancouver.

Tom was intently watching his nephew, Bryan Sheehan, a well-known Kerry player doing battle on the field at Croke Park. Sheehan has five All-Ireland med-

als to his credit.

The rain was so intense that the floodlights were turned on at Croke Park with *Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head* playing in the background.

Maybe Paul Simon's *Slip, Sliding Away* would have been more appropriate with the wet conditions on the field – players were struggling with the conditions and at times losing possession.

If Gaelic games are Ireland's soul, then Croke Park is its sporting shrine. Every young GAA player in Ireland dreams of one day playing Croke Park, but only the best get to live that dream.

Sadly, in the end it doesn't matter how hard or with how much intensity and passion a team plays, there are winners and there are losers along with tears and cheers.

Dublin dethroned defending champions Kerry, going on to win the 2015 All Ireland Senior Gaelic Football Final.

Cheers and congratulations for Dublin and tears for Kerry... if you could see them through the rain.

English TV presenter makes a major error while talking GAA

DUBLIN – Sky Sports has put a lot of effort into their GAA coverage over the past year. The station has used slick graphics and high profile pundits to prove they are serious about their Gaelic games coverage.

When a new broadcasting deal was announced with the British television channel, GAA Director General Páirc Duffy insisted it would give a 'major boost' to the association in Britain.

Unfortunately the numbers do not seem to have materialized and they may have to go over some of the basics with their presenters. Basics such as the country involved.

Former Dublin footballer and eagle-eyed Tweeter Johnny Magee picked up an unfortunate error on the morning of October 1.

While announcing the nominees for Player of the Year, the presenter referred to Dublin as All-England champions.

This follows another gaffe in April this year when they got their wires a little crossed when announcing that Mayo finished the season as All-Ireland champions.

The embarrassing mistake was immediately seized upon and circulated on social network sites within minutes of its utterance.

In reality, Mayo and a dejected Chris Barrett were beaten by Dublin in last year's final and haven't won an All-Ireland since 1951 – a ropey start to the beginning of a new era for Sky Sports and the GAA.

Ironically, the clip ends with the voiceover "If you're new to Gaelic Games," which it would appear Sky are.

Final survivor of the Berkeley balcony collapse arrives home

DUBLIN – Hannah Waters (21), from Castleknock, Dublin, finally returned home on September 23.

Waters survived the tragic incident which killed six of her fellow students and friends in Berkeley, California in June of this year.

She was one of seven students seriously injured in the tragedy. The six other injured students arrived home to Ireland in recent weeks and months.

The Irish Consulate in San Francisco marked the day by posting an image of Seamus Heaney's *Postscript Poem* on their official Twitter account. The image was accompanied by a picture of an Aer Lingus flight leaving San Francisco.

They wrote: "A postscript for Berkeley as the last of our students heads home. Our hearts caught off guard & blown open. Godspeed."

Niall Murray, another survivor of the Berkeley balcony collapse, arrived home to Dublin several days earlier.

Five Irish students, Lorcán Miller, Eimear Walsh, Eoghan Culligan, Niccolai Schuster and Olivia Burke and American student Ashley Donohoe died in the incident on June 16.



HANNAH WATERS (21), from Castleknock, Dublin, finally returned home on September 23 after the Berkeley balcony collapse in June.



POLICE TAPE blocks off a section of Kittredge Street in front of the apartment building where a balcony collapsed in Berkeley, California.

A conversation with Senator Trevor O'Clochartaigh, spokesperson for the Irish Diaspora

VANCOUVER – Senator Trevor O'Clochartaigh is a spokesperson for the Irish Diaspora, the Irish language and Gaeltacht Affairs, Rural Development and the West of Ireland.

He is also selected to run for Sinn Féin in the Galway/South Mayo Constituency in the next general election.

The senator was in Vancouver on September 26 as guest speaker at a prelude to Vancouver's 1916 commemorative celebrations next Easter hosted by the Vancouver Easter Rising Committee.

O'Clochartaigh met with *The Celtic Connection* to discuss events planned in Ireland to celebrate the 1916 Easter Rising and Sinn Féin's pledge to give Irish emigrants voting rights.

Interview by Catholine Butler

Q: What are some of the events planned in Ireland next year for the 1916 commemoration?

A: There's a whole movement taking place in Ireland at the moment which is broader than any political party.

We have seen some fantastic events already taking place and we're going to discuss how the diaspora can become involved and engaged with the commemoration as well.

We're looking at the signatures on the proclamation and the vision they held and how we still need to work to realize those visions.

We need to engage with our emigrants who have left because they are as much a part of Ireland as everyone else.

Q: How does the Sinn Féin Party fit into all of this?

A: I think with the crash in the economy, people started to re-evaluate where they stood politically and there has been a resurgence of Sinn Féin, particularly in the 26 counties.

I suppose Sinn Féin has always been a formidable political force, especially in the six counties, and that has really been consolidated.

Sinn Féin has really come to the fore as a party that is fighting austerity. We are the only political party who have done that and that has resonated with the people of Ireland.

What we are seeing at the moment is that we have a general election which has to happen before March 2016 and really it's neck and neck between Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and Sinn Féin. We feel that Sinn Féin will lead the next government.

Fine Gael is a little ahead at this stage, depending on which opinion poll you look at, but it certainly doesn't look like the present government can not go back into office with the numbers that they have.

You may see where Finna Fáil and Fine Gael would push back together to create a government so there is a great debate as to where all that would go.

Really we are seeing there is very little politics between Finna Fáil and Fine Gael – there's not a huge difference.



SENATOR Trevor O'Clochartaigh (fourth from Left) with members of the Vancouver 1916 Easter Rising committee in Vancouver. (L-R) Bernard Ward; George McDonnell; Pat Chessell; Dave Rea and Brendan Flynn.

They are putting forward a more conservative right wing politics, whereas Sinn Féin is a more socially aggressive model of politics.

This is resonating with the lower and middle income bracket. It's a fascinating time in Ireland and anything can happen between now and then in politics.

Sinn Féin are hoping to be the lead party or the party in opposition. We would put forward policies that are more in the proclamation and live up to that vision of 1916.

Q: On the subject of the present government encouraging Irish emigrants to return home, you are quoted as saying, "The government is great at organizing 'feel good' PR events for the diaspora but is failing miserably in providing real opportunities for our emigrants to return home. They haven't done anything concrete either in relation to ensuring parliamentary representation and voting rights here for Irish citizens abroad." Can you elaborate on this?

A: Well, to give credit where credit is due, I think it's important that this government has appointed a minister for the diaspora and I was very happy to be appointed as the spokesperson for the diaspora.

There have been a couple of good initiatives within the global economic forum where all the high and mighty and wheelers and dealers and business people are brought together once every two years in Dublin to discuss possibilities.

And they started a Global Civic Forum, where Irish groups of societies were brought to Ireland for the first time this year.

They also started a global parliamentaries forum and that was done just about two months ago. This is with politicians from across the globe with a connection to Ireland, or of Irish descent, who came together to discuss different initiatives that could be taken.

That's all fine and good, but the substantial issues that really are affecting everyone aren't the ones that they're dealing with.

For me, going out and speaking to emigrants the questions are "When can we come home?" and "Will there be jobs for us to come back to?" They are concerned about their elderly parents or if some member of the family is sick.

"In many schools, if you don't put your children on the list before they're born, you just can't get in."

The barriers are there and what I'm finding is there are a lot of simple barriers to them returning – just even opening a bank account.

If you haven't been living in the country and paying utility bills and don't have a permanent address, then it's very hard to open a bank account.

The other thing is health insurance or car insurance.

If you are here in Canada and driving for 20 years you have a bonus on your car insurance, but when you come home you start from scratch as a new driver – and you are given an astronomical fee to pay for car insurance.

Some are saying that it's just impossible to come home with that type of thing.

I feel that there are a lot of smaller practical measures that the government should be taking to ease the returning emigrant and allow people who want to come back or need to come back to be able to do so.

Q: Have you spoken to many emigrants who want to return to Ireland?

A: Yes, there are some, but they just don't think the economic climate is good enough yet because there is a concern around the progression in their careers.

For instance, we have a lot of doctors and nurses who have left and they say that the Irish health services is such a basket case that even if they come back they have no chance of progression.

Nurses in particular find that conditions are much better in other countries.

They are given educational courses and perks to stay in the hospitals where they are working such as accommodations. Also the pay and the hours are better...they don't see the benefits in returning.

There are also those who want to return with family and children and they want to educate their children in Ire-

land, such as the newly emigrated with pre-school children.

They are finding it difficult due to enrolment policies in the cities, particularly because the schools are very full.

In many schools, if you don't put your children on the list before they're born, you just can't get in.

There are some jobs being created but we still have a very high rate of unemployment.

It's still around 10 percent. The government is saying it's down from 15 percent, but if you take the number of people who have been put on job activation schemes, and the number of youth unemployed, if you take all of that into consideration, the real rate of unemployment would be about 20 percent.

We also have a huge crisis in homeless people on the street and very little is being done in terms of public housing being created.

Q: Why can't all the empty houses that construction companies had to walk away from when the recession hit be used for the homeless?

A: Exactly, a very good question, and one we have been asking.

The National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) was the government's solution to the whole property bubble crisis.

It's an estate owned company and they took on all the bad loans and bought up all the properties.

They are the biggest property developer in the world and are entrusted with selling off those properties or getting them redeveloped.

In principal it sounds like a good idea, but it's being run like the KGB. No one is allowed to find out what is going on within the company.

There's a huge scandal at the moment as regards to the selling off of the Northern portfolio.

A lot of these Irish developers would have had property in the north, Britain, and all over the world, and what NAMA has been doing is selling off whole chunks of portfolios.

For instance, they looked at the stock they had in the North of Ireland, put it together in a bundle and sold it to a finance company that buys the property cheap and sells it off at a profit.

There are allegations that certain politicians who were helping to sell these

properties were getting backhanders on the sale of the assets to NAMA.

The vultures are always there to swoop on the carcass.

Q: Sinn Féin pledges to give Irish emigrants voting rights. How is that going to work?

A: We are one of the only countries that doesn't allow it's diaspora voting rights. The Sinn Féin principal is one that if you are a citizen of the country then you should have a right to vote, whether you are in the state or not in the state.

I have some members that say this is a big deal, but to others not so much. Some of the diaspora would like to have a say in the running of the country. There are a lot of different models of doing it.

There are two different models: Do you actually have members from the diaspora elected into the Dail Eireann or the Seanad, or do you look at it as a situation where you elect direct people into the Seanad?

For example, you could have two or three members of the senate who are representatives of the diaspora. Or, for example, the French have a closed constituency in their assembly, and I think it's actually six members elected from their diaspora.

So, it's closed in that only six members can be voted on to fill those seats, so you could do it that way.

Or else, allow say diaspora from Mayo to vote on people from the Mayo constituency and then vote for whomever is running in the Mayo constituency.

There are a number of different models used internationally, but I suppose, we are not hung up on which model but we are hung up on the possibility of some citizen who wants to vote also has the right to vote.

The other argument would be what about the people who left Ireland 20 or 30 years ago and don't have a clue what's going on at home.

What I have heard is that Finna Fáil and Fine Gael don't want that to happen because they feel it would favour Sinn Féin, since Sinn Féin has such good links with the diaspora.

However, research has been done that confounds that theory – the trends that people followed when they were in Ireland tends to follow when they go abroad. People don't change that much over the years.

The government promised a referendum on this and they are really sitting on their hands. They promised a referendum on presidential voting rights by the diaspora on being allowed to vote on the president of Ireland.

In fairness, the president doesn't have a huge influence in terms of power in Irish politics, so it's very much a figurehead, and a yet very important state position.

So, there really shouldn't be a huge issue around allowing people to vote for the president. It's dodging the main issue.

We see the Croatians and Polish people voting in Ireland in their national elections, so why can't we get around the issue.

This will absolutely be one of Sinn Féin's main planks of our policy regarding the diaspora and giving Irish emigrants voting rights.

Trinity College Blog Showcases First-Hand Accounts of 1916 Rising

DUBLIN – Rare photographs documenting the havoc wreaked on Dublin city centre buildings in Easter 1916 and a first-hand account of a St. John's Ambulance stretcher bearer in Dublin Castle are among compelling stories recounted in a new blog presented by Trinity College Dublin.

The blog aims to showcase the breadth of Trinity Library's collections relating to the 1916 Rising and to act as a catalyst for research ahead of the centenary in April 2016.

A pivotal moment in modern Irish history, the 1916 Easter Rising transformed the political landscape paving the way for Irish independence, whilst also bequeathing a contentious legacy.

The 'Changed Utterly' blog, inspired by the W.B. Yeats poem *Easter 1916*, will explore the Library's rich and diverse collections of 1916-related material originating from before, during and after the Rising, from all sides of the political spectrum.

The weekly blog will highlight one extraordinary item or collection each week, including diaries, letters, pamphlets, photographs, objects and even items of clothing. Each post is complemented with relevant images by Digital Resources and Imaging Service.

A recent blog focused on a collection of photographs which records the damage inflicted on the architectural fabric of central Dublin during the 1916 Rising.

The collection of 44 photographs were taken by antiquarian Thomas Johnson



PHOTO: Manuscripts & Archives Research Library TCD

THE Ruins of Dublin 1916 by Thomas Johnson Westropp (1860-1922, a Limerick-born scholar and a graduate of TCD. He compiled a set of 44 photographs that record the havoc wreaked on the architectural fabric of central Dublin, particularly Sackville Street (O'Connell Street) and the surrounding area in the aftermath of the Rebellion.

Westropp who had pioneered the use of photography as a method of recording ancient buildings and archaeological sites.

His photographs, taken in the days immediately following the Rising, document the havoc wreaked on iconic city centre buildings including the GPO, Liberty Hall, the Four Courts and Clery's.

Past blog posts have included an analysis of letters written by Frederick Kidd to his sons serving in World War One, giving a day-by-day account of the happenings in Dublin.

The experience of Thomas Bodkin as a St. John's Ambulance stretcher bearer

working out of Dublin Castle, and the story of student Eileen Corrigan who was one of four female students to brave sniper bullets to make it into Trinity to sit Junior Sophister term examinations are also subjects of the blog.

Written by Library staff, with contributions from Trinity academics and other experts, the blog will draw on the rich collections of 1916 material held in Trinity's Manuscripts & Archives Research Library, the Department of Early Printed Books and Special Collections, the Glucksman Map Library and the Music Library.

The blog can be located online at: www.tcd.ie/Library/1916.

Gerry Adams hits back at Joan Burton's 1916 'hijack' claim

DUBLIN – Gerry Adams has hit back at Joan Burton after she used the launch of the Labour Party's 1916 commemoration exhibition to deliver a blistering attack on Sinn Féin.

In response to comments from the tánaiste, he said that, "Burton has nothing in common with the men and women of 1916."

Speaking in Cork on September 18, the tánaiste was discussing a number of issues connected with the Rising, including the State funeral of Thomas Kent, the early Labour movement, and the historical role of women in the 1916 Rising.

When it came to the topic of how the Rising should be celebrated, Burton said, "The Republic, republicanism, does not belong to any one group, to any one set of people, to any one political group. It would be much diminished if it did."

She then went on, "We have already witnessed some efforts by Sinn Féin to appropriate the events of the revolutionary period and I expect we will see more of that. This is a deliberate distortion of history – Sinn Féin had precious little to do with the events of 1916.

"But it's more than that," she said, "They are seeking to hijack the history of the country so as to explain away the IRA's campaign of sectarian violence and the subsequent criminality it spawned."

In a separate address in Dublin, the Sinn Féin leader accused the government of



TÁNAISTE (Ireland's deputy prime minister) delivered a blistering attack on Sinn Féin at the launch of the Labour Party's 1916 commemoration exhibition.

having a "partitionist mindset" which is limited to 26 counties.

Noting that unlike other parties, Sinn Féin has held commemorations to mark the Easter Rising every year since 1917,

Adams said Burton's comments encapsulated the "schizophrenic approach" of the government parties to the 1916 Centenary.

He described the Labour leader's approach as a "shallow and wholly self-serving approach to Irish history."

Adams went on to say, "Joan Burton knows that commemorating 1916 raises a myriad of contradictions for her own party and its actions in government, not least their partitionist attitude and failure to live up to the egalitarian ideals of the Proclamation.

"The tánaiste does not wish people to be reminded of the unfinished business of 1916 including the need to achieve a peaceful, united and socially just Ireland. Sinn Féin will continue to pursue those objectives proudly and unapologetically."

Chronic overcrowding reported in Irish hospitals

DUBLIN – Over 7,600 patients were left waiting on trolleys in Irish hospitals last month, with one hospital alone – University Hospital Limerick – recording almost 800 patients on trolleys, the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) has said.

According to its latest 'Trolley and Ward Watch' figures, a total of 7,630 patients were on trolleys during the month of September, a 17 percent increase when compared with September 2014 and a 55 percent increase when compared with September 2013.

The worst affected hospitals were University Hospital Limerick (784), Beaumont Hospital in Dublin (732), Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda (606) and University Hospital Galway (514).

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Michael Hurley: 'We plan to spend more time in western Canada'

VANCOUVER – Michael Hurley, deputy head of mission at the Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa, paid a flying visit to Vancouver recently and he took time to speak with *The Celtic Connection*.

By CATHOLINE BUTLER

Hurley, who arrived in Ottawa a little over a year ago, spoke about the reason for his visit and his role at the Irish Embassy in Ottawa.

"I regret that I haven't been able to come out sooner," he said. "I was invited to a gala dinner dance for the Edmonton Wolfe Tones GAA 40th anniversary year of the club and I thought it would also be a good opportunity beforehand to make a quick visit to Vancouver."

Speaking about his role, he explained, "Nominally I should say my role is bilateral political relations with Canada and trade promotion but in fact there is also the everyday work of the embassy, consular services, community work, passports and visas and what have you."

Because Canada is such a vast country, it is a challenge for embassy staff to maintain contact with Irish communities across the country.

"That's one of the elements here, I feel that the embassy is limited in its resources, especially with this huge country and only three diplomatic staff.

"Obviously we are limited to the extent that we can reach out but we look for every opportunity.

"That has certainly been the policy of Ambassador Ray Bassett, to try and reach out through this vast country to see how the communities are getting on and to what extent the embassy can help."

While Hurley has visited a number of Canadian provinces, this was his first visit to British Columbia.

"Actually, Vancouver is the furthest west that I have come and I'm delighted to be here."

Traditionally, there has been a lot of travel throughout Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes for embassy staff. These provinces are where some of the larger communities settled as they have tended to be some of the major Irish migration routes.

"Of course, in the trade promotion context, I'm going to the major industrial and commercial centres," he said.

"I attended an event in Calgary last year, hosted by Laureen Regan, president of the Ireland-Canada Centre for Commerce.

"At that time Calgary showed a very thriving economy. I know at the moment, Alberta has slowed a little, but certainly there are some very interesting opportunities there and in British Columbia for Irish business and business interest."

Hurley explained that once he is settled in Canada, he plans to give more focus to the west, particularly Calgary, Edmonton, Victoria and Vancouver.

"There are certainly interesting opportunities here," he said, "Historically eastern Canada has a more Irish flavour but the new Irish are coming to western Canada.

"This is where the energy and industry



MICHAEL HURLEY, the deputy head of mission at the Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa.

is, and there are certainly opportunities here. It would be great to capitalize on them.

"We're very excited about the trade agreement with the European Union, we think that Ireland is very well positioned to capitalize on this.

"It is estimated that it will boost bilateral trade between Ireland and Canada by two hundred million dollars and we

would like to be ready to catch that wave so to speak."

One of the areas the embassy would like to focus is to further connect with chapters of Ireland-Canada Chambers of Commerce across the country.

"They're doing terrific work," said Hurley. "I find it most interesting and exciting to move amongst the various Ireland-Canada Chambers of Commerce throughout the country."

The embassy works closely with the chambers and helps by providing contacts at government levels both provincial and federal.

"While here in Vancouver I'm meeting with members of VIBE, the Vancouver Ireland Business Enterprise, to get a sense of the local profile," he said.

"I'm hoping to be back here by the end of January to set-up more meetings and become a more frequent visitor to the west. Certainly to have more lead time with the various organizations.

"I know the ambassador tries to get out here as often as he can, and also my colleague Liz Kehoe. I think with a bit of time we will try to come more frequently."

[Watch the November issue of *The Celtic Connection* for a report and photos on the Edmonton Wolfe Tones 40th anniversary.]

Oxford University to appoint first female vice chancellor

OXFORD, UK – Oxford University is set to have a female head for the first time in its history, with the nomination of Louise Richardson as vice chancellor.

Professor Richardson is currently in charge at St. Andrews and has previously had a senior role at Harvard University.

If she is formally adopted as the 272nd vice chancellor, Richardson will follow almost eight centuries of male heads of Oxford University.

Students and staff hailed the nomination as a momentous event in Oxford's history. Richardson (56) told the *Guardian* newspaper she hoped her nomination would inspire current and potential female undergraduates.

"I look forward to the day when a woman being appointed isn't in itself news," Richardson said. "Unfortunately, academia like most professions is pyramid-shaped – the higher up you go the fewer women there are."

Born in Co. Waterford, Ireland, Richardson holds a BA in History from Trinity College, Dublin, an MA in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and an MA and PhD in Government from Harvard University.

A political scientist, her academic expertise has been in security and terror. She has written books about terror and counter-terror in the wake of the 9/11 attacks in the United States.

Oxford will become the latest high profile university to appoint a female leader. Harvard University and Imperial College London are both headed by



PHOTO: University of Oxford
BORN in the Republic of Ireland, Louise Richardson has been nominated as the first female vice chancellor of the University of Oxford in its 800 year history.

women.

Cambridge appointed its first female vice chancellor in 2003, when Dame Alison Richard took the post.

But *The Times Higher Education* magazine has highlighted that only one in seven of the world's top 200 institutions has a female head.

For Richardson, it is not the first time she has filled a historic role: at St. Andrews she was not only the first female vice chancellor in 600 years but also the first Roman Catholic.

Richardson's parents still live in Tramore on Ireland's southern coast, where she grew up and went to a convent school. "I think they are delighted and proud," she said.

Oxford's exact foundation is shrouded in uncertainty but the first recorded vice chancellor was in 1230, according to the Encyclopedia of Oxford.



IRISH WOMEN'S NETWORK

PHOTOS courtesy of Sarah Doran-Coelho.



LAARA RYANE, Sarah Doran Coelho, Anne McCormick, Patricia Jarvis, Margaret Larkin, Joan Webber, Anne Janmohammad, [name not available].



TRISHA MOLLOY, Nicola Dunne and Deborah Duffy.



LAARA RYANE and Joan Webber.



ROSE SIMPSON, Margot King and Philomena Bryce.

IWN: A lovely afternoon with 'Ladies who Brunch'



KATE LYON, Marta Brackett, Siobhan O'Sullivan and Laura Kidd.



FENGAN LEONG and Sarah Doran Coehlo.



TRACY MOLONEY, Ellis Courtney, Tara Brutus (with Lucia, one of Tracy's daughters), Alison Birdsall and Joan Mulqueen.



LORRAINE QUIGLEY, Sarah Tarrant, Aisling Sheridan, Angela Byrne and Donna Bryan.



CARAGH LYNCH, Rhonda McDowell, Jackie Parsonage and Helena Glackin.



By LAURA KIDD

VANCOUVER – On Saturday, September 26, the Irish Women's Network of BC held 'Ladies who Brunch', a social at Mahony and Sons' newest location, Stamps Landing.

In light of the large influx of young women to Vancouver, this event was organized with the hope of bridging the gap between this group and the more established Irish women of Vancouver.

The brunch received an overwhelming response and the chat of over 50 women filled the pub.

The event brought with it a number of celebrations; for one, the group was happy to welcome back Nessa Flewelling, who was revisiting Vancouver.

We were also happy to welcome two very new members, Ella and Lucia – the six-week-old twin daughters of Tracy Moloney – who were attending their first IWN event.

Other familiar faces at the brunch included Deirdre O'Ruairc, Margaret Browne and Philomena Bryce.

And we got to meet a great group of newcomers like Helena Glackin, Trisha Molloy and Aisling Ni Shioradain. The conversation and wine flowed and all had a great brunch which, for some, extended close to dinner!

Thanks to Nicola Dunne who helped me organize the brunch.

May we extend a special thank you to Mahony and Sons who were kind enough to offer all attendees a complimentary mimosa on arrival.


Watch for information on upcoming IWN events such as a table quiz, Christmas drinks and Nollaig na mBan.

Thank you again to all who attended and we look forward to seeing you all at future events.

For more information, go to www.irishwomenbc.net, or e-mail irishwomensnetwork@gmail.com.



AOIFE, Margaret Browne, [name not available], Maureen Gerrard, Helen Carton and Nessa Flewelling.



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SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

PASSINGS

• Nora Anderson (93), a native of Co. Meath, died in Bellingham on September 23.

• Mary T. Randles (82), mother of longtime Seattle resident and former Seattle Gaels player Dermot Randles, died in Kenmare, Co. Kerry on September 8.

• Sally (Nagle) Jorgensen (84), a native of Cork, died in Seattle September 19.

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

GAELIC MASS – Seattle's annual Mass of Remembrance in the Irish (Gaelic) language will be Friday, October 30, at 7:30 PM, at St. Patrick's Church, 2702 Broadway Avenue East (just off I-5 at Roanoke Street).

Mass booklets in English and Gaelic will be available for all in attendance. All hymns and readings are in Gaelic with only the Homily in English.

This Mass commemorates the deceased members of Seattle's Irish Community, especially those who have passed away in the past 12 months whose names will be read out loud.

To submit names to be remembered, or for more information, call (425) 290-7839 or e-mail: GaelicMass@irishclub.org.

CELTIC HARP CLASSES – The School of Magical Strings is offering beginning and intermediate classes in Celtic Harp this fall in Seattle and Olalla, with classes starting Monday, October 12 in Seattle, and Tuesday, October 13 in Olalla.

The term runs for five weeks. Philip Boulding, along with his wife Pam, makes up the internationally famous Northwest duo Magical Strings.

For the past 36 years they have built instruments, taught classes, and provided their unique blend of Celtic and original music to audiences throughout the Northwest and on their tours across the nation and abroad.

For more information, call (253) 857-3716, or on the web, www.magicalstrings.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.

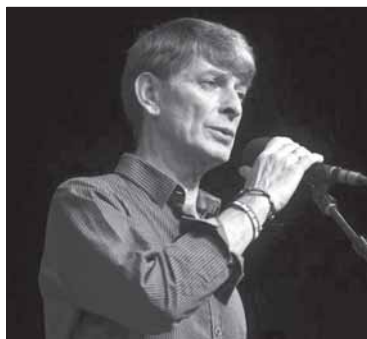
The play runs through October 25 at the Eclectic Theater, 1214 10th Avenue (at Union), Seattle.

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

OCEAN SHORES IRISH FESTIVAL – 2015 will herald the twelfth year of



By
JOHN
KEANE



GALWAY singer Seán Keane, whose musical voice is unique and whose songs encompass a mixture of traditional Irish folk music, pop, blues, and country, will perform at this year's Ocean Shores Irish Music Festival from October 21-25.

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, 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 Seán Keane. More information at www.galwaybayirishpub.com.

MATT TALBOT FUNDRAISER – The ninth annual dinner and auction to benefit the programs of the Matt Talbot Center is Monday, October 26 at The Westin Bellevue, 600 Bellevue Way NE. For details, visit <http://mtcenter.org>.

Established in 1985, Seattle's Matt Talbot Center is a licensed substance abuse treatment program serving Seattle's homeless, addicted and mentally ill.

Its mission is to be a ministry of presence, for the purpose of healing, hope, and restoration.

In addition to treatment, the Matt Talbot Center provides transitional and permanent housing, employment assistance, and food and clothing assistance.

All of the programs are provided free of charge as the center is funded entirely by private donations from individuals, businesses, private foundations, grants and trusts.

SAMHAIN HARP CONCERT – Usher in the Celtic New Year on Sunday, November 1, 2-4 PM, at Galway Traders, 7518 15th Avenue NW in Ballard.

Several local harpists will be per-

forming and admission is free along with free tea and biscuits.

Finally, after a meatless summer, Galway Traders has frozen meats in stock – bangers (Irish sausages), rashers, black and white puddings, etc. Call the store at (206) 784-9343 for details.

DV LOTTERY REMINDER – Seattle's Irish Immigrant Support Group reminds those needing a U.S. Green Card that the registration period for the 2017 Diversity Visa Lottery closes at **9 AM on Tuesday, November 3**.

Irish citizens are eligible to enter the lottery for the chance of getting permanent residency in the United States and there is no fee to enter. For information and to apply, visit www.dvlottery.state.gov.

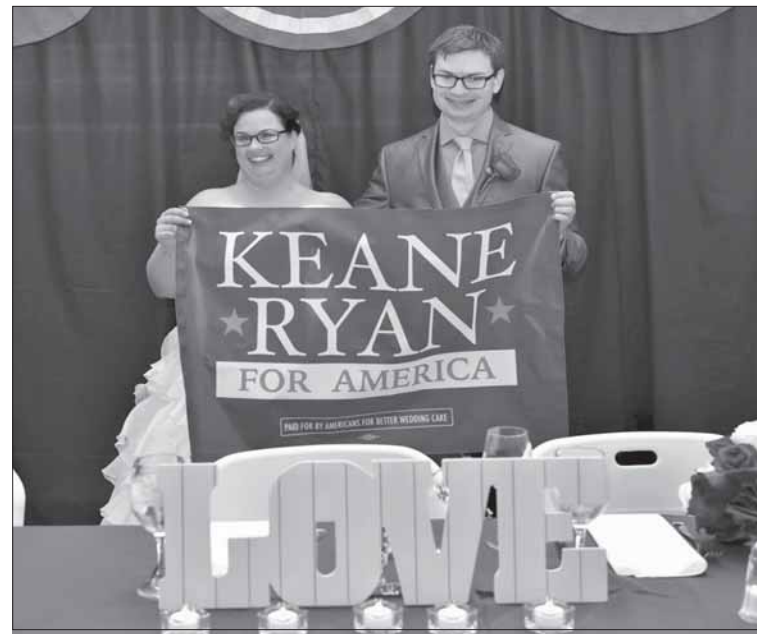
SENIORS LUNCH – The Irish Immigrant Support Group has scheduled the annual Irish Seniors' Christmas luncheon for noon on Saturday, December 5, at F X McRory's, 419 Occidental Avenue South, Seattle.

All seniors of Irish birth, descent or interest are welcome along with their spouses and friends. Among the special guests will be *Daidí na Nollag* (Father Christmas).

Sit-down lunch with choice of ham or turkey – \$10 per person. The cost for the buffet lunch is \$10 for seniors and \$20 for non-seniors, but please call (425) 290-7839 for reservations.

CONGRATS – Congratulations to Seattleite Micheál Keane and Melissa Ryan from Kentucky who were married in Washington, D.C., on September 26.

Both the bride and groom are involved in politics. Ryan is an alumnus of Feingold 2010, Obama 2012, EMILY's List, and she currently works at Trilogy Interactive providing strategic communication and technology



MELISSA RYAN from Kentucky and Micheál Keane from Seattle who were married in Washington DC on September 26. The wedding celebration featured political signs and even a balloon drop!



PAM BOULDING on hammered dulcimer and Philip Boulding on harp who offer beginning and intermediate classes in Celtic Harp this fall in Seattle and Olalla.

for political campaigns and causes.

Keane was one of the first staffers on the ground in Iowa for then-Senator Barack Obama in 2007 as Voter File Manager.

He ran the data team for the general election effort in Florida in 2008 and most recently spent three years at the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

He currently works as a Data Scientist at Civis Analytics, a firm that specializes in political campaign targeting. The couple will live in DC.

MISCELLANEOUS

• Seattle's Irish Book club next meeting is Sunday afternoon, November 15. Some members will meet beforehand to screen the new Irish movie *Brooklyn*. E-mail: hudit@comcast.net for details.

• The Catholic Northwest magazine has a nice article headlined "St. Patrick finally gets his due with statue at namesake Kent cemetery," with photos of the unveiling of the new statue of St. Patrick. Go to www.nw catholic.org and search for "hillside cemetery" (no quotes).



IRISH President Michael D. Higgins will visit Seattle on October 22 and 23, 2015. Seattleites meeting with President Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin in September 2014 were (L-R) Seattle Police Officer Laurie Roth, John Keane, Michael Shiosaki, President Higgins, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, Senator Karen Fraser, Noreen McCormack and Seattle Police Officer Bob Harvey.



PICTURED in 2012, accepting an honorary degree at Trinity College Dublin for his contribution to science, is Professor William Campbell (middle) pictured with University Chancellor, Trinity College Dublin, Dr. Mary Robinson, and Provost of Trinity College Dublin, Dr. Patrick Prendergast.

TCD graduate, William Campbell, awarded Nobel Prize in Medicine

DUBLIN – Trinity College Dublin (TCD) graduate, Professor William Campbell, has been jointly awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

The announcement was made by the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institutet on the morning of October 5.

Professor Campbell and Professor Satoshi Omura were jointly awarded the prize for their discoveries concerning a drug against infections caused by roundworm parasites.

The drug, Avermectin, the derivatives of which have radically lowered the incidence of river blindness and lymphatic filariasis. The drug has also shown ef-

ficacy against a growing range of other parasitic diseases.

Professor Campbell is the third Trinity graduate to have been awarded a Nobel Prize, joining physicist E.T.S. Walton who won the Nobel Prize for splitting the atom, and Samuel Beckett for his contribution to literature.

“Professor Campbell was centrally involved in developing the cure against river blindness,” said Patrick Prendergast, the Provost of Trinity College Dublin welcoming the announcement.

“In 1987 he spearheaded the decision by Merck to distribute that cure free to millions of people in what became one

of the first and foremost examples of a public/private partnership in international health.

“Annually 25 million people are treated under this scheme preventing new cases of river blindness.”

Professor William Campbell, originally from Ramelton in Donegal, graduated with first class honours in zoology from Trinity College Dublin in 1952.

He went on to receive a PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 1957, following which he worked with the Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research until 1990. He is currently a research fellow Emeritus at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey.

Michael D. Higgins hits out at UN and EU for failure on refugees

DUBLIN – Irish President Michael D. Higgins hit out at the world’s leaders for not doing enough to deal with the war in Syria, particularly through the UN Security Council.

In a plea for ordinary people to offer at least shelter and security, President Higgins called on communities to stand up to the negativity, racism and xenophobia which has reared up in some countries over the crisis.

“There is a great failure at the level of the UN and it must be addressed by the heads of state and heads of government,” Higgins said.

He said questions need to be asked about the companies and countries buying oil from the Islamic State, the arms suppliers and those who are witnessing people smuggling.

Higgins said he was shocked to learn that only one-third of a UN appeal tar-

get for aid for Syria has been reached while the World Food Programme has been forced to halve ration supplies to refugee camps.

He urged ordinary people to do the right thing.

In an interview with RTE, Higgins said people should look at their own Irish heritage to empathise with the thousands of people fleeing to Europe’s borders for a better life.

“The fact of the matter is these are people who are fleeing from persecution. These are people whose children are being lost at sea. These are people who are being smuggled, people seeking to escape from slavery.

“We have to decide at certain times in our life to do what is right and what is right is to come to the assistance of those who like our own ancestors were being lost at sea.”

£1million for proposed Seamus Heaney arts centre

BELFAST – Almost one million pounds has been pledged by Stormont ministers towards the construction of a Seamus Heaney arts centre in his home village.

It will be constructed in Bellaghy, Co. Derry, as a tribute to the area’s most famous son. The internationally-renowned poet died in August 2013 aged 74.

The overall cost of the Seamus Heaney Arts and Literary Centre is £4.2 million. Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness and Culture Minister Carál Ní Chuilín have announced funding of £980,000 towards the development.

McGuinness said, “The new Seamus Heaney Arts and Literary Centre in Bellaghy is a fitting way to celebrate the contribution of a literary giant.

“Through this centre the work, writings and life of Seamus Heaney will continue to enrich all our lives and move us deeply.”

More than 2,000 books and reference materials from the personal library of the late poet will create a haven for literature and the arts in the new visitor centre to celebrate the life and work of the late Nobel laureate.

The centre is being developed with the support of the Heaney family, and is expected to attract up to 50,000 visitors each year when it opens in 2016, Culture Northern Ireland said.

Stormont’s culture minister said, “I am today pleased to commit almost £1 million of funding for this magnificent project which honours a man who is undoubtedly amongst the greatest literary exponents ever to have come from these shores and who, like his fellow Nobel laureates Shaw, Yeats and Beckett, has done so much to ensure that the richness of Irish literature has received true recognition on the world stage.”

Transcripts from Ted Kennedy oral history project released

WASHINGTON – Transcripts recently released by the Ted Kennedy oral history project reveal what an important role the Northern Ireland peace process played in the senator’s life and work.

On September 30 around 5,000 pages of transcripts comprising nearly 300 interviews, including 29 conducted with the senator before this death, were released.

Kennedy believed that his interaction with John Hume changed how he viewed the situation in Northern Ireland, and the role that the U.S. ultimately played in the peace process.

A number of interviews were conducted with Irish people for the project, including former taoiseach Bertie Ahern, Albert Reynolds and Garret FitzGerald, along with John Hume, Gerry Adams, Dermot Ahern, Sean Donlon, Niall O’Dowd, Sean O’Huiginn and Michael Lillis.

In the interviews, Ted Kennedy describes being moved originally by the British policy of internment in Northern Ireland. He said he met Hume in 1972 as the violence was escalating and the British dissolved the Stormont parliament.

He called Hume to meet him in Bonn

and he said “this was where John began the great education of Edward Kennedy about Northern Ireland and planted the seeds that grew and grew and grew into a wonderful relationship.”

Kennedy spoke warmly in several interviews about John Hume and his approach to the peace process and said that caused him in 1973 to outline a different framework on the U.S. foreign policy for Northern Ireland.

Hume condemned the violence of the IRA, the UDA and the British troops and condemned the flow of “arms or any funds for arms” from the U.S. to Ireland.

He also discusses the circumstances leading up to including references to Ireland in the democratic platform in 1976 – the first time that the Democratic platform had ever included a reference to Ireland.

Senator Kennedy said that Jimmy Carter was aware of what he and Congressman Bruce Morrison were doing, but it was considered “different and controversial,” adding that “the British were very strongly against us.”

He discusses how in 1977, he joined forces with the then speaker Tip O’Neill, Congressman Hugh Carey and Pat Moynihan in what he describes as the Four Horsemen urging Irish-Ameri-

cans not to provide financial support to the IRA or to engage in violence.

The interviews also cover the period relating to the issuance of a visa for Gerry Adams to travel to the U.S.

Senator Kennedy said that he spent New Year’s in Ireland with his sister, then Ambassador Jean Kennedy-Smith. He left America for the trip opposed to issuing the visa, and returned after the holiday in favour of it.

He describes the fraught process to get the visa agreed, including the “lobbying like the devil” that the State Department and the British Government were doing.

But Kennedy said he believed that issuing the visa was going to give peace a chance.

He said he believed President Bill Clinton became so vested in Ireland because “he found that this thing worked. I think he wasn’t having a lot of successes in a lot of different places, and this was a process that was going through and looked like it had some real prospect of making it.”

In the wealth of interviews, Kennedy discussed how the discrimination suffered by his Irish-born grandfather Honey Fitz in Boston shaped his views on civil rights.

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RUGBY fans at Doolin's Irish Pub on Granville Street in Vancouver watching the World Cup action.

Driver says 'nay' to horse on board Luas

DUBLIN – Members of the public on Dublin's light rail tram system the Luas were surprised when a passenger brought a piebald horse aboard at the Belgard stop in Tallaght last month.

Passengers were quick to take photos of the horse and its owner who were intending to travel towards the city centre. However, the tram driver intervened and the horse was put off before departing the station.

A spokesperson for Luas said they do not allow horses on trams. She said the only animals allowed are guide dogs and other dogs in appropriate sized carriers.



THE HORSE was rejected as a passenger before the red line Luas departed Belgard stop in Tallaght.

LÉ Niamh returns after Mediterranean mission

CORK – The LÉ Niamh returned to Cork Harbour from its humanitarian and search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean on October 2.

Almost 500 relatives, friends and colleagues thronged the dockside as the crew, led by Lieutenant Commander Daniel Wall, disembarked to cheers.

Among those welcoming home the LÉ Niamh was the newly-appointed Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett.

During a 12-week deployment, patrolling the waters between Libya and Sic-

ily, the vessel was involved in 24 separate operations.

The crew saved more than 4,100 migrants and recovered 39 bodies in one of the most difficult missions ever undertaken by the Irish Naval Service.

While some days were filled with sadness for the crew, leading medic Paul O'Connell delivered a baby girl to one of the migrants on board the LÉ Niamh.

After its three-month mission, the crew is relieved to have arrived home safely. There's an acknowledgment too that the mission was difficult as rescues were often dangerous with overloaded vessels.



ABLE COMMS Shauna Ferro gets a hug from mother Catherine on the LÉ Niamh's return.

Rugby World Cup 2015: What do Wales, Scotland and Ireland need to do to reach quarter-finals?

LONDON – Host nation England may be out but Wales, Scotland and Ireland have plenty to play for.

WALES

Warren Gatland's side are already through to the quarters, but Saturday's match on October 10 against Australia at Twickenham will decide who goes through as group winners.

The permutations are simple really: If Wales win, they top Pool A; if Australia win, they top Pool A; in the event of a draw, Australia win the group on points difference (as the head-to-head would be identical).

The big incentive for winning the group is avoiding South Africa, who are expected to top Pool B, in the quarter-finals, and then a likely semi-final with New Zealand (assuming the All Blacks get that far).

SCOTLAND

Vern Cotter's side have their fate in their own hands, and will qualify from Pool B if they win their next match against Samoa.

Samoa themselves have no chance of going through even if they were to win Saturday's clash at St. James' Park, having losing two of their first three matches.



IRELAND V CANADA - IRB Rugby World Cup 2015.

Should the Scots finish second in Pool B, they'll face the winner of Pool A (Wales or Australia) in the quarter-final.

Unfortunately for Cotter's men, there is no longer any chance of them finishing top of the Pool, after South Africa comprehensively defeated the USA 64-0.

IRELAND

Ireland are already through, so all that needs to be resolved for them is whether they qualify from Pool D as group winners or as runners-up.

Joe Schmidt's side are currently joint on points with France, and the two sides meet on Sunday at the Millennium Stadium.

A win for Ireland sees them top the group; a France win sees Les Bleus go through as group winners; a draw sees Ireland win the group on points difference.

The Pool D runners-up will likely face New Zealand in the quarter-final, and the winners are expected to face Argentina in the last eight.

UK's Irish Guards cleared to join the GAA

LONDON – The Irish Guards have been promised a strong, physical contest after becoming the first British Army regiment allowed to compete in Gaelic games.

The Micks, as they are known, will take to the field next year in the junior championships in London after the new club was narrowly cleared to join the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Fifteen players have already put their names down to play for team Garda Eireannach, including former minor and under 21 players and soldiers from Fiji and South Africa.

Part of the Irish Guards' application to join the GAA's amateur sporting ranks referenced how the Fijians wanted to play "a strong, physical game that would suit them."

Chairman of the London County Board Noel O'Sullivan said, "And that's what they'll get."

The regiment was formed on April 1, 1900 by Queen Victoria in recognition of courageous acts carried out by Irish soldiers in the Second Boer War.

The regiment now draws most recruits from Northern Ireland but also takes in soldiers from the Irish Republic and many communities across Britain with strong Irish connections.

The regiment, whose Colonel-in-Chief is the Duke of Cambridge, applied to join the association several months ago.

Noteable veterans include World War Two tank commander Sir John Gorman, Irish tenor Josef Locke and John



THE DUCHESS of Cambridge shares a laugh with members of the First Battalion of Irish Guards as she and her husband Prince William sit for a photograph with the regiment on St. Patrick's Day 2015.



Kipling, the only son of author Rudyard Kipling.

A vote on the application ended tied with the chair using his casting ballot to accept the new club.

The ban on members of the British armed forces and police from joining the GAA and playing Gaelic sports was lifted 14 years ago when the controversial Rule 21 was deleted following long and divisive debates in Ireland.

"Very simply for me I can see both sides. I can appreciate the way people feel," O'Sullivan said. "But we have to move forward, don't dwell on the past."

The new club, going under the Irish name Garda Eireannach, will not be restricted to soldiers or past members of the regiment but open to anyone living in areas surrounding their new base in Hounslow Cavalry Barracks, west London.

They will initially play Gaelic football and are said to be considering offering hurling to members in the future.

The regiment's mascot is an Irish Wolfhound and St. Patrick's Day is traditionally marked with presentations of shamrocks by the royal family.

Waiting for Arawn is Long

[The following is the English translation of a Welsh Halloween-theme story from 1882. This is the first known translation of this work and it was part of the curriculum for the Welsh language class presented at the Cambrian Hall in Vancouver by Antone Minard]

Somewhere on the edge of the country bordering on Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire in olden days there was a notable farmhouse, and notable enough people lived in it.

But one of the rooms of the house, which used to be a bedroom, was worthless and worse than worthless to the inhabitants because of the disturbance in it and some strange sound coming from it at times.

If anyone attempted to go in to sleep he wouldn't have been worse off trying to do that on a thornbush, since he'd find neither quiet nor rest.

Because of that, he'd have to leave the room without making any use of it.

Every sort of din and disagreeable clamour was heard in it; and it could be supposed many times that there wasn't so much as a piece of furniture inside that hadn't been smashed.

In the depth of night a sorrowful voice was often heard in that room, and sometimes around the house, crying lugubriously: "Long is the day, long is the night, and long is waiting for Arawn."

The words were the same every time, with the same displeasing tone of voice which spoke them.

Things would go on in this way for a long time until the family, to some extent, had grown used to the disturbance and the lamentation; but it was rare for any of them ever to dare open the door of that room.

One cold, dark night in winter, when the household was sitting around the kitchen fire before supper, someone came calling at the door.

They answered the door and asked the person there to come in to the fire and warm himself. When he had sat and greeted the family, the strange man asked for a little to eat, and for lodging under the roof overnight.

They told him he was warmly welcome to food, and drink, and warmth; but as to the bed, they were very sorry that they couldn't offer him one since all the beds were little enough for the different members of the family.

About the only unoccupied room that was in the house they couldn't think about offering since there was some continual disturbance and commotion, and no one could get any peace nor quiet to sleep in it from something, they didn't know quite what.

"No worse for that," said the tired traveller; "there's nothing that will do any harm to me; I'll take it gratefully, and don't be uneasy on my behalf."

The stranger looked very tired, he hardly spoke except what they asked of him, and they didn't see so much as a smile on his face.

They agreed to his request at once, although they were sorry to think that he had to spend the night in that wretched room.

While he was making the arrangement, the man and wife of the house asked him what his name was, and if he'd come from far away.

"My name," he said, "is Arawn; I have come far down the road, and have walked and walked."

When they heard his name, the family looked at each other in amazement, and

for some time they didn't utter a single word.

Having eaten until satiated, and warmed himself until warm, the stranger asked to be able to go rest, since he was weary from the journey and the weather.

He was shown the haunted room. They wished him good night and a quiet sleep, although hardly any of them expected that he could get a wink of sleep.

He went to his bed in the gloomy room and at the usual time the whole family went to theirs. That night they heard no commotion in the troublesome room, nor anywhere else.

When the morning came, the family rose as usual. They looked for the stranger first, but he wasn't there.

They didn't see anything more of him, and they heard nothing about him, but they understood that in some manner he had left the place, and set out on his journey at the break of dawn.

And from that time on the disquiet and tumult and commotion came to an end, and was never heard again. Neither in the house nor its surroundings, no one dismally lamenting about the length of day, nor the length of night, nor the length of waiting for Arawn.

Ystên Sioned, neu, Y Gronfa Gymysg (Aberystwyth: John Morgan, Swyddfa Yr "Observer," 1882), tt. 25–27.

Dublin ditches 'certificate of Irishness' scheme

DUBLIN – Ireland has discontinued a scheme offering its descendants worldwide certificates of Irishness due to a limited response.

Since its launch four years ago, less than 3,000 people were willing to part with EU40 for a Certificate of Irish Heritage. The global Irish diaspora is estimated to number as many as 70 million.

Dublin's Department of Foreign Affairs admitted the popularity of the scheme, dreamt up at the Global Irish Economic Forum in 2009, has been "considerably less than anticipated."

Run by a Kerry-based firm Fexco, the initiative was open to descendants of Irish citizens who do not qualify for citizenship.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said it was designed "to give greater practical expression to the sense of Irish identity felt by many around the world."

Redcap: A malevolent faerie of Scottish Border Folklore

By TAMARA VASSILIEV

In the Celtic faerie world there exists two courts: The Seelie Court (Blessed Court) and The Unseelie Court (Unblessed Court).

With the season of Samhain nearly close at hand, it is best suited to venture into the domain of the dark faeries.

The Unseelie were often described as a dark cloud riding upon the wind where their howls and cackles can be heard.

Since the Unseelie have no method of reproduction, they capture mortals whom they think would never be missed and force them to become exclusive members of the Unseelie Court.

Both courts followed a code of conduct, a code by which all faeries had to abide. The details of the Unseelie Court were:

Change is good: The Unseelie believed that security was merely an illusion and chaos was necessary.

Glamour is free: Glamour was the magic of the Daoine Sidhe.

Both the Seelie and Unseelie possessed its power. The Unseelie took advantage of this magic and utilised it for whatever they saw fit.

Honour is a lie: Truth can only be achieved to the devotion of self and not others.

Passion before Duty: The Unseelie acted upon pure instinct and passion without regard for consequences.

The goal of the Unseelie Court was to torment or at least, trick humankind at every opportunity.

Some of the leaders of the court included, *The Slaugh* (the hosts of the unforgiven), *Shellycoat* (a trickster of the coasts) and the *Red Cap* (a vicious faerie who drenched his cap with human blood).

Out of these three characters, it is the Red Cap that has gained notoriety.

The malevolent faerie is mentioned in J.K.Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, makes an appearance in *Cold Days*, the fourteenth book in Jim Butcher's fantasy series *The Dresden Files*, and in the movie and video game versions of the *Spiderwick Chronicles*.

Dwarfish in stature, Red Cap is described as a sturdy old man with red glaring eyes, taloned hands, large teeth, donning a red cap, iron-shod boots and equipped with a pikestaff in the left hand.

Red Cap's favourite places to prey on unsuspecting travellers were in and around ruined castles found along the border of Scotland and England.

If there are any plans to do some castle exploration, what can you do to repel a Red Cap attack? According to legend, reciting the Lord's Prayer will send him back into the shadows.



SKELLIG MICHAEL off the coast of Kerry is a UNESCO world heritage site and was home to one of the earliest monastic settlements in Ireland. Last month, despite protests, it was opened for a second time to allow filming of George Lucas's latest *Star Wars* production back on the island for several days.

Star Wars producers make donation after filming on Skellig Michael

DUBLIN – The Office of Public Works (OPW) has confirmed that "incidents" occurred on Skellig Michael during *Star Wars* filming last month that required "repairs" by its stonemason staff.

It has also confirmed that Disney Lucasfilm was not charged any "facility fee" either last year or this year for sequences in *Star Wars VII* and *Star Wars VIII*.

The sea crag of Skellig Michael off the coast of Kerry is a UNESCO world heritage site. In September it was opened for a second time to let George Lucas's latest *Star Wars* production back on the island for several days.

Despite criticism from heritage agency An Taisce, the government sanctioned the crew's return to the former monastic hermitage – but gave a conservation officer the final say on movie making.

An Taisce said it wanted to know if the government had gone to the dark side after refusing to reveal the exact details of the filming licence.

Ian Lumley, heritage officer, said, "It is utterly unacceptable for the minister, charged with the protection of cultural heritage, to conduct herself in such a secretive fashion.

"This is particularly so where the minister has granted permission to a private company to trample over one of the most sensitive archaeological and environmental locations in the state for the sole purpose of generating a profit."

BirdWatch Ireland said it also had serious concerns as the island is home to colonies of the manx shearwater and the European storm petrel – both said to be vulnerable and highly sensitive to disturbance.

The minister said getting another film in the latest *Star Wars* trilogy back on Ireland's Atlantic shores was a win for Ireland and for the Irish film industry.

Prior to departure, *Star War* producers gave thanks to Valentia Island locals with a donation of EU10,000 to the Valentia Lifeboat rescue service.

Speaking to local newspaper *Kerry's Eye*, Valentia Lifeboat operations manager Richard Foran said, "It was a complete surprise. But I think the lifeboat came to their minds because of what they were doing."

Foran added that producers with Lucasfilm contacted the 22-strong lifeboat service, which receives no state funding and is totally dependent on donations, a few days before filming on Skellig Michael wrapped and offered to make a donation.

He said that filming on nearby Skellig Michael involved a lot of sea travel in conditions that are not easy. "It wasn't just talk. The money is in the bank," Foran said.

He also said that the *Star Wars* crew did not want any publicity for their act of largess, "We suggested setting up a photo shoot on the lifeboat and such, but they declined – they didn't want any publicity. They simply wanted to make a donation."

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

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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*

Lies, Damn Lies and Documentaries: Part Two

"If we tell the truth about the past, maybe we tell the truth about the present... Our film is a little, a very little step in the British confronting their imperialist history."

— Ken Loach

LAST month's column examined Britain's success in frustrating enquiries into British Government collusion in loyalist atrocities in Northern Ireland throughout the Troubles, and the ramifications of this policy for the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland then and now.

This column will examine a response to a similar scandal through reference to a recent television documentary.

The Torture Files, an investigative documentary made by Rita O'Reilly and screened on RTE in June, presented a strong case challenging the legality of Operation Demetrius, or Internment Without Trial.

This was introduced in Northern Ireland on August 9, 1971, with 342 Catholics "lifted" by the security forces, so called, and brought to internment camps where they were unaccountably held for weeks and, in some cases, months.

On the streets, 21 deaths resulted from this action, 17 at the hands of the British Army.

As part of the documentary, O'Reilly sifted through standing orders of interrogation centres for "UK Eyes Only" housed in London and found incriminating evidence against the British Army command and British Government ministers.

The documents uncovered verify torture had been sanctioned at governmental level. Besides such documentation, photography of internees – victims of unspeakable bruising and beatings – constitutes sufficient evidence of torture from any reasonable standpoint.

What the documents reveal is that during "deep interrogation" there were "regrettable lapses."

One survivor quipped that those who wish to describe torture thus should undergo one hour of it and see how they would describe it afterwards.

Ridicule is the right tone to strike in this case given that the documents also assert that prisoners "volunteered" to be hooded and the then British Prime Minister Heath faulted prisoners for wanting a minimum of three-star hotel accommodation.

Today, victims still live with the physical and mental scars of having been tortured (others died soon after their release from cancer and other diseases).

Rita O'Reilly argues in this documentary that torture was "sanctioned at high level" despite the impulse to "confine the blame to lower ranks and not to politicians and senior civil servants."

This is her documentary's strongest

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By MAURICE FITZPATRICK



RITA O'REILLY is a former press and court reporter who co-authored an award-winning bestseller on the Catherine Nevin murder trial. She is the reporter behind several Prime Time and Prime Time Investigates documentaries, including the highest ever rating *Prime Time Investigates – Carry on Regardless*, on Irish developers, and a report by Prime Time into the Stardust fire. Her work has helped contribute to political and legislative change and she has won numerous awards for her work. Her latest documentary *The Torture Files* is on interrogation methods used during internment in Ireland and sanctioned by the British State.

claim and her central source to support it is a document uncovered in London that states "the decision to use torture in Northern Ireland... was taken by ministers, in particular Lord Carrington, the Secretary of State for Defence."

(Carrington is still alive, after an illustrious political career; he did not have any comment to make for the documentary).

Moreover, the policy was formulated by the British Government in March 1971, to be enforced that autumn, proves malice aforethought of governmental sanctioned torture in Northern Ireland.

It is high time that that much was upheld in court – such a ruling would constitute a symbolic vindication of innocent victims on a par with the Bloody Sunday Saville Tribunal's findings.

The pathway to Bloody Sunday, as Bernadette Devlin-McAliskey argues in this documentary, was clear when torture went unpunished.

There was "a continuum of killing up to Bloody Sunday" because the security forces knew "they could get away with it."

The seemingly irreversible spiral of violence which ensued after Bloody Sunday was sparked to a significant extent

by enabling torturers.

One of the ideals of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg is to prevent the type of crimes perpetuated in the Second World War, including torture, from ever occurring again in Europe.

Unsurprisingly, the British Government is very anxious to distance itself from any suggestion that it might have sanctioned torture, lest it be answerable to the wider European community for such violations.

It is clear that during the Troubles the British Government mandated torture and murder.

Not every British leader, not every secretary of state for Northern Ireland, not every army chief did so; but some of them did; it is time that the British Government admitted this.

To do so would bring important changes in the way in which Northern Ireland's past can be examined.

For example, Thomas Hennessy, the author of probably the best work of history on the lead up to the Northern Irish Troubles, *The Origins of the Troubles*, disputes the appropriateness of the word "oppressed" to describe the condition of the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland before the Troubles erupted.

Hennessy argues that describing Catholics as having been oppressed diminishes the suffering of others who have lived under tyrannical regimes.

Yet the deprivation of civil rights and the subsequent treatment of citizens who wished to reform the State was indisputably oppressive.

Those who seek to prescribe softer vocabulary to describe security forces' activities, or reduce the level of criminality ascribed to them, might also consider the integrity of British administrations, past and present.

The five types of sensory deprivations deployed against those illegally tortured in Northern Ireland in 1971 were also to be adopted by the British Army during the British invasion of Iraq.

Four decades after the disgrace that a so-called professional army in Northern Ireland (and, decades earlier, in Kenya too) brought upon itself, it was still doing the very same thing in the Middle East. Such is progress.

But the tendency to gloss over the crimes of the British security forces in Northern Ireland may be eventually undermined from an unexpected source: film-makers.

Rita O'Reilly's admirable documentary deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as the films of two British directors who have done great work in the past decade to confront the horror of the British administration of Northern Ireland.

I am thinking of Steve McQueen's classic film, *Hunger*, set in the "H-Block" Maze prison, which depicts the infectious damage of state power, and the work of Ken Loach, who knows well what it is to be hounded by the British secret service over his depiction of collusion in the Northern Ireland conflict.

As Loach said in his Palm D'Or acceptance speech for *The Wind That Shakes the Barley* at Cannes in 2006, "If we tell the truth about the past, maybe we tell the truth about the present... Our film is a little, a very little step in the British confronting their imperialist history." More power to his elbow.



JEAN MCCONVILLE and three of her children before she disappeared in 1972.

Gerry Adams, and 6 others will not be charged over 1972 IRA killing

BELFAST – Sinn Féin party leader Gerry Adams and six other suspected IRA veterans will not face charges over the 1972 abduction, slaying and secret burial of a Belfast homemaker, Northern Ireland prosecutors have announced.

Adams, 66, was arrested last year on suspicion of involvement in the disappearance of Jean McConville, a 38-year-old widowed mother of 10 whom the IRA believed was a British informer.

Detectives freed Adams without charge after four days of questioning, but sent an evidence file to prosecutors.

Northern Ireland's deputy director of public prosecutions, Pamela Atchison, announced on September 29 that Adams and six others arrested in the McConville probe would face no charges.

Atchison said evidence was "insufficient to provide a reasonable prospect of obtaining a conviction against any of them."

Adams called the decision "long overdue." He said he had been falsely accused as part of "a sustained and malicious campaign seeking to involve me with the killing of Mrs. McConville."

After his release from custody in May 2014, Adams said detectives had grilled him about audio tapes from two IRA veterans, Dolours Price and Brendan Hughes who had participated in the Boston College oral history project.

Both Price and Hughes had identified Adams as an IRA commander in Belfast in 1972 responsible for ordering McConville's killing and disappearance.

They gave their accounts to research-

ers on condition that their comments not be published until their deaths; Hughes died in 2008, Price in 2013.

Adams' alleged immediate superior in the Belfast IRA in 1972, Ivor Bell, was charged last year with aiding and abetting McConville's murder on the basis of the tapes. The 78-year-old's trial has yet to begin.

Before the announcement, prosecutors briefed McConville's relatives about the decision.

Some of her children – who were separated into different foster homes after being told that their mother had abandoned them – have campaigned since the mid-1990s for Adams and other alleged IRA commanders to be held to account.

They reject IRA characterizations of their mother as a spy.

Her remains were found at Shelling Hill beach in Co. Louth in the Republic of Ireland on August 26, 2003. Forensic experts said she was killed by a bullet to the back of the head.

McConville was among more than a dozen Catholic civilians whom the IRA killed and secretly buried without admitting responsibility in the 1970s and early 1980s. The IRA did admit responsibility in 1999.

One son, Michael McConville, said his family didn't intend to let the IRA off the hook.

"Those who ordered, planned and carried out this war crime thought that their guilt could disappear along with her body," he said. "But it has not. And we will continue to seek justice for our mother and see those responsible held to account no matter how long it takes."



GERRY ADAMS was arrested last year on suspicion of involvement in the disappearance of Jean McConville but he was freed four days later without charge.