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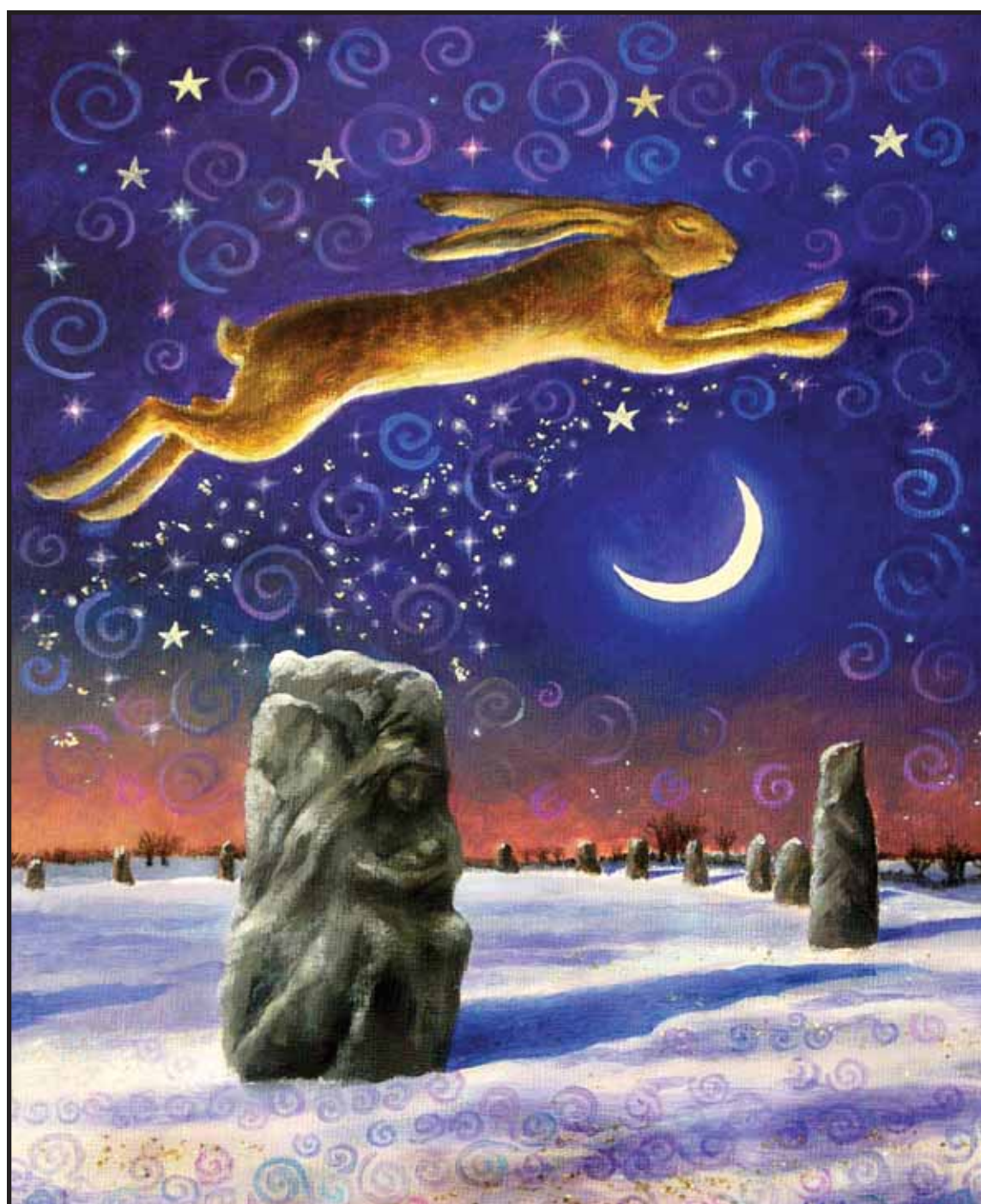
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the celtic connection

ISSUE 24 VOLUME 1

Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991

DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016



ARTWORK by Wendy Andrew
[More about the artist on page 2 inside]

Winter Solstice Magick – A welcome to the return of the light

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

British MPs authorize UK air strikes in Syria

SEE PAGE 8

Storm Desmond Batters Britain and Ireland

SEE PAGES 17 & 21

Edinburgh's spectacular new Christmas light show

SEE PAGE 10

Elfan Jones, our UK correspondent, shares his journey in India

SEE PAGE 26

John Lennon's Irish connections remembered 35 years after his death

SEE PAGE 20



WINTER HARP: The annual spectacle now in its twenty-third year is one of this country's most joyous Christmas concert experiences and a must-attend annual tradition for folks from Winnipeg to Victoria. More details on pages 5 & 6.

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**Our Special Annual
Christmas Greeting
Section - Page 13**

WIN FREE TICKETS

Win a pair (2) tickets to Ireland's chart-topping folk hero **Damien Dempsey** in concert March 5 at 8 PM (doors open 7 PM) at The Imperial, 319 Main Street in Vancouver (see page 12 for details). Entry by January 29, 2016. Mark your entry: Damien.

Entries by e-mail only. Mark the name of the event on your entry, including your name and daytime telephone number. (Only one entry per person.) Send to: cbutler@telus.net

MARTINDALE PIONEER CEMETERY

A memorial to survivors of Ireland's Great Hunger

IN 2008 work was undertaken to repair the triple cenotaph at the Pioneer Cemetery in Martindale, Quebec which was in danger of collapse.

This memorial was erected by myself and two others to commemorate some of the early settlers in the area who were buried in that graveyard – many of those people were survivors of Ireland's Great Hunger and a good number were my own ancestors.

The original headstones were destroyed by a misguided parish priest in the early Sixties and after making a sacred promise, it became a personal mission to restore the names of those interred so they would not be forgotten.

The near collapse of the cenotaph was noticed while I was on a visit from Vancouver back to Martindale – a community in the Gatineau Valley just north of Ottawa where I was raised as a child.

Merle Hickey, the caretaker at St. Martin's Parish in Martindale, was able to gather some neighbours to help carefully remove the cenotaph, dig a deeper hole, pour cement and install it again...it was a very fragile operation not to break the stones.

It was then that it became abundantly clear to me that the work that Martin Brown, Eddie McLaughlin and myself started at the Pioneer Cemetery almost 40 years earlier was still not finished.

But time passes, both Martin Brown and Eddie McLaughlin have passed away, and I live in Vancouver.



By
CATHOLINE BUTLER



AN inscription in Irish, English and French at the base of the Celtic Cross reads: "May the light of heaven shine on the souls of the Gaels who left Ireland in the years of the Great Famine to find eternal rest in this soil. They will be remembered as long as love and music lasts."

I am the only one remaining of the original three, and next year – 2016 – I have committed to concentrating on completion of this work.

This is an urgent undertaking as time is marching on for me and I feel it is my responsibility to ensure the project is finished as a legacy for future generations.

When we undertook to raise this memorial our main objective was to preserve the memory of our ancestors who found their final rest in that sacred burial ground.

Since then numerous people have made pilgrimages to quietly reflect on the hardships endured by those early settlers and to locate more information on their own ancestors.

Just as in the early Seventies when Martin, Eddie and I undertook the original work, I can't do it alone.

I am appealing to parishioners, former parishioners and friends of the Martindale Pioneer Cemetery for help in raising funds and awareness of the project.

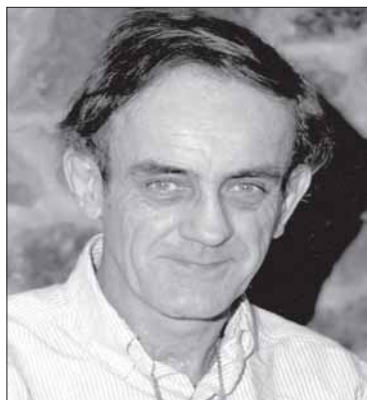
Among the outstanding issues is a plaque to provide some background about Martindale Pioneer Cemetery and those involved in restoring the cemetery.

A ramp needs to be built for disabled visitors and repairs to the steps leading up to the cenotaph and Celtic Cross and additional funds need to be set aside for the upkeep of Martindale Pioneer Cemetery.

In the February issue of *The Celtic Connection* I will have more detailed information regarding the funds required for these upgrades.

More details on the background of Martindale Pioneer Cemetery can be found on *The Celtic Connection* website at www.celtic-connection.com in the "about section" under Gatineau Valley.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like to help in the fundraising, you can contact me by e-mail at: cbutler@telus.net.



WE are deeply saddened at *The Celtic Connection* to learn of the death of our old friend James (Seamus) Anthony McMahon in Limerick, Ireland. Seamus was a great supporter of the newspaper in the early days. He was a talented artist – a raconteur, as bon vivant – and a very gentle soul who loved art, poetry, mythology, music and Irish culture. He died on 26 November 2015. He is regretted by his loving children Louise, James and Darragh, his beloved grandchildren Declan and Catherine, his brother Marcus, sister Jane, many loved in-laws, nephews, nieces and friends. Rest in peace Seamus, you are remembered fondly in Vancouver.

A time of festive celebration – and a season of reflection

IT IS the season of light and the season of darkness ~ a season of festive celebrations and a season of reflection.

This is the time in our hemisphere when the darkness intersects with the light at the longest day of the year on December 21.

During this beautiful season of celebration, I would like to remind our readers to give thanks for all our blessings, to be generous of spirit and to remember those who struggle daily with loss, poverty and depression.

The past year has been a difficult one for many. A year of seismic changes – both on a global scale and closer to home for families and individuals.

So many beloved souls – both young and old – have passed away and their departure is felt most acutely at this time of year.

And yet, why do we mourn and grieve? No doubt it is the profound loss or our irreplaceable loved ones, but is it also a reminder of our own mortality, how fragile we are as humanity on this planet.

We are all so interconnected, yet at times it is so easy to move along and dismiss the suffering of others.

I pray that all those who have departed us this year have found peace and have been relieved of all burdens or pain they carried in this life.

The winter solstice is also our reminder of the magnificent continuity of life –

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER



By **MAURA DE FREITAS**

out of darkness comes light and we welcome with joy the warmth of renewal and rebirth. It represents the hope of our world.

On December 10, I am also looking forward with much anticipation to the annual Irish seniors Christmas luncheon where old friends will reconnect after such a year of tremendous change.

Last December was the final one organized by the Irish Benevolent Society of B.C. and I'm so very pleased that the mantle has been picked up by the Irish Heritage Society of Canada. This will ensure the continuation of much needed moments of joy and celebration.

Thank you to all those who work to help bring our communities together both in celebration and for support in times of need.

Wishing all our readers and friends a very happy Christmas and a safe and joyful New Year.

Yours faithfully,
Maura

ABOUT OUR COVER ARTIST

WENDY ANDREW lives, dreams and paints in the beautiful mystical countryside of Southern England. She has been a professional artist for over 20 years and her work has been published internationally.

Her paintings are inspired by the ancient mysteries that are wrapped in the turning of the seasons, and the voice of The Goddess whispering through the mythical realms.

To order images by Wendy and see more of her paintings visit: www.paintingdreams.co.uk.



You can contact Wendy by e-mail at: info@paintingdreams.co.uk.



ARTWORK by Jose De Freitas

THIS is an artist's representation of St. Martin's Parish in Martindale, Quebec with the monument and Celtic cross in the foreground.



THE NAMES of those buried in the Martindale Pioneer Cemetery are recorded on the triple cenotaph engraved with a Celtic cross, a shamrock and a fleur-de-lis.

THE CELTIC CONNECTION

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That Was The Year That Was

VANCOUVER
— I hope you
enjoyed
2015 as

much as I did. I travelled a fair bit, heard some incredible music, presented some amazing concerts, attended some memorable festivals, and discovered heaps of new bands.

Along the way I celebrated 30 years of my radio show at CiTR, where we've moved into swanky new studios in the Nest at UBC (the new Student Union Building).

Trips to New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Cape Breton, San Francisco, and B.C. escapes in Harrison, Tofino, Saltspring, and Parksville — amongst other places — have certainly helped alleviate the doom and gloom from reading the papers or watching the news!

Above all, though, sharing music with the Rogue audience and the CiTR listeners continues to be my greatest joy.

Concert highlights at **The Rogue** are too numerous to list in their entirety, but I especially enjoyed these Celtic-related performers: **Le Vent Du Nord** and **The Fretless** (February), **Goitse** (March), **Cassie & Maggie** and **Hayes & Cahill** (May), **Oysterband** (August), **Blackthorn** (September), **Kevin Burke** (October), and **Sean McCann**, and **Jocelyn Pettit** (November).

Special mention must also go to PEI's **Ten Strings & A Goatskin** and Quebec's **Bon Debarras**, who came to CiTR to play **LIVE** and then played **The Rogue** that same evening to mark the 30th anniversary of **The Edge On Folk**.

The fabulous Quebec quartet **Le Vent Du Nord** are coming back on **January 27**, and Canadian string quartet **The Fretless** return on **April 15** for our first show at the **Revue Theatre** on Granville Island since we presented two nights there with Newfoundland's **Figgys Duff** back in 1989!

The Limerick quintet **Goitse** were amazing. Check out their CD **Tall Tales & Misadventures** to see what I mean.

Nova Scotia sisters **Cassie & Maggie MacDonald** were a revelation, and I loved joining in on the session they held at **Dentry's** a few days later. **Martin Hayes & Dennis Cahill** are always jaw-droopingly brilliant, of course.

In June Margaret and I jetted over to Ireland for a tour that included **Dingle** and **Dublin** and the **Doolin Folk Festival**, where we were treated to fabulous sets by the likes of **Luka Bloom**'s new project **The Limestone Desert Blues**, young Celtic band **Moxie**, NZ / Eire / Germany's **Aldoc**, **Sharon Shannon's Quartet**, a revitalized **Stockton's Wing**, the hugely entertaining **We Banjo 3**, and a great band from Sligo (and Mallorca and Switzerland) called **No Crows** — featuring **Steve Wickham** of **Waterboys** fame.

Flautist singer **Teresa Horgan** was a delightful surprise at Tommy O'Sullivan's Old Court House Pub in Dingle. She had released her debut CD three days earlier and is also a member of **The Outside Track** (she replaced



By
STEVE
EDGE

B.C.'s **Norah Rendell**, in fact).

The summer festivals offered up a huge variety of music — and weather!

Island Musicfest in Courtenay was my first chance to see **Steeleye Span** in concert.

They were / are still mesmerizing, and the delightful **Maddy Prior** told me she would love to bring the band to Vancouver next time!

I was fortunate to get to introduce them — along with **Roddy Campbell** who edits the excellent **Penguin Eggs** magazine — on the Concert Bowl.

I also managed to get the indoor stage hosting duties during the constant downpour, and the string workshop was one of the most incredible I've ever seen at a festival.

At Jericho Beach Park the following weekend highlights included **Richard Thompson** — although his main stage set was truncated mercilessly to make up for the time lost to sound problems earlier in the evening.

Aoife O'Donovan was joined by **Sara Watkins** and **Sarah Jarosz** for a wonderful acoustic set that same night, but it was too hot for me to gad about and enjoy the huge variety of music on offer, for the most part.

At **Mission** the Friday evening was washed out, and rain threatened throughout the weekend, doubtless causing many folks to stay at home.

What a pity. There was some fabulous music, from Poland's **Volosi**, Mongolia's **Haya**, Zimbabwe's **Black Umfolosi**, and B.C.'s **Jocelyn Pettit** and **Lydia Hol**.

I was totally enchanted by the Galician band **Ialma**; could have listened to — and watched — them all weekend long. In fact, that's not far off what actually happened ...!

The Edmonton Folk Music Festival didn't have as many Celtic bands as last year, but the likes of **I Draw Slow** kept the Irish tricolour flag flying and **Lynched** — also from Dublin — were especially stunning. **Oysterband**, **Ross Ainslie** and **Jarlath Henderson**, and **Brian McNeill** were in fine fettle, too.

A few days later the Oysters — fresh from a surprise extra gig at a Kelowna winery en route — played to a packed and very hot and steamy St. James Hall, and two days after that Irish singer and piping legend Finbar Furey played the same venue.

This was a wild night, but the reverence in which he is held by expats is incredibly moving, and the concert was staged to fulfill a dream of a dying woman to see Finbar in Vancouver and to share the experience with friends, family, and music fans.

The great man made sure she had a fabulous time; it was a beautiful thing to witness.

Recent CD launches by local Celtic luminaries **Blackthorn** and **Jocelyn Pettit** have been amongst the year's very best shows, but Scots legend **Dick**

Gaughan was not at his inspirational best.

Kevin Burke put on a superb solo show in October, and Newfoundland singer **Sean McCann** played to another packed house last month.

What a fabulous performance that was! In between those shows we headed east to the **Celtic Colours Festival** in Cape Breton (see last month's issue of *The Celtic Connection* for my full review. You can also go to my **Flickr** page if you'd like to see some of my photos. Just visit www.roguefolk.bc.ca/gallery to see these photos, as well as some I took at California's Celtic jam band **Wake The Dead**'s concert for Day of the Dead in Berkeley last month.)

Elsewhere around town there were some stunning concerts like **Lunasa** — with their new fiddler, **Colin Farrell** — at the Blueshore Stage at Capilano University and **The Barra MacNeils**'s **Cape Breton Christmas** show at St. Andrews Wesley the other week.

Not to mention the **Beatles / Quarrymen** tribute we staged at The Rogue in October with **Jim Byrnes**, **Cousin Harley**, and **Rod Davis**, and the **Rolling Stones** tribute organized by **Steve Dawson** at the **Kay Meek Theatre** a couple of weeks earlier!

I'd like to recommend the following **Celtic music albums** released — or unearthed — in 2015:

- **Altan** — *The Widening Gyre*
- **Barrule** (from the Isle of Man) — *Manannan's Cloak*
- **Ben Miller & Anita MacDonald** (Cape Breton) — *A Day At The Lake*
- **Blackthorn** — *Open Skies*
- **Danu** — *Buan*
- **East Pointers** (PEI) — *Secret Victory*
- **Eliza Carthy & Tim Eriksen** — *Bottle*
- **Fred Morrison Band** — *Live at Glasgow's Royal Theatre*
- **Hannah Sanders** — *Charms Against Sorrow*
- **Le Vent Du Nord** — *Tetu*
- **Lynched** — *Cold Old Fire*
- **Martin Simpson / Andy Cutting** /
- **Nancy Kerr** — *Murmurs*
- **Moxie** — *Planted*
- **No Crows** — *Waiting For The Tide*
- **Norah Rendell** — *Spinning Yarns*
- **Open The Door For Three** — *The Penny Wager*
- **Sean McCann** — A Collection of singles which he packaged up with a book of illustrations by Halifax singer Meaghan Smith
- **Shooglenifty** — *The Untied Knot*
- **Teresa Horgan & Matt Griffin** — *Brightest Sky Blue*
- **Vishten** — *Terre Rouge*
- **Jocelyn Pettit** — *Caravan*

and

• **Joy Of Living**, a tribute to Ewan MacColl by various performers including Christy Moore, Eliza Carthy, Karine Polwart, Dick Gaughan, Norma Waterson, Billy Bragg, Steve Earle, and Rufus & Martha Wainwright

Coming up at The Rogue this month:

December 8 — **Sarah Jane Scouten** (B.C. tradition-based songwriter with her new band)

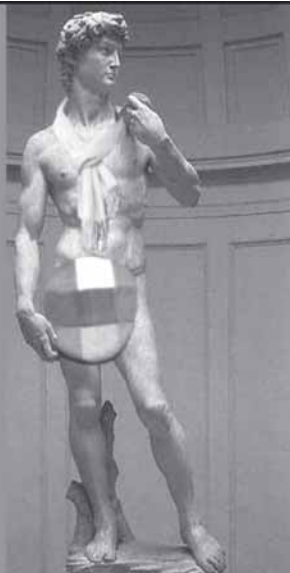
December 11 — **T Nile, Dana Sipos, and Melissa Bandura**

December 18 — **Van Django** with **L.J. Mounteney** and **Keith Bennett** presenting **Cool Yule**, a gypsy jazz Christmas.

[Continued next page...]

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COOL YULE: Van Django with L.J. Mounteney and Keith Bennett are presented by The

Rogue at St. James Hall on December 18.

[Continued from page 4]

We have a very exciting, varied - and busy - programme to start 2016!

January 15 - The Danish trad trio **Hoirup / Bugge / Lydom**

January 17 - **J.P. Cormier** (monstrously talented string player from Cape Breton)

January 22 - **The Revelers** (hot zydeco / R&B sextet from Louisiana)

January 23 - **Lydia Hol** (Vancouver songwriter's CD launch)

January 27 - Quebec's **Le Vent Du Nord**

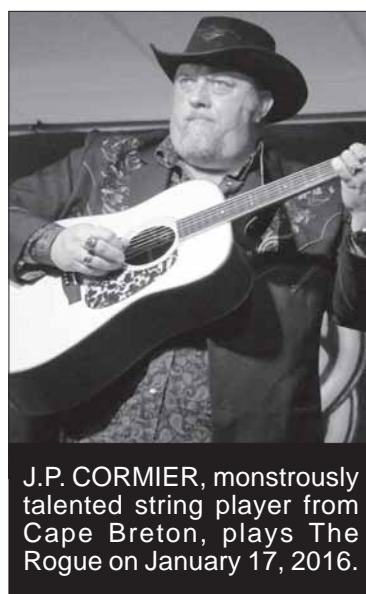
January 30 - **John Reischman & The Jaybirds**

January 31 - **Aurelio** from Honduras

In March we are teaming up with **Vancouver Celtic Festival** to present **Sharon Shannon** (March 13) and **De Dannan** (March 22) at St. James Hall. Watch this space!

If you're looking for **Christmas Gifts** for your favourite music lover, you could try these for size (they are available at all our shows):

Rogue Calendar 2016 (with photos from recent Rogue shows, Rogue concert dates, festival dates and much more)



J.P. CORMIER, monstrously talented string player from Cape Breton, plays The Rogue on January 17, 2016.

Parcel O'Rogues (ten-packs of Rogue concert tickets.)

Memberships (discounts on Rogue shows, and festival tickets and more)

or you could **Donate to the Mission Folk Festival** via **Canada Helps**.

Finally, while wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and musical solstice season - and a Roguish New Year - I'd like to mention that I'm starting to assemble **The Rogue History Project** - with stories, photos and memories from 30 years of Roguery (to coincide with the Rogue's 30th anniversary in May 2017).

If you have any special recollections you'd like to share, please e-mail me on roguefolk@telus.net.

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Winter Harp returns to transport audiences to another era

VANCOUVER – Now in its twenty-third year and a must-attend annual tradition for folks from Winnipeg to Victoria, one of this country's most joyous Christmas concert experiences, Winter Harp returns to the Vancouver area this December as part of their 11-city, 14-show Western Canada Christmas concert tour.

Known for sold-out houses and standing ovations, the ensemble returns to St. Andrew's Wesley United Church on December 19, in addition to performances in North Vancouver December 16 and 17, and two shows in Maple Ridge on December 20.

A "must-see" ticket on many a holiday calendar, Winter Harp captures the spirit of the season in a unique, even magical way.

The ensemble's outstanding musicians and singers, clad in rich and colourful medieval attire, perform a collection of music that ranges from familiar carols to new discoveries.

This year Winter Harp has its usual intriguing lineup of music – from the traditional *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* and *Deck the Halls*, to Celtic tunes *Sleep Soon in the Morning* and *Chanters*, to a Gregorian chant, a fun medieval song about being glad at Christmastime, and a beautiful Basque carol about the Angel Gabriel.

One of the highlights is a Fourth Century carol that was sung by the Maronites of Lebanon. It's a simple, yet haunting tune called *Glory to God* that will transport audiences back in time.

And just for some added spice, the musicians are throwing in one of their signature sizzling hot flamenco pieces.

As every year, the music is performed on a glorious mix of instruments, including golden Celtic and classical harps, drums, tambourines, temple bells, flutes, and an assortment of beautiful rare and ancient instruments.

Among these is the ethereal-sounding bass psalter (the only one like it in the world), the organistrum (an early form of the hurdy-gurdy), and the Swedish nyckelharpa.

"Christmas is about memory," says Winter Harp co-founder and musical director, Lori Pappajohn. "We remember the tree, we remember grandma, we remember the presents we got.

"[At Winter Harp] the carols we per-

form and the stories and poems we read take people into their memories. Everyone has their own memories of Christmas.

"That's where we journey, and we welcome people of all backgrounds to join us."

This year, the ensemble introduces a new voice in Krista Gibbard, a classically trained soprano whose repertoire ranges from light opera and oratorio to ancient and Celtic music.

Krista has performed in musicals and as a soloist for groups such as the Vancouver Bach Choir and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

"We are delighted Krista is joining us," says Pappajohn. "She has our exact sound – a crystal-clear voice with a lovely mixture of ancient and Celtic colourings."

The rest of the company includes Kim Robertson (Celtic harp, voice), Janelle Nadeau (pedal harp, voice), Lauri Lyster (percussion, voice), Jeff Pelletier (flute, bass flute, wooden piccolo), Joaquin Ayala (nyckelharpas, bass psalter, organistrum), Adam Henderson (narrator, percussion), and Lori Pappajohn (harp).

In celebration of their 23rd year, the ensemble is also releasing a new CD just in time for Christmas. *Winter Harp Live Volume 2* is a live recording filled with many of the group's (and their audience's) favorite songs.

The CD features the exquisite voice of Roger Helfrick (who sang with Winter Harp for the last three years), and their former singer Caroline Markos.

You'll also hear last year's spectacular *Shepherd's Dance* featuring flutist Jeff Pelletier, and two songs with exhilarating drum solos by their amazing percussionists.

The album ends with a beautiful rendition of *O Holy Night*. The CD contains well-known songs such as *The First Noel*, *Coventry Carol*, *Carol of the Bells*, and *I Saw Three Ships*, as well as lesser-known carols such as *Ever-*

more Be Merry and *Noel Nouvelet*.

The recording, which is just music (no narration), captures the spirit and energy of the ensemble's live performances. This is Winter Harp at its finest. To purchase tickets, go to winterharp.com.

While the CD helps keep the Winter Harp memory alive all year round, the live concerts are the place to be. Full concert details are on the Winter Harp website, and tickets for the Vancouver concert on December 19 are at ticketstonight.ca.

Belfast band determined show must go on in Paris

BELFAST – The lead singer in a veteran Northern Ireland punk band who defied safety concerns to play in trouble-hit Paris says he will never forget it.

The band performed at the Backstage by the Mill venue next to the Moulin Rouge following a series of terrorist attacks on Friday, November 13 which saw at least 129 killed and hundreds more injured.

Many in the audience thanked the group for their courage in going ahead with the gig as numerous bands including rock superstars U2 were among those to cancel high-profile shows in Paris following the attacks.

The Stiff Little Fingers gig saw the four-piece walk onstage with black tape around their left arms, while guitarist Ian McCallum wore a shirt emblazoned with the city's name.

The bloodiest attack came at the Bataclan theatre, where American rockers Eagles Of Death Metal were performing when gunmen stormed the venue.

The Stiff Little Fingers said their experience of the Troubles and bands not coming to their native Belfast during the conflict prompted their decision to carry on with their November 17 show.

The band came to prominence during Belfast's punk movement in the 1970s, which was the height of the Northern Ireland Troubles.

Band leader Jake Burns said their experience of musicians avoiding Belfast because of the Troubles made them more determined to take to the stage in Paris.

He said, "Having grown up in Northern Ireland in the Seventies, I remember bands not coming to play because of the conflict.

"As a youngster, it was frustrating to be deprived of such a normal part of life.

"For us as a band, our performances were sometimes delayed because of disturbances and road blocks, nothing serious. But we do have an appreciation of just how difficult these situations can be.

"Obviously, in Northern Ireland, conflict became very much the normal state of affairs. Here, it isn't.

"It's a huge shock to the system for people here. Unfortunately, we can't do a lot to help, we're just here to do our job."



TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR DECEMBER

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

www.worldbeatcanada.com.

The following is the *Celt In A Twist* Contemporary Celtic Top 10:

1. *The Irish Brigade* by The Mahones - *The Hunger & The Fight Pt. 2* on Whiskey Devil Records.
2. *Kometens Hale* by Jansberg - *Terra Nova* on GO' Danish.
3. *The Five Mile Chase* by Battlefield Band - *Beg & Borrow* on Temple Records.
4. *The Diamond* by Alba's Edge - *Run to Fly* on Paddledoo Music.
5. *The King's Shilling* by Cassie & Maggie - *Sterling Road* on Independent.
6. *Gazaremsan* by Jocelyn Pettit Band - *Caravan on Independent*.
7. *The Vapourer* by Spiro - *Welcome Joy and Welcome Sorrow* on Real World Records.
8. *What You Do With What You've Got* by Kristina & Quinn Bachand - *Little Hinges* on Independent.
9. *Queen of Argyle* by Blackthorn - *Open Skies* on Independent.
10. *Catch Me* by The Real McKenzies - *Rats in the Burlap* on Fat Wreckchords.

Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:
Alba's Edge - Run To Fly (Paddledoo Music)

Scottish Climber survives attack by grizzly In Banff National Park

CALGARY – Two climbers are extremely shaken up after narrowly surviving a grizzly bear attack in Banff National Park.

Greg Boswell and Nick Bullock were attempting a practice route on Mount Wilson, which is located along the Icefields Parkway in the Alberta Rockies.

Boswell is from Cupar in Fife in Scotland while Bullock is from Llanberis, Gwynedd in Wales.

Writing on his blog, Bullock described how his friend had to “prize apart” the “monster” bear’s jaw to free himself from its grip.

It was dark out, and the pair had just begun retracing their steps through the forest back towards their car. Suddenly, he heard Boswell shout “Bear, aaaaaaargh.”

Bullock spun around to watch Boswell run past him, followed closely by a grizzly. The bear briefly paused to look at Bullock, before noticing that Boswell had fallen.

Bullock writes, “Greg ran out of sight and the carnivorous freight train passed me, snorting and growling and bounding, dusting me with spindrift – it looked at me for a second, and for a second I thought this is it, but in that second the bear had spotted Greg had fallen.”



SURVIVOR Greg Boswell from Scotland was climbing with Welshman Nick Bullock when the bear attacked. He is pictured earlier on the day descending the 3,261 foot Mount Wilson in the Canadian Rockies.

Boswell attempted to kick the bear away, but no luck — “it bit straight through his brand new boot as if it were a carpet slipper.

“It lunged once more and crunched into his shin, placing a paw on his other leg before lifting him off the ground.

“I’m not sure at this point what other people would do, but Boswell is Boswell and the bear just didn’t appreciate this,” Bullock wrote.

“He grabbed the bear’s mouth and [pried] apart the jaws.”

The pair ran into the woods, and even-

tually managed to collect their equipment and make it down the mountain.

It was a three-hour descent, followed by a two-hour drive to the hospital.

Parks officials have closed the area for the rest of the winter, in order to give the bear space to hibernate.

Boswell, who, according to BBC News is one of Scotland’s leading climbers, wrote on Facebook that he’s OK, “just a little shook up and sore.”

He posted photos which might be considered graphic, from Banff Mineral Springs Hospital of his injuries.

PHOTOS: Nick Bullock



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POLICE patrol outside Leytonstone Underground station after a stabbing on December 5, which injured two. A man was apprehended by police in the station (right) while an onlooker shouted "You ain't no Muslim, bruv." The term is now trending online.

TWITTER CONDEMNS LONDON STABBING

LONDON – The hashtag #YouAintNoMuslimBruv is trending globally as Twitter users condemn a knife attack in London's Leytonstone subway station, which injured two people on Saturday, December 5.

Many deemed it the most British response ever...One person wrote, "Londoners prove, once more, that they are Higher than Hate & Hypocrisy. That they represent the best of Humanity."

Several videos of police officers subduing the 29-year-old suspect – who reportedly said, "This is for Syria" – have surfaced online.

A bystander can be heard yelling "You ain't no Muslim, bruv" at the apprehended man. Bruv is a British slang term for the word brother.

The suspect is in custody, while police investigate the attack as a "terrorist incident."

Twitter users quickly picked up on the line, turning it into a trending hashtag to express their contempt for the suspect and extremism.

The response left others longing to be British.

Some Twitter users commended Britons for how they handled the attack, saying that other countries could learn from their example.

Several remarked how powerful five words could be in commenting on a larger issue.

"To the eyewitness who shouted #YouAintNoMuslimBruv, he spoke for millions of British voices and got the point across directly in 1 moment."

Syria air strikes: British MPs authorize UK action against ISIS

LONDON – British MPs have overwhelmingly backed UK air strikes against so-called Islamic State in Syria, by 397 votes to 223, after an impassioned 10-hour Commons debate on December 2.

A total of 66 Labour MPs sided with the government – equivalent to 29 percent of the parliamentary party – as David Cameron secured a larger than expected Commons majority.

The PM insisted British war planes can help to bring about a political settlement in Syria but opponents said the move was a mistake.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn criticized the prime minister's "ill-thought-out rush to war," calling it "another ill-fated twist in this never-ending war on terror."

He argued that the case for war "does not stack up" – but his party was split, with senior Labour figures, including members of the shadow cabinet voting with the government after they were given a free vote.

All Scottish Nationalist Party MPs also voted against the government motion to bomb IS targets in Syria, along with Labour's only Scottish MP, Ian Murray.

Within hours the first bombs struck oil fields that the UK Government says IS are using to fund attacks on the West.



BRITISH BOMBERS made their first strikes on Syria on December 4, just hours after Britain's parliament voted to target Islamic State targets in Syria, a government source told media.

The Typhoons had arrived at Britain's airbase in Akrotiri, Cyprus, bolstering the Tornado strike force.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon confirmed that oil fields in Eastern Syria had been hit in a bid to cut off funds to the terror group.

Fallon, speaking during a visit Akrotiri, admitted that the air strikes could continue for three years.

Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said he would not give a "running commentary" on operations, having earlier suggested bombings could begin as early as December 3.

Welcoming the Commons result, Hammond said Britain was "safer because of the actions taken by MPs."

He added, "Military strikes alone won't help Syria, won't keep us safe from Daesh. But this multi-strand approach will."

The debate in Parliament comes less

than three weeks after the ISIS terror attacks on Paris and an appeal to the UK by President Hollande of France for military support in Syria.

Haunted by the spectre of past failures in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Cameron's decision to intervene in Libya in 2011, British MPs have been reluctant until now to agree to further military deployments.

The mood in the chamber was sulphurous after Cameron urged a hardcore of anti-war Tory MPs not to join Corbyn and "a bunch of terrorist sympathizers" in the division lobbies.

According to a YouGov poll, 48 percent of the British public approves of the RAF bombing ISIS in Syria, with 31 percent disapproving and 21 percent uncertain.

The share in favour of air strikes fell about 10 percentage points over the week prior to the vote, the pollster said.

Youngest MP issues call on teenage votes in EU referendum

LONDON – The UK's youngest MP has called for 16 and 17-year-olds to be given the vote in the forthcoming referendum on European Union (EU) membership.

Mhairi Black said the "remarkable" contribution of young people during Scotland's independence referendum demonstrated they should be allowed to play a full role in the debate.

The 21-year-old Scottish Nationalist Party MP spoke out in the wake of a House of Lords vote to amend the EU Referendum Bill to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to participate in the in/out poll.

The move would see some 1.5 million extra teenagers eligible to vote in the referendum which Prime Minister David Cameron is committed to holding by the end of 2017.

The Paisley and Renfrewshire South MP said, "We know that those who get into the habit of voting early are more likely to vote often for life."

"It is also important that those who will have to live longest with the decision on whether or not to stay in the European Union have their say."

"The SNP has always argued that the EU referendum should meet the gold standard set by Scotland's independence referendum, where 16 and 17-year-olds were allowed to vote and participate in such an important, democratic decision for the first time."

"We hope the vote in the House of



MHAIRI BLACK, the UK's youngest MP, said those who get into the habit of voting early are more likely to vote often for life.

Lords will force the Tory Government to reconsider their opposition and hold a more democratic debate.

"It is right that 16 and 17-year-olds have the vote and it would be wrong for the UK Government to rush into the referendum and deny them their democratic say."

The UK Government has said it will seek to overturn the amendment when the Bill returns to the Commons.

A Cabinet Office spokesman said, "The age of 18, not 16, is widely recognised as the age at which one becomes an adult."

Senior Labour members may quit over Syria action - BBC

LONDON – Several senior members of Britain's main opposition Labour Party may resign if they are forced to vote in line with their leader's view that the country should not extend air strikes against Islamic State to Syria, the BBC reported on November 27.

Two months after far-left lawmaker Jeremy Corbyn was elected leader, UK Labour is deeply split on foreign and security policy, curbing its ability to keep the ruling Conservatives in check.

A push by Prime Minister David Cameron to convince lawmakers to support extending air strikes has exposed further divisions, with Corbyn writing to his party saying he could not back the case for military action.

Some Labour lawmakers agree with Cameron, who must convince some opposition members and several skeptical lawmakers in his own party if he is to win a parliamentary majority for widening the air campaign against IS.

The BBC said an unnamed member of Jeremy Corbyn's 'shadow cabinet', the body whose members follow portfolios mirroring those of the government, had



FORMER Prime Minister Tony Blair (L) stands behind Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of Britain's opposition Labour Party, as Prime Minister David Cameron stands in front of former Prime Minister John Major at the Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the Cenotaph in central London in November.

warned people could quit after the Labour leader said he could not support the government's case for bombing Islamic State militants in Syria.

But later, Hilary Benn, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, said such differences were to be expected when considering military action, and although he backed extending air strikes, he respected Corbyn's right to express his opinion.

"Each individual in the end will reach

their own decision about what they think the right thing to do is and I respect that," he said, adding that the party would continue discussing its position.

"Whatever difference of view there may be on the question of what the right thing is to do in Syria, we're united behind Jeremy."

Cameron lost an earlier vote in parliament on launching air strikes against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in 2013.

CRIME FICTION – THE SCOTTISH CONNECTION



EDINBURGH – At this time of year in Edinburgh, it's not hard to see why the city has such a rich tradition of crime fiction.

The short days often see its denizens roaming in the gloaming by noon and plunged into darkness again before 4 PM.

The old town with its ancient stone houses rising towards the castle is riddled with dark alleys and secret doorways and the city was built in layers which descend towards the Grassmarket.

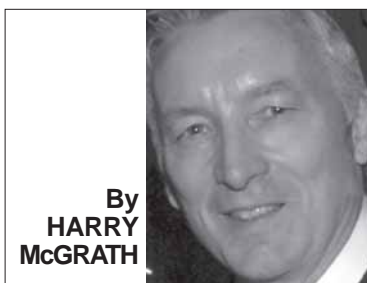
There, a pub called 'The Last Drop' indicates that it was in this area that the hangman once plied his trade.

It doesn't take much to imagine the murderers Burke and Hare operating around these parts. Some of the city's graveyards still have watchtowers where guards were posted to intercept would-be body snatchers.

Perhaps the naturally spooky atmosphere of Edinburgh and the historic stories of its real life criminals are part of the reason that the city has produced so many talented creators of imaginary crime, though Scotland beyond Edinburgh is also well stocked with fine exponents of the genre.

The success of the annual Bloody Scotland International Crime Writers is testimony to the enduring popularity of crime fiction on this side of the Atlantic.

It is fascinating, then, to watch Vancouver begin to build its own crime writing festival, the origins of which can be traced back to Scotland.



By
**HARRY
McGRATH**

As with so many of the great initiatives in modern Canadian literature – the Writers Union of Canada and the Vancouver International Writers and Readers Festival to name but two – the energy and vision for CUFFED – the Vancouver International Crime Fiction Festival – was provided by Edinburgh native Alma Lee.

And courtesy of social media, I was able to follow from Edinburgh while two of Edinburgh's finest – Alma and Ian Rankin – gave 600 people at St. Andrew's Wesley a taste of what is to come.

The turnout was all the more remarkable given that Rankin took to Twitter the following day to say "what I learned yesterday: Vancouver has a lot to teach Edinburgh about rain."

CUFFED officially launches in March next year and the timing could hardly be better. There seems to be general agreement that we are entering a new golden age of crime fiction.

The original "Golden Age" is often defined by the work of five writers, four of whom – Agatha Christie, Dorothy

L. Sayers, Ngaio Marsh and Margery Allingham – are well known to fans of the genre.

However, the fifth was in danger of being forgotten before the publication of a new and comprehensive account of her life and work.

In 1990 the Crime Writers Association voted Josephine Tey's *The Daughter of Time* the best crime novel ever written.

Tey was a pseudonym for Elizabeth Mackintosh who was born in Inverness, Scotland in 1896.

Her father ran a fruit shop but both of her parents had a love of literature which was passed on to their daughter.

Remarkably Mackintosh not only wrote great crime novels but authored successful plays under the pseudonym Gordon Daviot.

When it was produced in London's West End, her play *Richard of Bordeaux* launched the career of iconic British actor Sir John Gielgud.

Despite all this, Jennifer Morag Henderson's *Josephine Tey: A Life* is the first full biography of this remarkable woman.

Henderson contends that the relative neglect of Mackintosh/Tey/Daviot is attributable to the fact that she lived a dual life.

After her mother died, she would spend most of her time in Inverness caring for her aging father, but once a year she would decamp for London where she counted Laurence Olivier among her friends and was feted by publishers and theatre glitterati.

The foreword to Henderson's timely work is provided by another great Scottish exponent of the crime genre, Val McDermid.



PHOTO: Alex Waterhouse Hayward
SCOTTISH crime writer Ian Rankin with Alma Lee who founded the Vancouver International Writers and Readers Festival and is behind CUFFED, the new Vancouver International Crime Fiction Festival.

In it she describes Tey as "an author who provides a unique bridge between the Golden Age and the modern age, a woman who characterized the detective novel as a medium as disciplined as any sonnet."

Tey was mysterious and contradictory, beyond her dual London/Inverness life.

As McDermid puts it, "She was a straight woman whose strongest friendships were with a group of lesbians that included actresses, actors and directors."

"She was a proud Highlander who left the bulk of her estate to the National Trust in England at a time when most of the Scottish literary establishment



JOSEPHINE TEY was a pseudonym for Elizabeth Mackintosh who was born in Inverness, Scotland in 1896. Jennifer Morag Henderson's *Josephine Tey: A Life* is the first full biography of this remarkable woman.

espoused Scottish nationalism.

"Yet somehow as a writer she was enriched by these contradictions, creating characters in her fiction who struggled constantly with the idea of identity."

Tey died in 1952, but her spirit will be very much alive when the CUFFED Festival kicks off on the cusp of a Vancouver spring.

Indeed, it may even have been detectable in St. Andrew's Wesley last month.

According to Henderson, Ian Rankin is one of many modern authors who have cited Tey as an inspiration.

An animated talk by acclaimed Scottish crime writer Ian Rankin

VANCOUVER – The eve of November 16 was a blustery and rainy one in Vancouver.

I already had my ticket tucked away in my wallet as I took public transportation downtown to St. Andrew's Wesley United Church to attend 'An Evening with Ian Rankin'.

The Scottish crime writer best known for his Inspector Rebus stories was in town to promote his new novel, *Even Dogs in the Wild*.

American crime writer James Ellroy coined the phrase "the king of tartan noir" to describe Rankin's books.

Detective Inspector John Rebus is the protagonist in the Inspector Rebus series of detective novels by Rankin, ten of which have so far been televised as *Rebus*. The novels are mostly set in and around Edinburgh.

Having watched four episodes of *Rebus* on YouTube along with reading one of his books, *Fleshmarket Alley*, I felt a little more prepared for his talk.

Over the years, I had watched dramatizations of Rankin's books on PBS or Knowledge Network but had never actually read any.

He's a good storyteller and witty to boot. He spoke about living in Scotland and Edinburgh in particular, and how he sets up his *Rebus* stories. His research on



By
**SHARON
GREER
BROWN**

his subject matter is exceptional which is evident in his narratives.

One intriguing bit of information he revealed was that following the birth of his disabled son, he originally channeled his anger through his Rebus character.

He and his wife live in Edinburgh with their two sons.

The animated talk lasted for about 40 minutes, then he opened the floor for questions.

Rarely do I endure Q & A's but decided to remain to see if Rankin might divulge any other little nuggets of information.

People had to walk up to a microphone to ask their questions. One elderly man asked why Rankin didn't set more Inspector Rebus stories in Northern Ireland!

Rankin's answer was kindly as he responded by telling the man that there were plenty of good Irish crime fiction



PHOTO: Wikipedia

EDINBURGH crime writer Ian Rankin has been assigned the moniker 'the king of tartan noir' for his writing style.

writers more familiar with the north than he was.

Having enjoyed the talk and never really finding Q & A's very informative, I made my exit.

Watch for the CUFFED Vancouver International Crime Fiction Festival to be held at Performance Works on Granville Island from March 11 - 13, 2016.

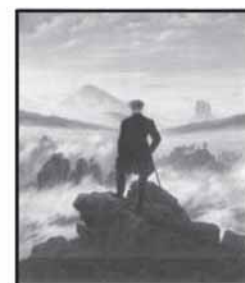
Alma Lee, the founding artistic director of the Vancouver International Writers and Readers Festival, returns with this new event. Check out www.cuffedfestival.com for details.

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UP HELLY Aa fire festivals are held in Shetland, in Scotland, annually in the middle of winter to mark the end of the yule season. The festival involves a procession of up to a thousand in Lerwick who celebrate the Scottish island's Norse heritage, dressed in Viking costumes.

Largest fire festival in Europe is held in Scotland

SHETLAND – Hundreds of Vikings march through the Shetland town of Lerwick each year, bearing lit torches in a celebration of their Norse heritage at the Up Helly Aa fire festival.

This is the largest fire festival in Europe and it takes place in January with a procession moving through the streets before culminating with the burning of a replica ship.

The tradition originates from the 1880s and has been cancelled only a handful of times, to mark the death of Queen Victoria and during the First and Second World Wars.

Each year its hardy residents are forced to endure the darkest of winters in the entire British Isles. Up Helly Aa features a band of latter-day Viking warriors, known as the Jarl Squad, and draws visitors from around the world.

And for those who cannot be there, the Promote Shetland local tourist authority streams the ceremony live online to thousands of viewers across the globe.

Edinburgh's Christmas Street of Light switched on

EDINBURGH – A spectacular new light show installed in the heart of Edinburgh's Royal Mile for the festive season was unveiled on the night of November 30.

More than 60,000 lights feature in the new attraction, which is expected to attract around a quarter of a million people to the High Street section of the thoroughfare over the next month.

It is the latest feature introduced by Underbelly, the Edinburgh Fringe festival promoters brought in to revitalize the city's Christmas events several years ago.

Tens of thousands of tickets for the free event, dubbed the "Virgin Money Street of Light," have already been snapped up in advance.

As well as the light show, the crowds are treated to specially-recorded versions of festive songs across Edinburgh.

Organizers said 5,000 tickets are available for each performance of a 20-minute show, which is being staged twice a day until Christmas Eve.

People from as far afield as the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Far East, and throughout Europe, as well as the people of Edinburgh, have snapped up tickets to the event which will run until Christmas Eve.



A spectacular new light show has been installed in the heart of Edinburgh's Royal Mile for the festive season.



Vancouver Celebrates Wales Weekend: Three days of immersion in Welsh culture

By
EIFION
WILLIAMS



VANCOUVER – On the weekend of October 30 to November 1 the Vancouver Welsh Society held a number of events in its annual Vancouver Celebrates Wales festival.

On the Friday evening, the society presented a Vancouver Celebrates Wales musical evening at the West Point Grey United Church.

The master of ceremonies was well-known Vancouver actor Russell Roberts, who is recognized as an accomplished presenter and interpreter of the works of Dylan Thomas.

Russell interspersed the evening's programme with readings of passages from Dylan's *Under Milk Wood*.

The Cambrian Chorus, consisting of representatives from the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir and the Vancouver

Orpheus Choir provided rousing opening and closing choral selections.

The three guest soloists enjoyed enthusiastic receptions from the audience.

Huw Evans, a folk singer, composer and flautist from Neath, South Wales, pleased the audience with two flute solos and his own song compositions, including *O Gymru i Ganada*, an immigrant's lament for the Welsh homeland, and *The Shores of Three Cliffs Bay* in praise of a Swansea Bay landmark.

Nerys Jones, a popular mezzo-soprano and harpist from Seattle, sang a wide range of musical numbers, including a Welsh and Irish folk song and a rousing *Gypsy Fiddler* by Frank Lehar.

Nerys also received wide applause for two contemporary Welsh compositions, *Digon i mi* by Rhys Jones, and the ever-popular *Anfonaf Angel* by Robat Arwyn.

Richard Williams, a baritone with a distinguished international operatic career, greatly impressed the audience with the polished and impressive range of his voice.

Richard is currently the artistic director of the popular Opera Pro Cantanti, Canada's only repertory opera company, which performs regularly at the Cambrian Hall.

The audience was also entertained by Karen Lee Morang and the Lady Larks, who presented a number of vintage



1940s and 1950s toe-tapping swing numbers. The group exhibited much humour, charm and virtuosity in their musical numbers.

On the Saturday afternoon, David Llewelyn Williams presented a programme at the Cambrian Hall to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Welsh landing in Patagonia.

David showed a short video of the Liverpool ceremony commemorating the departure of the *Mimosa* in 1865 and followed this with an account of the circumstances and hardships encountered on the voyage.

With the assistance of Paul Lievesley, David also showed a film on the contemporary state of the Welsh language in Patagonia, related by BBC broadcaster Huw Edwards.

The film received wide acclaim when it was shown in the UK earlier this year.

David concluded his presentation with a copy of a Patagonian adaptation of

the Welsh national anthem that had been discovered by a researcher in the archives of the National Library of Wales last June.

The Sunday morning bilingual religious service was dedicated to the society's long-time member, Captain Ieuan Lampshire-Jones.

Ieuan is a retired merchant seaman with a distinguished record of service during the Second World War followed by an impressive career as a marine surveyor covering an area from Northern California to Greenland.

The final event of the Welsh weekend was the traditional annual *Gymanfa Ganu*. The conductor this year was Rupert Lang, organist and music director at Vancouver's Christ Church Cathedral.

The accompanist was Eric Hominick, while Nerys Jones and Huw Evans were again the soloists.

Those attending enjoyed a robust hymn-singing session despite the fact that attendance at the event was down from past years.

The events of the Vancouver Celebrates Wales weekend were organized by members of the Welsh Society's Social Committee – Gillian Rogers (chair), Jane Byrne, Heather Davies, Gaynor Evans, Mary Lewis, Pat Morris, Angela Smith, Lynn Owens-Whalen and Kathy Thomas.



DAVID LLEWELYN WILLIAMS



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.

For more Welsh news
turn to pages 26 & 27

‘Duke of Princes Street’ leaves £26 million legacy

EDINBURGH – A lawyer styled the “Duke of Princes Street,” who lived in a private members’ club on the famous Edinburgh thoroughfare for almost 60 years, left £26 million in his will.

Ivor Guild lived at the New Club, where Sir Sean Connery stays when in Edinburgh, for 57 years after being offered a room by the management.

A well-known city figure, he could be seen walking on Princes Street most days with a hat and raincoat in all weathers.

Guild died aged 90 last January after suffering a stroke at a restaurant in Berlin. The Dundee-born bachelor owned barely any possessions, did not drive and rarely bought new clothes.

However, his recently published will reveals an estate worth £26,020,030.

After leaving small gifts of £3,000 each to his 11 godchildren, he instructed that the remainder should be split between a niece and two nephews who live overseas.

It is thought Guild had inherited money from his father Colonel Arthur Guild, a stockbroker and Dundee’s jute baron.

He also had a long career as a solicitor with Edinburgh firm Shepherd and Wedderburn and invested in stocks and shares.

In an interview Guild, one of only nine people listed on the electoral roll as living on Princes Street, told why he had



IVOR GUILD, a Dundee-born bachelor styled the “Duke of Princes Street,” who lived in a private members’ club on the famous Edinburgh thoroughfare for almost 60 years, left £26 million in his will.

chosen to continue renting a room at the New Club rather than buy his own property.

He said, “The secretary persuaded me to move in in the dim past and I’ve lazily remained. The idea was that there was nothing worse than an empty club and if there are residents there, they give it a permanent life. People come from afar and spend the night at the club.

“A great advantage was that I could walk to work in seven minutes. It’s very pleasant and central and you can get anywhere easily.

“My room windows look west so I have a fine view of Rose Street and I can see the western extremity of the Castle. I also have a good view of the fire-

works at the end of the Festival.

“At my age, any change is undesirable.”

Guild had no kitchen so ate out every day. He was immortalised in watercolour for the club’s bicentenary in 1987.

As well as his legal career, he had been a director and chairman of several leading investment trusts.

He held a number of high offices in the Scottish Episcopal Church, and was procurator-fiscal to the Lyon Court for 34 years.

He served on government committees, including the Council on Tribunals and the Interception of Communications Tribunal. In 1985 he was appointed a CBE and was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1990.

SFU Pipe Band host their annual Burns Dinner and Silent Auction

COQUITLAM – The Simon Fraser University Pipe Band will once again host their annual Robbie Burns Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, January 23 at the Executive Plaza Hotel, 405 North Road, in Coquitlam.

This fun-filled evening celebrating the life of the Scottish bard will feature performances by the six-time world champion Simon Fraser University Pipe Band.

Proceeds will go toward piping and drumming education via the band’s youth program – the Robert Malcolm Memorial (RMM) Pipe Bands.

The pipe band organization offers a range of instruction to youth and currently has bands competing in grade 5, 4, 3 and 2 as well as a beginner music program to help young musicians get a head start before deciding to take up the pipes or drums.

The Simon Fraser University Pipe Band Society is proud to have one of the largest and most extensive youth programs for piping and drumming in the world.

This past August, saw the band, under Pipe Major Alan Bevan earn a fifth place win on the world stage. Their Glasgow Concert Hall performance of ‘Nous Somme Prets’ was a sold out



A PROCESSION of pipers and honoured guests piping the haggis in to the annual Simon Fraser University Pipe Band Robbie Burns fundraising dinner.

event prior to the World Championships.

Organizers hope you can join them for the dinner and help promote piping, drumming, and Scottish heritage while enjoying a night of good music, enter-

tainment, and fun. Tickets are \$80 each and doors open at 6 PM.

Visit www.sfupb.com for ticket information and follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

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'We can't wait to open the curtain and reveal the full program for CelticFest Vancouver 2016!'

VANCOUVER – CelticFest Vancouver organizers have announced the dates for the 12th Annual CelticFest Vancouver.

From March 10-17, 2016, Vancouver streets, concert halls, and pubs will resound with the sights, sounds, and vibrant spirit of Celtic culture.

A special pre-festival concert featuring Irish folk hero Damien Dempsey on March 5 will set the scene for all of the great music, dance, tastes, and other entertainment to come.

CelticFest also proudly presents music icons, The Irish Rovers on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

Western Canada's largest Celtic celebration offers the best of traditional and contemporary Celtic culture in all its diversity and vitality – and everyone is invited to come along!

"We're looking forward to an amazing festival in 2016", says executive festival producer, John Coughlan.

"We welcome folks from all across the region and beyond to join us in an exciting celebration of traditional and contemporary Celtic culture, from great concerts and performances to special events and, of course, the wildly popular Celtic Village and the St. Patrick's Day parade.

"Stay tuned for more details to come when we announce the full program on January 20, 2016."

On Saturday, March 5, CelticFest Vancouver will present a special pre-festival concert with chart-topping Irish folk hero Damien Dempsey.

This northside Dublin-born singer-songwriter's music has been described as traditional Irish music fused with reggae, rock and folk, put through a grounded, working class, worldly-aware yet caring consciousness.

From his 2000 debut album, *They Don't Teach This Shit in School*, his has been a unique and important voice in Irish music and culture, with fans and collaborators that have included Brian Eno, Sinéad O'Connor, Bob Dylan, U2, and Morrissey.

Known for his dynamic live shows, the festival is thrilled to bring this award-winning, platinum-selling artist to Vancouver in what is sure to be a sell-out show.

Tickets go on sale December 9 for this concert at The Imperial at 319 Main Street in Vancouver. Tickets at celticfestvancouver.com.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with The Irish Rovers on Thursday, March 17, 8 PM, at the Vogue Theatre, 918 Granville Street in Vancouver.

They've been delivering their unique brand of musical joy for 50 years, and now for the first time, CelticFest welcomes and presents the rollicking, rousing international ambassadors of Irish music and good cheer to the festival.

Hear the much-loved songs of revelry and joy that have won over generations of fans the world over. This is a must-attend concert for fans of the iconic band on their last world tour.

Where else would you want to be on St. Patrick's Day 2016? Tickets on sale December 9.

The festival's schedule of ticketed events is a 'must-see' list of events.

Here's a glimpse of what's on tap (with full details to be announced January 20, 2016):

The Vancouver Welsh Choir returns to CelticFest's lineup, after a sold out 2015 concert, with a featured performance on Friday, March 11.

The festival welcomes back, by popular demand, the CelticFest Ceilidh with a lineup of Celtic gold on Saturday night, March 12 at The Imperial.

This rollicking, kick-up-your-heels night of music and dance is the beating heart of the festival and sells out every year.

For whisky enthusiasts, the festival again offers a premium tasting session on Wednesday, March 16.

Participating pubs and restaurants in and around the downtown Vancouver area will offer an array of performances by musicians, bands and dancers throughout CelticFest, and up to and including St. Patrick's Day on March 17.

Other ticketed shows will be announced on January 20.

CelticFest 2016 continues its tradition of offering a variety of *free* events for all to enjoy.

On the weekend of March 12-13, The Celtic Village returns to Granville Street between Robson & Nelson with music, dance, fun and frolic, food – and great shopping, too!

This free weekend-long street fair features performances by some of B.C.'s finest Celtic music groups, local dance troupes, and other entertainers.

Visiting villagers can shop at the Street Market for an array of Celtic treasures and the works of talented artisans, and sample from a wide selection of food and fare.

Friends and families can gather and wander, soaking in that special Celtic spirit all weekend long. To participate as a Street Market vendor, complete the online entry form by January 31 at www.celticfestvancouver.com.

The St. Patrick's Day parade, CelticFest's fun and fabulous signature event, paints downtown Vancouver in a glorious emerald green on Sunday, March 13, starting at 11 AM.

The parade route flows north along Howe to Georgia Street, drawing spectators from far and wide to cheer on a couple thousand lively parade participants – marching pipe and drum bands, Celtic music groups, acrobats, drill teams, Irish and Scottish youth dance groups, and many more. To join the parade, complete an entry form by February 15 at www.celticfestvancouver.com.

Coughlan says, "We can't wait to open the curtain and reveal the full program for CelticFest Vancouver 2016!"

"We've got a great festival in store, and look forward to telling you all about it in January, and welcoming everyone to the 12th Annual CelticFest Vancouver in March!"

Tickets on sale December 9 for Damien Dempsey (March 5) and The Irish Rovers (March 17)! All other event tickets go on sale, and the full festival schedule will be announced and posted online January 20, 2016 at www.celticfestvancouver.com.



THE IRISH ROVERS will headline CelticFest Vancouver at the Vogue Theatre in downtown Vancouver on St. Patrick's Day 2016.

Mark your calendars for exciting events upcoming in 2016

VANCOUVER – As everyone prepares for the holiday season – decorating homes, making the plum pudding, wrapping presents, etc – the IWN executive is busy making plans for spring.

Firstly, mark Sunday, January 3 on your calendar for a brunch to celebrate Nollaig na mBan.

Now we all know that Nollaig na mBan officially falls on January 6 (mid-week in 2016) and based on the roaring success of the brunch last year, we decided to repeat it.

So join us at Mahonys (Stamps Landing) at 11 AM on Sunday, January 3. We will be in touch via e-mail and Facebook with RSVP details.

As 2016 is the Commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising, the IWN is working with Simon Fraser University to

IRISH WOMEN'S NETWORK OF BC



bring over a leading woman academic from Ireland to give a talk on the role of women in the Easter Rising.

This is a very exciting collaboration with Professor Dara Culhane and Professor Willeen Keough from SFU and we really appreciate their assistance with this special event.

The date is set for Thursday, April 7 so

mark your calendars and watch for more information in the spring through our usual communication channels.

We are also collaborating with our SFU friends on an oral history project – recording and documenting the stories of Irish women who came to B.C. and settled here in earlier days.

This is a project that the IWN executive has wanted to do for a number of years and so it's great to finally be moving it forward.

There are other events taking place under the banner of 'Irish in Vancouver' that would not happen if it was not for the IWN volunteers, so thank you to all who contribute to these important community-building activities.

Check out the latest information in the 'Irish in Vancouver' article. For more info about the IWN events or to volunteer, contact us at irishwomensnetwork@gmail.com or www.irishwomenbc.net.

In Darkness, Find the Light of the Winter Solstice

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE

The withering world awaits newborn light. Whether as hope, charity, or safety, help is needed here.

The World Tree trembles in the paroxysms of our time. Boughs reach for light, roots dig for sustenance, hanging on. Yet, the ancient holidays are upon us. The whipsaw incongruity is heavy – or perhaps not.

Despite the conveniences, and inconveniences, of modern life, we are not so different from those who came long before.

We too, live in a violent world, where survival for many is a struggle. A world where people kill mercilessly in the name of gods, and a peaceful or prosperous future is anything but certain.

The leveling of present with past makes the experience of the season of light, amidst such darkness, bearable.

The winter festival season, celebrated in so many ways around the world, owes its beginnings to the desperation and death of all mortal life.

Many today deride the symbolism of the season, but it was born of times like ours, when warmth was scant, light dim, and hunger and violence took their toll.

The trappings of the holiday season – decorative trees, sparkling lights, special foods, and family gatherings offer refuge to individual and community alike.

While we all hope to make new memories, better memories to replace those of loss, the human world often does not deliver.

Yet sanctuary for the soul still resides within every careworn heart.

There, an indomitable fire warms, imagines, and remembers what is needed

to carry on in this season, and every other.

The essential task, and responsibility, is to choose inner fire, instead of darkness.

As within, so without. We light the world not with price tags and packages, but with hope, by seeing and choosing within ourselves a road of light, not shadow, even as terror wishes otherwise.

It was the ancient magic of our ancestors at winter solstice to hang bits of glass, and kindle bonfires to aid and nurture the newborn sun.

In our times, we can still look to the winter solstice. Give what you can, but take the strength you need from the returning sun – choose light.

The winter solstice occurs at 8:49 PM, PST, on Monday, December 21, 2015.

Beannacht Nollaig

Page 1



**Nollaig fé shéin
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For information about the Society Christmas and
upcoming events visit **www.WelshSociety.com**

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Merry Christmas

Page 2



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Beannacht Nollaig

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*Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year
to everyone from the members of the
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For more information about the Irish Heritage Society of Canada, contact:
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www.irishheritagesociety.ca

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*To all our members and friends in the
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President: Bob Hillis; E-mail: bobhillis8@gmail.com

Phone: 604 506 3208

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Irish Women's Network of BC

Wishes you peace
and joy at Christmas
Beannachtai na Nollaig

Reminder: Nollaig na mBan is on
Sunday, January 3 at 11:00 A.M.

Mahonys Stamps Landing location - See you there.



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the love of the Son and God's peace to you

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*May people live in freedom, worshipping
as they see fit, loving others.*

May the sanctity of the home be ever preserved.

May peace, everlasting peace, reign supreme."

- Soundings, Vol. 2, #12

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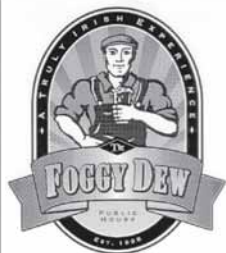
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Merry Christmas

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Irish in Vancouver Christmas Drinks

VANCOUVER – To celebrate the festive season, the Irish in Vancouver gang invite you to join them for a Christmas drink on Saturday, December 19 at The Pint on Abbott Street.

The gathering kicks off at 7 PM and those who arrive before 8:30 PM will receive a welcome drink compliments of The Pint.



This event will be a great opportunity to catch up with friends, especially for those not returning home this Christmas.

To RSVP, you can join the event on Facebook via Irish in Vancouver

Facebook page, or if you are not on Facebook, e-mail irishwomensnetwork@gmail.com.

Future events planned for 2016 include a pub quiz on January 21 and the popular Newcomer's Info and Networking Seminar on March 5.

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

Beannachtaí na Nollag!

RTE's Teresa Mannion goes viral following dramatic weather report

DUBLIN – RTE journalist Teresa Mannion was a hot topic on social media following her live report on RTE News on December 4.

She reported live from Galway in awful conditions during Storm Desmond – in gale force winds and with rain pouring down around her.

Teresa was wrapped in rain gear and a hat and the camera was swaying in the howling winds as she delivered her report.

She told viewers how treacherous weather conditions were “here in the west and the north west” and her report won praise across Twitter.

“I cannot repeat the advice often enough from the gardai. Don't make unnecessary journeys, don't take risks on treacherous roads. And don't swim in the sea. Incredibly people have been spotted in the water here in Blackrock in Salthill today and yesterday.”

RTE reacted to the lively report – tweeting out a special video with the report less than an hour later. She appeared



VIDEO of RTE journalist Teresa Mannion reporting live from Galway at the height of Storm Desmond goes viral online.

again on RTE News at 9:30 PM for an update.

Although still reporting live in extremely tough conditions, the winds appeared to have died down slightly. She told view-

ers of how a number of towns in the west of the country were cut off due to the storm.

At the end of the report, she smiled as broadcaster Brian Jennings told her to get in out of the rain and warm up.

O'Hara name used as stage name

Dear Editor:

In the interests of genealogical correctness could you please run a correction in the next edition of CC detailing the fact that Maureen O'Hara's real name was Fitzsimmons not O'Hara as indicated in the November 2015 edition of *The Celtic Connection*. Thank you for adjusting your records accordingly.

Andrew John Hunter
By e-mail

1916 Rising commemoration in Vancouver next year

VANCOUVER – The Vancouver Easter Rising Committee will be hosting a 1916 - 2016 Commemoration Banquet on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the Hilton Hotel Metrotown in Burnaby. Music and entertainment will commemorate Ireland's 1916 rebellion, including performances by Blackthorn, Pat Chessell, Jimmy Cole, Rebecca Blair (harpist), and the De Danann Irish Dancers. For tickets or more information, call Bernard at (604) 929-7607 or George (604) 948-2885.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

This Christmas season....may Power Divine enter every aspect of your life, endowing it with the rewards of material accomplishments, the treasures of purposeful existence, and the eternal light of spiritual achievement.

– *Desiderata II*

[Found in Old St. Paul's Church, Baltimore, dated 1693]

Charity reports 'twice as many' calls from people in need

DUBLIN – One of Ireland's longest-serving and biggest charities has warned the number of people seeking help with basic needs like food and heat remains at record levels.

The St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) said that despite some parts of the economy enjoying recovery it was still taking twice as many calls from the poorest in society than in 2009.

Its volunteers will visit about 140,000 people between now and Christmas. And in the midst of a homelessness and rent crisis, the charity said an increasing part of its work was supporting families at risk of losing their home or living in emergency accommodation like hotels and B&Bs.

Launching its annual appeal, St. Vincent de Paul said calls for help were up four percent in the eastern part of the country but marginally down in other regions.

Kieran Stafford, national vice-president, said most people who needed the society's help were struggling week in and week out on a basic minimum income from welfare or low-paid work.

St. Vincent de Paul spends about 40 million euro a year on food, energy, education, clothing and furniture for families in or at risk of poverty, as well as toys at Christmas.

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With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year*

**We are looking forward to getting back to playing
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Check out our Website for Summer Tournament Dates

**For more information about club activities:
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Irish-born Nellie Cashman known as 'the Miner's Angel'

NELLIE Cashman, who was born in Ireland in 1845, became noted across the American West and in western Canada as a nurse, restaurateur, businesswoman, Roman Catholic philanthropist in Arizona, and gold prospector in Alaska.

A native of Cobh, Co. Cork, she and her sister were brought as young children to the United States by their mother about 1850 to escape the poverty of the Great Famine.

The family lived first in Boston, Massachusetts, where the girls also worked when old enough, before migrating to San Francisco, California, in 1865.

Cashman established her first boarding house for miners in British Columbia during the Klondike Gold Rush, asking for donations to the Sisters of St. Ann in return.

During her time there, she led a rescue of tens of miners in the Cassiar Mountains in 1875 and became known as 'the Miner's Angel'.

Cashman, along with six men, loaded sleds with 15,000 pounds of supplies and completed a long journey in heavy snow to the remote mining camp, arriving in time to nurse 100 sick miners back to health.

After moving to Tombstone, Arizona in 1880, Cashman built the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and did charitable work with the Sisters of St. Joseph.

She successfully reared the five children of her sister Fanny after they were orphaned in 1883. In the late 1880s, Cashman set up several restaurants and boardinghouses in Arizona.

In 1898 she went to the Yukon for gold prospecting, working there until 1905. At the age of 78, Cashman mushed a dog team 750 kilometres across Alaska.

She became nationally known as a frontierswoman, with the Associated Press covering a later trip. In 2006 Cashman was inducted into the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame.

In 1925 she became ill with pneumonia and was admitted to the Sisters of St. Ann, the same hospital she had helped to build 51 years before.

She is interred at Ross Bay Cemetery in Victoria, B.C.

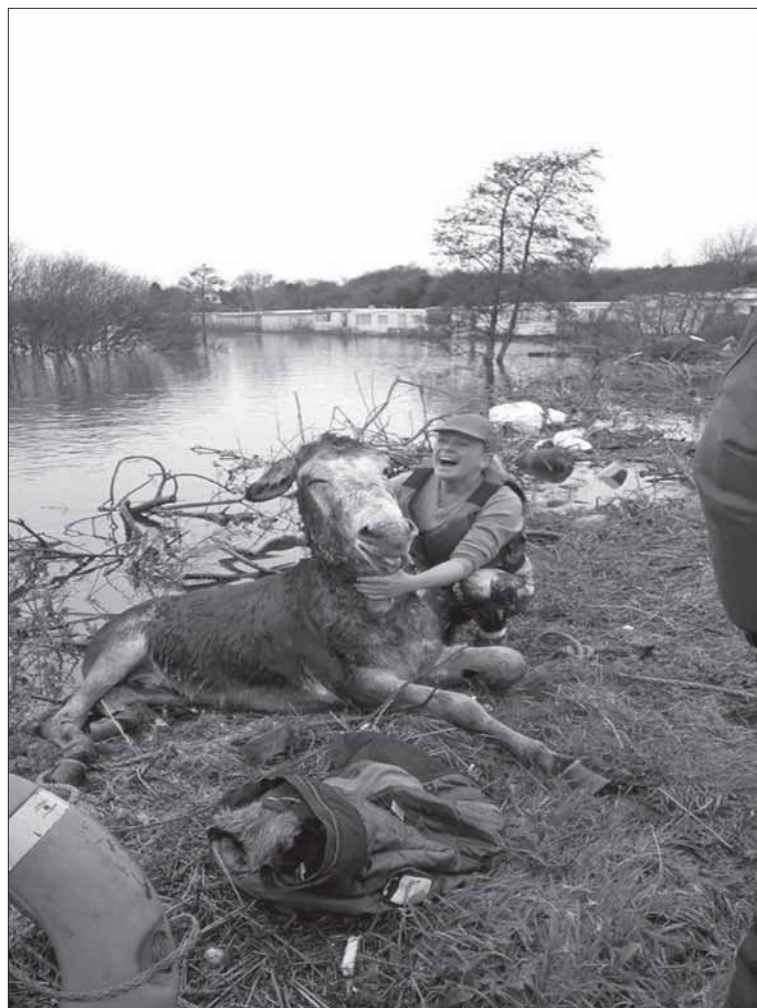
Her epitaph reads, "Friend of the sick and the hungry and to all men. Heroic apostolate of service among the western and northern frontier miners. Miner's Angel, 1872-1924 in Nevada, in Arizona, in California, in the Cassiar, in the Yukon, in Alaska. Born in Ireland. Died with the Sisters of Saint Ann at St. Joseph's Hospital, Victoria, B.C., January 4, 1925. Requiescat in Pace."



ARTWORK by Deirdre Keohane
NELLIE CASHMAN [1845-1925] was born in Ireland and lived larger-than-life leaving a legacy of caring as she sheltered the homeless and relieved the afflicted in frontier communities from Mexico to Alaska.



ARTWORK by Deirdre Keohane
IN her lifetime Nellie Cashman was devoted to helping others. She provided much support to the Sisters of St. Ann in Victoria, B.C. who founded schools, hospitals and a broad spectrum of programs in communities throughout B.C., the Yukon, Alaska and Washington State.



MIKE THE DONKEY was rescued from rising floodwaters near Killorglin in Co. Kerry on December 6, 2015. (Animal Heaven Animal Rescue)

Donkey Who Nearly Died In Flood Breaks Into A Grin When He's Rescued

KILLORGLIN, Co. Kerry – A drowning donkey was so relieved to reach dry land that he appeared to break into a wide grin.

Animal Heaven Animal Rescue in Kerry, Ireland, received a call from a worried owner about a donkey in difficulties in floodwater during the bad weather on Sunday, December 6.

The centre posted an SOS on its Facebook page at lunchtime: "Code red. Today's emergency. Please help me."

"There is a donkey stranded in deep flooding in Killorglin."

"I need a boat and men to help. I have ropes etc. Please get me help."

Help for the owner, plus Suzanne Gibbons who was on the ground for the rescue centre, came in the form of Killorglin Rowing Club coach Mike Fleming, his small boat, and another volunteer called Declan.

"Picture this," ARAH posted to Facebook. "He was my last chance and phone call to beg for a boat."

"He listened and he drove down to meet me. I knew straight away he had the guts to do it."

"No negative attitude just come on girl we'll give it a go. He braved such dangerous water to help us save him."

Their equipment may have been lim-

ited, the weather may have been against them, but they managed to tow the stranded donkey to safety.

After the donkey was pulled from the waters to safe ground, his face is the beautiful picture of relief.

The donkey has now been christened Mike – of course – and is currently recovering in a warm stable.

He will go back to his owner when he's all warmed up and the floods are gone. Until then, he's happily warming up under heat lamps at AHAR.

"He is now dried with towels, eating a hot mash, all cozy and warm and our vet has seen him and started him on antibiotics to prevent pneumonia," the centre wrote.

"He has a small bit of fluid in one lung but our vet said he will recover. All he needs is loads of TLC."

They also explained how he got into difficulty.

"Just to let you know it was his owner who called for help and never gave up until he found us."

"He normally has a shed and field where he is safe but the storm blew down the gate and he got away then the floods hit and he was trapped."

They added, "We loved every moment saving Mike and I think I speak for all of us, he was so worth the danger just to see his little face on dry land. Thanks for all your lovely comments and support."

Happy 50th wedding anniversary to Margaret and Bernard Ward



OVER 60 family and friends joined Margaret and Bernard Ward to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary last month. Among the guests were their 10 wonderful grandchildren. Jimmy Cole and Mary Brunner played with guitar and fiddle at the celebration, keeping everyone well entertained throughout the night.



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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. — PKM, MJ, CC, CTK, RD, LMC

Novena to St. Jude

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

— PMC, MDF, CB, JM

First Nations give the Ireland Canada Monument 'green light' to proceed at Wainborn Park

VANCOUVER – On November 19 the Ireland Canada Monument Society was notified by the Vancouver Parks Board that the two proposed sites for the historic Ireland Canada Monument have been given a “green light” by three First Nations to proceed.

Leaders of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations have agreed to allow the monument which will honour the contribution of Irish Canadians and Canadians of Irish descent to Canada and the City of Vancouver to proceed at Wainborn Park in Vancouver.

Descendants of these three First Nations have lived in the Vancouver area since time immemorial and in 2014 Vancouver City council in a unanimous vote acknowledged that the entire city is on unceded aboriginal territory.

Previously in the summer of 2013, the mayor of Vancouver Gregor Robertson declared a ‘Year of Reconciliation’, in the hopes of building new relationships between aboriginals and the people of Vancouver.

“Underlying all other truths spoken during the Year of Reconciliation is the truth that the modern City of Vancouver was founded on the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations and that these territories were never ceded through treaty, war or surrender,” reads part of the motion from the city.

The proposed monument project sites are now scheduled to proceed to a community engagement process under direction of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

The society has notified the Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa and the Department of Canadian Heritage of the progress and remains extremely grateful to staff at Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver Parks Board Commissioners for the proposal of the two sites now under consideration at Wainborn park – one of which will be selected for the historic monument via the consultation phase of the project.

Brendan Flynn, executive director of the society notes that the completed monument will represent the history of the Irish in Canada during the past 500 years. During this time the Irish in Canada have contributed to many facets of the Canadian identity.

He encourages the Irish communities to partake in a questionnaire which will take place in advance of the public process.

Those completing the survey will have the opportunity to submit their thoughts and ideas regarding the monument de-



PHOTO: Al Harvey

AERIAL PHOTO of Wainborn Park in Vancouver where the proposed Ireland Canada Monument will be located.

sign and the site itself. Details of the questionnaire and public process will be made available by the society once finalized.

Following the positive response by First Nations, the Society has engaged PWL Partnership to proceed with the production of drawings for the public process phase of the project.

PWL have recommended that a public meeting be held to enable “the stakeholders” i.e. “the Irish in Canada” the opportunity to submit comments and ideas for the monument design at a pub-

lic forum meeting or alternately via e-mail.

It should be noted this is a meeting organised by the Ireland Canada Monument Society for stakeholders towards concept and design of the monument proposal. The meeting is not a consultation meeting by the Parks Board. “

The Monument Society encourages everyone in the Irish community to participate. Those who cannot attend but would like to submit comments or ideas for the monument can e-mail: irelandmonumentvancouver@gmail.com.

All submissions will remain confidential and be forwarded to PWL Partnership and Vancouver Parks Board for review and consideration.

A room has been reserved at the Roundhouse Community Centre in False Creek for January 12, 2016 at 7 PM.

Members of the Irish community are cordially invited to attend. Those planning to attend are cordially asked e-mail the Society at irelandmonumentvancouver@gmail.com to confirm their attendance.

Irish-born Kevin Dooley's latest novel 'A Dog's Breakfast' is set in a Vancouver housing co-op

A DOG'S BREAKFAST
A novel by Kevin Dooley
Baico Publishing Inc
ISBN 978-1-77216-002-4 (pbk)

Kevin Dooley's fourth published novel, *A Dog's Breakfast*, is a surreal fiction based on family and social experience and one that encompasses Irish racial memory.

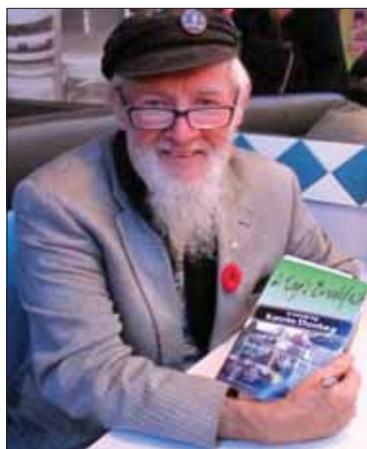
His hero, Tommy Brennan, is himself the dog's breakfast of the title. Tommy is built on Dooley's own memories and life experience and that alone would have a whale of a tale to tell if Dooley's involvement in the community and its history is any indicator.

Dooley's novel takes place in a housing co-operative in Vancouver, set in the 1990s. The action, frequently violent, revolves around Tommy Brennan an elderly, veteran radical, who is trying to protect his home and surrogate family.

His opponents are criminals, quasi-religious cults. The terror of the microcosm is infected by the racial memory and the heritage of the Irish/Celtic Diaspora unfolding in this setting.

However, the plot unfolds against powerful forces of good and outstanding women who rise to the occasion. Including, a family member who finds him.

Kevin Dooley, himself a musician, can always be counted on for his generous



KEVIN DOOLEY with his most recent novel *A Dog's Breakfast*.

and enthusiastic support of music gatherings in support of any good cause.

His tireless activity in getting recognition for, and a plaque erected to honour, the Irish workers essential to the building of the Rideau Canal is already well-known around the city of Ottawa.

In 2015 he was named the Irish Person of the Year and received an award presented on behalf of the Irish Society of the National Capital Region by the Ambassador of Ireland, Dr. Ray Bassett, at the ambassador's residence in Ottawa.

Dooley's Irish accent may have melted a bit over the years, but he has what his ancestry calls, 'the gift of the gab', and that gift has also been transferred to the writing pen.

Of his own pursuits, and his novels in particular, Dooley says his writing process involves using two book store coffee shops as offices, and the staff can set their watches by his comings and goings.

He writes his first drafts in longhand in pencil and once that's achieved, he writes the second longhand version in fountain pen.

When the second copy is complete, it's off to the editor and from there to his independent publisher, Baico.

From his first draft to published novel, Dooley takes about five years to complete a writing project.

With *A Dog's Breakfast*, launched on the shelves for Christmas, Dooley has already started research on his next project to compile information on the working class of early Canadian immigrants.

A Dog's Breakfast, along with Kevin Dooley's other titles, is available at chapters.ca and www.baico.ca.

For more information on the author, visit <http://KevinDooleyAuthor.Blogspot.com>.



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John Lennon: It was 35 years ago he was shot outside the Dakota Apartment Building

WHILE the name of legendary rock band The Beatles is forever associated with Liverpool in England, three members of the band were of Irish extraction.

Paul McCartney's maternal grandfather, Owen Mohin, was from Tullynamalrow, Co. Monaghan. The family's name was originally Mohan but a teacher in the local school changed it to distinguish between the many students in the area with the surname.

It was for this reason that Paul picked the historic Castle Leslie in the same county for his marriage to Heather Mills in June 2002.

George Harrison's great grandparents on his maternal side were James Ffrench and Ellen Whelan from the townland of Corah, near Ferns, Co. Wexford.

John Winston Lennon, despite his very patriotic British sounding middle name, also had strong Irish lineage.

His mother Julia Baird had bestowed Churchill's Christian name upon him because he was born in 1940 during the Second World War. Immediately after

By PAULA REDMOND

his birth his cot had to be placed under his mother's hospital bed to protect him during an air raid.

Lennon's paternal grandfather who was also named John (but known as Jack) was born in 1855. He claimed he was born in Dublin although some suggest his family had emigrated from there to Liverpool before his birth.

He left England for New York in the 1880s and joined a minstrel group called Andrew Robertson's Coloured Operatic Kentucky Minstrels.

The group toured Ireland in 1897 and *The Limerick Chronicle* called them "the world's acknowledged masters of refined minstrelsy."

The Dublin Chronicle declared that "they were the best they'd ever seen."

Jack later returned to Liverpool and married his housekeeper, a Liverpool



THE legendary name of The Beatles is forever associated with Liverpool and the Merseyside but three members of the band were of Irish extraction.

Irish woman twenty years his junior called Mary Maguire.

In 1963 when The Beatles played at the Adelphi cinema in Dublin, Harrison's mother, Louise, travelled to Ireland to visit with relations.

John and George returned to Ireland the next year to spend Easter of 1964 in Dromoland Castle, Co. Clare.

John's wife Cynthia Powell and George's wife-to-be, Patti Boyd, accompanied them. A famous photo was taken in the grounds of the castle of the two Beatles having a pretend sword fight with weapons they had found on suits of armour.

In 1967 John bought Dorinish Island, overlooking Clew Bay, for £1,700. He later got planning permission for a house but his plans never came to fruition.

In one of his last interviews when asked where he thought he'd be when he was 60, Lennon replied "probably living on an island off Ireland."

The affinity John had with Ireland is evident on his 1972 album *Sometime in New York City*. It contained two songs written in answer to The Troubles in Northern Ireland.

Luck of the Irish was written in 1971 and later *Sunday Bloody Sunday* was written about the infamous Sunday of January 30, 1972 when civilians were shot in Derry.

Paul McCartney also wrote a song in response to the terrible events entitled *Give Ireland back to the Irish* which was banned at the time by the BBC.

John moved with his second wife Yoko Ono to New York in 1971. Soon after his arrival he became involved with Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, radical leaders of the Youth International Party.

He and Yoko attended an anti-Vietnam rally in Central Park, marched for the rights of Native Americans and became involved in various leftist causes.

This drew the attention of authorities and an FBI file was opened on Lennon. In March 1972 Lennon's visa was revoked and a deportation order was issued.

This was apparently due to his earlier conviction in England in 1968 for marijuana possession though in reality it is believed to have been because of his politics.

On October 7, 1975, the New York Supreme Court finally overturned Lennon's deportation order.

Two days later on John's 35th birthday, his second son was born. Lennon named him the Irish version of his own name, Sean.

Lennon spent the next five years away from the media spotlight. Then in 1980 he released a new album *Double Fantasy*.



GEORGE HARRISON and John Lennon play fighting with swords at Dromoland Castle, County Clare, March 1964.



THOUSANDS gathered outside Dakota, the home of John Lennon in New York City, after the news that he had been shot and killed on Monday, December 8. A flag flies at half-mast over the building.

He spent the day of his murder, December 8, 1980, at The Record Plant studio working on songs.

At around 10 PM his car pulled up at his home in the gothic style Dakota Apartment building on West 72nd Street.

Lennon decided to skip dinner at a nearby restaurant so he could see his son before bedtime. Feeling sorry for fans standing outside in the cold weather waiting for him, he got out of his car to sign autographs.

He was shot by Mark David Chapman whom he had signed a copy of his new album for that morning. Chapman's album was stolen from the crime scene and has never surfaced since.

Lennon's well played Christmas song *Happy Christmas, War is Over* was originally released in 1971.

It was written as a protest song against the Vietnam war and also as Lennon joked because he wanted an alternative to the 1940s Christmas classic *White Christmas*.

Happy Christmas was re-released following his death and has since become a Christmas favourite.

Lennon was only 40 years old at the time of his murder so we will never know how his musical talent may have continued to develop into old age. However, he left behind him an astounding volume of hits for us to enjoy.

Paula Redmond is an Irish writer based in Gorey, Co. Wexford.

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Storm Desmond – fourth storm of winter season wreaks havoc across the UK and Ireland



Storm Desmond, a hugely destructive combination of near hurricane-force winds and incessant rain, wreaked havoc across the entire western Irish seaboard on December 4 before sweeping eastwards across the country and the Irish Sea.



STORM DESMOND Battered Britain and Ireland leaving a trail of destruction over a 36-hour period December 5-6.



FLOODING in Bandon, Co. Cork, in the early hours of Sunday morning, December 6.



A MEMBER of the British armed forces helps a Cumbrian resident move belongings through the floods in Carlisle.



MEN from the borders water rescue team in Hawick, Scotland.

Towns, cities and counties along the west coast bore the brunt of Desmond – the fourth named storm of the winter season – with flooding also reported in parts of Donegal, Co. Mayo, and Co. Kerry, among other areas.

At Dublin airport, strong gusts caused some anxiety as winds prevented a flight from Paris landing and the pilot was forced to divert to Belfast International Airport.

Roads over huge swathes of the country were impassable, homes were flooded and power cuts affected thousands. Massive tracts of farmland were flooded or waterlogged as rivers burst their banks.

Irish defence forces deployed army personnel and vehicles to Cork and Kerry following requests from the local authorities in the region as emergency services struggled to cope with a deluge of calls.

Meanwhile, water safety officials have hit out after two young men dived into the Atlantic during the storm.

The pair were captured on video at the well-known sea swimming spot in Salthill, Galway, in a clip viewed more than a million times.

The footage prompted the Irish Coast Guard to say: "There have been a number of posts of videos of young men doing stupid things in the water during Storm Desmond which have gained international coverage.

"While we don't want to discourage fun, just remember that when the 'adventure' goes wrong it will be the volunteer crews of the Coast Guard, the RNLI and other rescue services that have to put themselves in harm's way to pick up the pieces."

In Northern Ireland an elderly man had to be rescued from his home in Clady, Co. Tyrone with an emergency team using a digger to get to the property after the river Finn burst its banks over a huge area.

A great clean-up is now underway not just in Ireland but across the Irish Sea, where the northern part of Britain was also hit hard.

A 90-year-old man who lost his life is believed to have been blown into the side of a moving bus by a gust of wind, near Finchley Central Tube station, north London, a Scotland Yard spokesman said.

Rain continued to fall overnight in Scotland, northern England and northern parts of Wales on December 5.

Some areas saw more than a month's worth of torrential rain over 24 hours. The deluge left streets lined with terraced houses looking more like rivers as rescue teams set off in rubber dinghies to help stranded locals.

Military forces were called in to help evacuate people. Many homes remain underwater, while some have been left covered in mud and debris.

Cumbria was among the worst affected by the onslaught, including the village of Braithwaite which was completely cut off when its main bridge, the Coledale High Bridge, collapsed as the river burst its banks.

In Carlisle, flood levels continued to rise as helicopters carried out rescue missions and cars became almost entirely submerged.



PAUL GAUDAUR, general manager of the Foggy Dew Irish Pub in Coquitlam with bartender Dale Berg and server Danielle Wyllie.

Foggy Dew Irish Pub Proudly supporting local business

By CATHOLINE BUTLER
COQUITLAM – Paul Gaudaur has been general manager at the Foggy Dew Irish Pub in Coquitlam for the past 17 years...since the day the pub opened.

I spoke to Paul recently about some of the changes he has seen over the years.

He laughed and said, "well, after 17 years we have all got older, some hair is getting sparse and I've put on some weight, (laughs again) but the weight is partly due to the great food that our chef serves!"

"But, all in all, since day one, it has been business as usual here at the Foggy Dew."

Responding to a changing demographic and economic realities, one cost-saving measure has been a change from live music to DJ on the weekends.

Paul said, "We found that a DJ can download music immediately and play to the clientele in the room. As talented as the musicians are, they can't be as versatile."

"We had live entertainment here for the past 15 years, and now our demographics have changed and the audience is looking for a little bit more current music."

There have also been changes to their menu along with a new chef.

Spencer Whelen is the new chef and he has kept the popular traditional pub items on the menu but added some new dishes and is responsible for adding the popular daily brunch, which is also available daily until 3 PM.

Paul said one of the new items on the menu is a flat iron steak which is proving to be very popular.

Spencer has also done a great job on the protein side of the menu and added some different ethnic dishes such as butter chicken, the best I've tasted anywhere.

His steak neptune is unbelievable and he has been able to build on these items at such a friendly price point that it's not priced out of the market and still able to deliver an outstanding product.

Paul said, "In fact, our brunch menu is so popular that it has boosted sales in those hours. Many people have commented on how good our brunch menu is."

The Foggy Dew is now a minor-friendly establishment from opening hours until 8 PM but children must be accompanied by a parent or a guardian.

As with many restaurants and pubs, craft beer is now a big seller and the Foggy Dew has received tremendous success with local craft beer products.

Paul said, "What we are finding is the three major beers ...aren't that major anymore. It's more regionalised now and the major brands are kind of missing out."

"Our customers are very loyal to their brands of craft beer, especially brewed in the local area such as the Port Moody Ales. It's good beer and we want to support local, and so do our clientele."

"We have 26 taps and the majority of our lines are craft beer but, of course, we always have Guinness and Kilkenny ... everyone enjoys a pint of Guinness."

The Foggy Dew are now selling New Year's eve tickets and have noticed a sharp interest and incredible amount of inquiries since early November.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and include party favours and champagne at midnight. The ticket price does not include food but the full regular menu will be available.

The Foggy Dew is located at 405 North Road in Coquitlam and tickets are available at the bar or by calling the pub at (604) 937-5808.



SHOCKING images have emerged of young Irish lads jumping into the raging sea near Galway at the height of Storm Desmond.

New Poll: Both sides of the border show limited support for united Ireland

“OH dear – the losers are losing again,” thus tweeted MP Gregory Campbell in response to a poll on the reunification of Ireland which found that majorities on both sides of the border would vote to keep the border if the motion were to remove it now.

So the status quo and the border, such as it is, remains. To a long-standing elected representative of the Democratic Unionist Party like Campbell that heralds an occasion for glee and goading – his extraordinary political maturity and vision never let him down.

But what does the poll really tell us, and have those who live in the Northern Irish State without identifying with it lost in any sense?

Only 13 percent of citizens in Northern Ireland desire reunification if it were on offer today, according to this cross-border poll organised by the BBC's *Stephen Nolan Show* and RTE's *Prime Time*.

Put a referendum ballot sheet in front of the electorate and support for it would likely dwindle to less than double figures.

Remember that, as George Mitchell stated on the occasion of the signing of The Good Friday Agreement, “it is the people of Northern Ireland who decide, democratically, their future.”

So Campbell and co are right: the majority is behind staying in Northern Ireland, and those who attempted to dismantle the state for over 30 years, some through violent means, have lost?

Not so fast. Campbell's mistake is what often happens when politicians spend more time drooling about television polls than on clear-headed analysis of the evidence.

Alter one crucial dimension in this equation, money, and you might have a very different result.

Currently, the British Exchequer shovels £10 billion (\$15 billion) a year to keep the Northern Irish State functioning, a very considerable injection of cash given the size of Northern Ireland.

The subvention filters down into state jobs, quangos and all manner of pink elephants. Yes, it works to preserve the state, up to a point, for as long as the cash flows.

But what if the right-wing and inherently treacherous Tory Party in Britain were to start to wave some of the blandishments available to the Northern Irish electorate at its core constituency on “the mainland?”

How long can it be before a British leader realises that the political gain available for instigating an end to the union with Northern Ireland could outweigh the political risk of being responsible for ceding part of the United Kingdom?

Maybe, since he is fond of talking about losers, that is a loss to which Gregory Campbell might address himself.

The nationalist parties in the North had divergent responses to the poll.

The issue of reuniting Ireland is so hardwired to Sinn Féin's make-up that it has been struggling to make even this

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By MAURICE FITZPATRICK

dismal result from their perspective sound positive.

It is a building block, we are told. At least they did not imply that it is any more than one block.

With general elections both north and south of the border and the 1916 Rising centenary due to happen in the coming months, a symbolic step towards ending partition is essential to Sinn Féin's programme.

Yet only 13 percent of citizens in Northern Ireland want to end partition. Maybe



A RECENT cross-border poll organised by the BBC's *Stephen Nolan Show* and RTE's *Prime Time* indicates that a majority on both sides of the border would vote to keep the border if the motion were to remove it now.

the 66 percent of the Southern electorate who claim to want a United Ireland will provide a boost to Sinn Féin's support base?

But read the small print. Less than half of that number want it now, and how many of those really see it happening anytime soon?

The main trick in Sinn Féin's repertoire is to harp on a United Ireland, but judging by the number of people on either side of the border who are unequivocally in favour of that policy, their election manifesto could do with enhancement.

The SDLP's party statement on the poll

read: “The Scottish referendum demonstrated the scale of swing possible in a few short years when the public becomes engaged in a discussion about their future.”

Scotland seemed far from ripe for any form of constitutional change, still less full independence, until a few years ago. Yet the rise of Alex Salmond led, last September, to Scotland coming close to disengaging from the union.

Terrified British Prime Minister David Cameron, resorted at the last minute to begging the Scottish electorate to “stay with us.” Would he, or future Tory Party leaders, be as quick to beg the Northern Irish electorate?

On the contrary, conditions whereby it becomes financially less attractive to remain in the UK will likely be created to alienate the overwhelming consent to remain in the union that exists today.

When that alienation happens the British Government, rather than staunch the haemorrhage of Northern Irish Unionist votes and support, will be only too happy to wave goodbye to the most troublesome colony it ever had, and one which has long since ceased to be profitable.

It is likely that some form of tokenistic confederation system would remain after a British Government pullout.

Consider the incremental way in which sovereignty in the South was achieved after 1921: the return of the Treaty Ports, the end of the Oath of Allegiance to the British crown and the formalising of the Republic.

In many ways Michael Collins' dictum that the Anglo-Irish Treaty was “a stepping stone” to freedom was borne out.

It took half a century for it to happen though, and during that time Northern Ireland remained in a rut of intransigence.

But The Good Friday Agreement (1998) was the beginning for a very new dispensation in the North of Ireland and it will look quite a different place half a century after that historic agreement.

By 2048, the border could well be a memory. So triumphalism is hardly warranted, Gregory.

Bloody Sunday: Judgment reserved in ex-paratroopers' court action

LONDON – Seven former paratroopers who are facing questioning over the Bloody Sunday shootings have asked judges in London to make an order preventing them from being arrested and brought to Northern Ireland for police interview.

Lord Chief Justice Lord Thomas and two other judges, sitting at the High Court, were told by their QC that they were willing to give an “undertaking” to the court to “voluntarily attend for an interview under caution” in England and Wales in relation to the event.

This is the first public hearing of the judicial review action brought by the ex-soldiers against the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) – a case described by Lord Thomas as being one of “considerable interest” to the public.

At the centre of the case is the way the Police Service of Northern Ireland is conducting its historical probe into the deaths of 14 civil rights demonstrators in Derry's Bogside on January 30, 1972.

British soldiers shot 26 unarmed civilians during a protest march against internment on Bloody Sunday. Thirteen people were killed by members of the Parachute Regiment on the day of the incident. Another victim of the shootings died in hospital four months later.

Many of the victims were shot while fleeing from the soldiers and some were shot while trying to help the wounded. Two protesters were also injured when they were run down by army vehicles.

The Chief Constable of the PSNI wants the former paratroopers brought back for an investigation into whether potential criminal offences may have been committed by soldiers who used lethal force in the incident.

Northern Ireland police launched the murder investigation in 2012. It was initiated after a government-commissioned inquiry, undertaken by Lord Saville, found that none of the victims was posing a threat to soldiers when they were shot.

Following the publication of the Saville report in 2010, Prime Minister David Cameron apologized for the army's actions, branding them “unjustified and unjustifiable.”

In September, the PSNI told bereaved families they intended to interview a number of former soldiers about their involvement on the day.

Parliament has given the PSNI power to make arrests in other jurisdictions of the UK.

Lawyers for the ex-soldiers, who live in England and gave evidence to the Bloody Sunday Inquiry (BSI), argued that there was a real danger their lives could unnecessarily be put at risk.

The courts had already accepted that there were many in Northern Ireland who believed the soldiers were party to murder said James Lewis QC.

The risk to life was so acute that the men's evidence before the BSI had to be taken on the British mainland.



FATHER Edward Daly waves bloodstained handkerchief at the soldiers as he tries to lead a group of men, carrying the body of the mortally wounded Jackie Duddy – the youngest victim – away from the scene of the shooting.

The Chief Constable's legal team rejected the claim and countered, “The police are well used to dealing with the risks of people coming to Northern Ireland.”

Jonathan Hall QC, appearing for the Chief Constable, observed in court “Criminal investigations are unpleasant and unwelcome to those caught up in them, but are necessary for the rule of law.”

Lewis was asking the court to block the arrests of the seven and said they were all willing to “voluntarily attend for an interview under caution” in England.

He said that it appeared the PSNI had “an obsessive, mean-spirited intention to arrest at all costs.”

The QC told Lord Thomas, sitting with Justice Openshaw and Justice Carr, that arresting and transporting them “for what can only be described as administrative convenience” would be “unlaw-

ful, irrational and disproportionate.”

All the men also intended to make “no comment” when questioned.

This legal action follows the arrest of a former colleague in Northern Ireland – the first ex-soldier detained.

The arrest of the 66-year-old, who was held in Co. Antrim and later released on police bail, was welcomed by relatives of those killed.

In London, the High Court reserved judgment on whether the seven former paratroopers should be detained and transferred to Northern Ireland for interview by police.

Lord Thomas described the case as “one of the most extraordinary cases in the annals of the common law.”

After the day-long hearing, he said the court's decision would be given as soon as possible.

Northern Ireland First Minister stepping down after a 40-year career

BELFAST – Northern Ireland First Minister Peter Robinson, who is resigning as Democratic Unionist leader, said he is stepping down content that in his 40-year career he has done his best for Northern Ireland and the cause of unionism.

The 66-year-old who replaced Ian Paisley as first minister and DUP leader in 2008, said he had wanted to secure a number of specific objectives before leaving, including saving the power-sharing government, the DUP retaking the East Belfast Westminster seat he lost in 2010, and setting a date for Northern Ireland to determine its own corporation tax rate.

With all those accomplished, he said the time was right to step aside.

His announcement, which was widely expected, came days after he struck a political deal with his partners-in-government Sinn Féin, and the UK and Irish Governments, which effectively saved the power-sharing coalition from threatened collapse.

Robinson was criticized from some quarters over his handling of the recent political crisis at Stormont and was also forced to strongly deny allegations of corruption, levelled under parliamentary privilege by a loyalist blogger, related to Northern Ireland's biggest ever property sale.

But the DUP leader insisted he was not under any internal party pressure to stand aside. He also denied his depar-



PETER ROBINSON

ture was due to the heart attack he suffered in May.

"It's entirely on my own terms," Robinson said of his retirement. "I am probably the first unionist leader who will say afterwards that I left entirely on my own terms."

He added, "The fact is if I wanted to stay, the party officers and party would have been fully supportive, the reality of course is I am almost 67 years of age, these are five-year terms we are looking into – it's unrealistic to go on for a third term in the top post."

"So I look forward to the new challenges my life will have, but I think over these last number of years Northern Ireland has made very real progress."

North Belfast MP Nigel Dodds will be among the favourites to take over as DUP leader. However with Dodds

based in Westminster, another senior party figure could take on the role of Stormont first minister.

Finance Minister Arlene Foster has been touted as a potential leader of the power-sharing coalition.

Martin McGuinness paid tribute to Robinson, saying he now counts his long-time political foe as a "friend." He said Robinson had informed him of his intentions well before it was announced publicly.

The Sinn Féin deputy first minister at Stormont said his retiring counterpart deserves credit for his role in the peace process.

"I have always given credit to Peter for recognizing that the only way forward in this country was for us to work together," said McGuinness.

The warm relationship McGuinness struck up with the late Ian Paisley in their time together at the head of the Stormont Executive has been well documented – in fact their unlikely friendship is the subject of a forthcoming feature film.

While Robinson and McGuinness's seven years in office has not been characterized with the same bonhomie, the republican insisted he has developed a strong relationship with his unionist partner in government.

"I think he was a very strong friend, like Ian Paisley, of the peace process," he said.

"And Ian Paisley and I, incredibly, developed a friendship which existed until the day he died. So I do regard Peter Robinson as a friend, yes."

'He's buzzing around like a vulture'



TAOISEACH Enda Kenny and Prime Minister David Cameron leaving Stormont House in Belfast.

BELFAST – UKIP's David McNarry has called Taoiseach Enda Kenny "a foreigner" who has no right to delve into Northern Ireland affairs.

The MLA was speaking on the morning of November 10 about the Stormont talks on *The Nolan Show* on BBC Radio Ulster.

"It seems that the Taoiseach Enda Kenny's running these talks. He's in charge and taking charge of our internal affairs," he said.

"He's telling us what to do on Europe and I really think it's time for Mr. Kenny to butt out."

"He's buzzing around like a vulture, licking the bones of another nation's business and foreigners have just got to stop

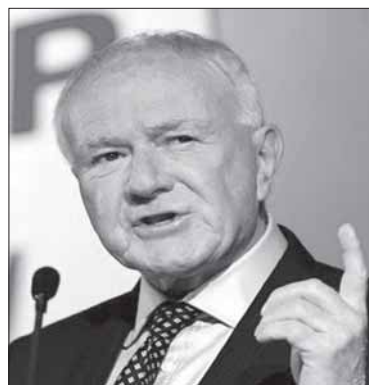
interfering in the United Kingdom's affairs and that's why we want to exit the EU."

Stephen Nolan challenged McNarry, "You seriously don't think the Irish Government, who have been involved in talks in Northern Ireland for many, many years – as you well know – have a part to play in this?"

The politician replied, "They have a part to play in it, of course but not in the internal affairs of Northern Ireland and he's running around appearing in Belfast and London, and back to Belfast, as if he's running the whole show."

"As far as I'm concerned he's not doing any good. He has no right to be delving into our internal affairs."

A Northern Ireland Office (NIO) memo released in 2012 described McNarry as



DAVID McNARRY is the leader of the UK Independence Party (UKIP) in Northern Ireland.

"a dangerous nuisance." He is the current Assistant Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

In the May 2014 local government elections, under McNarry's stewardship, UKIP gained two new local councillors in the region, taking the total number of UKIP councillors in Northern Ireland up to four.

At the 2014 UKIP national conference in Doncaster, McNarry delivered a keynote speech which was warmly received by delegates. He received praise from commentators who referred to the speech as a "statesman-like" address.

Enda Kenny earlier met the prime minister at 10 Downing Street where David Cameron briefed him on his private meeting with Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness later that week.

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PHOTO: Brendan Shriane

PANEL MEMBERS (L-R) Kate O'Neill and Chuck Leach, co-owners of Social Sky Marketing; Kristen Gill, owner of Kristen Gill Travel Writing & Photography; panel moderator Fiona Remley, VP, director of program management at Wunderman Seattle; and Irish Network Seattle Vice President Aly Shelby-Gardner at Irish Network Seattle's "The Power of Storytelling in the Digital Age" at T.S. McHugh's Irish Pub & Restaurant on November 12.



IRISH MUSICIAN Mick Moloney receiving Ireland's Presidential Distinguished Service Award from President Michael D. Higgins in November 2013. Moloney will be performing in Seattle on February 27 at a 1916 Centenary Concert.



PHOTO: Brendan Shriane

IRISH NETWORK Seattle board members, Martin Kelly (L) and Kathryn O'Hara chat with Chuck Leach (center) and Sergio Rios Junquera (R) at Irish Network Seattle's "The Power of Storytelling in the Digital Age" at T.S. McHugh's Irish Pub & Restaurant on November 12.



PHOTO: Brendan Shriane

SHANE GALLIGAN (left) enjoys a laugh with two friends at Irish Network Seattle's "The Power of Storytelling in the Digital Age" at T.S. McHugh's Irish Pub & Restaurant on November 12.

SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

PASSINGS

Fr. Harry Quigg, a native of Co. Derry, died in Seattle on November 11

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam – May his soul rest at the right hand of God

HOLIDAY PARTY – Irish Network Seattle's Holiday Party is Saturday, December 12 at 6 PM at the Hook and Plow located in the Seattle Marriott, 2100 Alaskan Way, on Seattle's waterfront.

You're invited to join them to toast the festive season during a holidays happy hour. Current IN-Seattle Members will receive a free drink on the night, while everyone will enjoy extended happy hour pricing. All are welcome! **Visit irishnetworkseattle.org** for details.

CELTIC YULETIDE – Magical Strings' 36th Annual Celtic Yuletide concert in Seattle is December 13 while concerts will also be held in Tacoma, Kent, Mount Vernon, Bellevue, Portland and Leavenworth.

Featuring the lyrical and joyful sounds of Celtic harps, hammered dulcimers, violins, cello, whistles, concertina, percussion and more, this grand gala of Celtic-inspired holiday music is filled with Irish singing, dancing, juggling, caroling and storytelling. For the details, visit magicalstrings.com.

CHRISTMAS GOODIES – Seattle's premier Irish import store, Galway Traders, suggests anyone who wants to be sure of having their Irish breakfast meats over the holidays should contact the store to place your order sooner rather than later – specify what meats you want, how many and when you need them.

Irish teas, biscuits, candies, canned goods, frozen soda bread in addition to Irish breakfast meats. Call (206) 784-9343 or e-mail: store@galwaytraders.com.

MOTHER'S CHRISTMAS – The 2016 Mother's Christmas dinner is Sunday, January 3 at 6 pm at F X McRory's, 319 Occidental Avenue S, Seattle.

Known as Little Christmas around the world, the twelfth day of Christmas is called *Nollaig na mBan* (i.e., Women's Christmas) in most parts of Ireland.

Celebrate this Irish holiday by taking the woman in your life to dinner! For details and reservations, call (206) 412-2960.

SISTER CITIES – As part of the 1916 Rising centenary commemorations, a delegation of mayors and community leaders from the U.S. have been invited to participate in an Ireland-U.S. Sister City Summit.

The delegates have been invited from U.S. cities that have a sister city agreement with cities or towns in Ireland, and the Summit will be held in Dublin on April 22 and 23, 2016.

The event will be jointly hosted by Dublin and its sister city, San Jose, California.

There are over 60 twinning links or sister city agreements between Irish cities and towns and locations in the U.S., and Seattle's Mayor Ed Murray has already received his invitation to attend the Summit which will coincide with the April 24, 1916 Centenary celebrations.

By
JOHN
KEANE

IRISH SUMMER CAMP – A pilot summer camp program will be offered in 2016 to U.S. high school students aged 15 to 17 with all expenses paid.

Over the course of two weeks, the teenagers will travel around Ireland to take part in a series of educational and cultural activities, "to learn about the country's history and to experience the modern face of Ireland."

The *Fréamhacha* (meaning roots or heritage) program is closely based on the Israeli Taglit-Birthright scheme, which has seen more than 400,000 young Jewish people from around the world visit Israel over the past 15 years. Details on how to apply will be published next issue.

CAROLS OF THE WORLD – City Cantabile Choir presents a universal spirit of the winter holidays cel-

ebration Saturday and Sunday, December 19-20, at University Congregational Church, 4515 16th Avenue NE, Seattle.

With virtuoso Irish performers Tom Creegan on uilleann pipes and Randal Bays on fiddle, "Carols of the World" will include songs from Ireland, England, Spain, France, Germany and Croatia, plus songs celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah and Diwali.

The concert will also feature Celtic harp and Irish step-dancers. Tickets: \$18 in advance at brownpaper tickets.com or \$20 at the door.

MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS

• An annual Celtic Christmas Celebration at The Kirkland Performance Center on December 18 and 19 features violinist Geoffrey Castle with special guests, dancers, and a visit from Santa Claus.

• The Queen Anne newspaper at <http://bit.ly/1MJEDI5> has a nice article on the visit of President Higgins to Seattle and the role of Irish Network Seattle.

• Air Canada's subsidiary Air Canada Rouge will operate a direct flight from Dublin to Vancouver starting June 10, 2016 with three flights weekly on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during the summer months.

1916 Centenary Concert

On Saturday, February 27, 2016, the Irish Heritage Club and the University of Washington join in co-sponsoring a 1916 Centenary Concert at the University of Washington with performances by Irish Folklorist and musician Mick Moloney accompanied by violinist Athena Tergis.

Co. Limerick native Mick Moloney holds a Ph.D. in folklore and folklife from the University of Pennsylvania.

He has taught ethnomusicology, folklore and Irish studies courses at Pennsylvania, Georgetown, and Villanova Universities, and currently teaches at New York University.

He has recorded and produced over 40 albums of traditional music and acted as advisor for scores of festivals and concerts all over America.

Mick also served as the artistic director for several major arts tours including *The Green Fields of America*, an ensemble of Irish musicians, singers and dancers which toured across the United States on several occasions.

He has hosted three nationally syndicated series of folk music on PNB; was a consultant, performer and interviewee on the Irish Television special *Bringing It All Back Home*; a participant, consultant and music arranger of the PBS documentary film *Out of Ireland*; and a performer on the PBS special *The Irish in America: Long Journey Home*.

In 1999 he was awarded the National Heritage Award from the National Endowment for the Arts — the highest official honor a traditional artist can receive in the United States.

In November of 2013, Mick received Ireland's Presidential Distinguished Service Award from President Michael D. Higgins. For more information, visit mickmoloney.com.

Violinist Athena Tergis was raised in San Francisco and learned the Suzuki method of violin at age four.

While considering a music degree at 18, she instead moved to Ireland where she immersed herself in Irish traditional music and in 2009 was a featured soloist in the *Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra's* 10 week, 49-city tour of America.

She also toured China with The *Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra* and her collaboration and musical exploration with Riverdance composer Bill Whelan has led the pair to be featured artists in the 2010 Masters in Collaboration Series produced by the New York Irish Arts Center.

Athena was also a featured artist in the new show *Heartbeat of Home* from the producers of *Riverdance* for their North American premier.

Just last month, she performed in Cuba with Irish musicians Mick Moloney, Billy McComiskey, Robbie O'Connell and stepdancer Niall O'Leary. For more information, visit athena.cd.

For more information on the February 27 concert, e-mail: concert@irishclub.org.

Northern Ireland peacemaker priest Father Gerry Reynolds dies aged 82

BELFAST – The death after a short illness of Father Gerry Reynolds in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast on Monday, November 30 has caused great sadness on both sides of the political and religious divide in Northern Ireland.

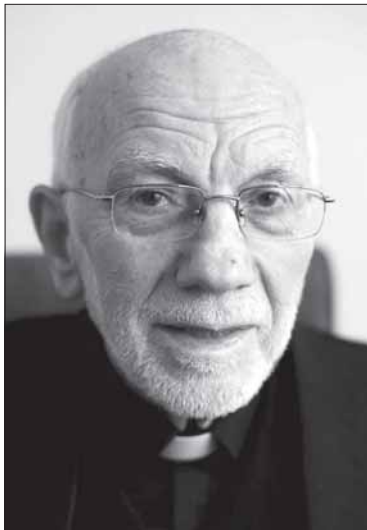
That in itself is perhaps the greatest tribute to this priest of the Redemptorist order who placed his own life in considerable danger in order to assist the peace process.

With others at Clonard Monastery, located between the Protestant enclave of Shankill Road and the Catholic area around the Falls Road, Fr. Reynolds worked for three decades in the cause of peace and reconciliation.

Along with his great friend at Clonard in west Belfast, Father Alec Reid, he made the monastery central to the peace process.

It was there that John Hume of the SDLP first met Gerry Adams on January 11, 1988, to discuss and eventually agree to a peaceful way forward for Northern Ireland.

Born to a farming family in Mungret in the suburbs of Limerick, Fr. Reynolds



FATHER Gerry Reynolds, a Redemptorist priest based at Clonard Monastery in west Belfast, hailed for playing a key role in the Northern Ireland peace process, died on November 30 in the city's Royal Victoria Hospital after a short illness.

lost his father when he was just six.

His deeply religious mother brought him up and from an early age there was little doubt that he was destined for the priesthood, plumping for the

Redemptorists over that other missionary order, the Kiltegan Fathers.

In his home city, the Redemptorists are known simply as "the fathers," and the church at Mount St. Alphonsus is renowned for its beauty and sanctity. Reynolds was irresistibly drawn to the order, and took his first vows in 1953.

In 1983, he moved to Clonard, and his ecumenical outlook began to develop at the height of the Troubles – he saw only too closely the carnage and terror on the streets of Belfast.

In doing so, Fr. Reynolds was following in a family tradition as his Redemptorist uncle, Father Gerard Reynolds, helped Fr. Daniel Cummings set up Clonard's pioneering "Mission for non-Catholics" in 1948.

In 2011, Fr. Reynolds was the founder of the eucharistic ecumenical "In Joyful Hope" initiative which promotes shared communion between Christians.

He was still in charge of Clonard's Peace and Reconciliation efforts until shortly before his death.

In a statement, the Redemptorist community at Clonard said, "He will be greatly missed by his Redemptorist confreres and colleagues, his family, friends, and the many people whose lives he touched through his ecumenical, peace and reconciliation ministries."

Ireland's first billionaire Tony O'Reilly declared bankrupt

DUBLIN – Former billionaire Tony O'Reilly has been declared bankrupt in the Bahamas.

The court ruling means O'Reilly will now be able to file for insolvency in the Bahamas where he has been a tax resident since the 1990s.

It is expected to lead to his remaining assets to be sold to repay creditors.

Dublin-born O'Reilly was once regarded as Ireland's wealthiest, and certainly its most famous, businessman with multiple interests.

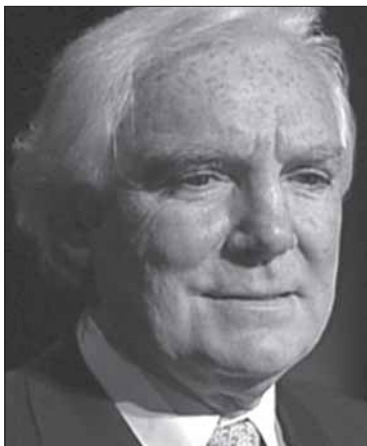
The ruling is a setback for Allied Irish Bank (AIB) which has opposed the businessman entering insolvency which protects him from further actions against him by banks.

O'Reilly, under pressure from his creditors, has already sold off many assets, including properties in Dublin, Cork and Kildare.

According to information filed with the Irish High Court last year, he then owed EU195 million to some 10 banks. It is now believed to be closer to EU100 million.

O'Reilly is known for his involvement in the Independent News & Media Group, which he led from 1973 to 2009,[2] and as former CEO and Chairman of the H.J. Heinz Company. He was the leading shareholder of Waterford Wedgwood.

At his peak O'Reilly, who also played rugby for the Irish national team, was often recognised as Ireland's first billionaire, with his shares worth between EU900 million and one billion euros.



TONY O'REILLY is the former CEO of the Independent News & Media Group.

As a rugby player, he represented Ireland, the British and Irish Lions and the Barbarians and is enshrined as a member of the International Rugby Board's Hall of Fame.

His wealth was wiped out when he pumped hundreds of millions into Waterford Wedgwood in a failed attempt to save the business at the same time as his shares in Independent News and Media collapsed in value.

He has sold many of his assets, including his house on Fitzwilliam Square and his family holiday home in Cork, in an attempt to repay his creditors.

Earlier this year, O'Reilly failed to overturn a High Court order that required him to provide additional information to AIB about his assets. He reportedly owes the bank about EU15 million.

Eagles Of Death Metal joins U2 on stage

Eagles Of Death Metal proclaimed "Paris we love you" as they performed in the French capital alongside U2, less than a month after their last concert was cut short by a terrorist attack in which 89 people died.

The California rockers were invited to the stage for an emotional encore by the Irish band during their second night of rescheduled gigs in Paris.

Bono called them brothers before giving them the floor in a packed and bouncing AccorHotels Arena, just weeks after the terror attacks in which a total of 130 people were killed.

"They were robbed of their stage three weeks ago – we would like to offer

them ours tonight," he said.

Eagles Of Death Metal frontman Jesse Hughes took the mic dressed in a white suit and vowed, "Paris we love you and we will never give up rock and roll."

After the gig the band thanked U2 saying they had "reminded us that the bad guys never take a day off, and therefore we rock 'n rollers cannot either ... and we never will."

In a post on their Facebook page they paid tribute to "everyone in the world who continues to prove that love, joy, and music will always overcome terror and evil," and said they will return to the French capital for their tour next year.

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NEW DELHI STATION – Tuk Tuk drivers waiting for their fares outside the station.



THE TAJ MAHAL – One of the world's most celebrated structures attracts some three million visitors a year.



AMER FORT, located 11 kilometres from Jaipur in Rajasthan state, is also known as Amer Palace. The garden pictured above in the third courtyard was built on high platforms in sunken beds, shaped in a hexagonal design. It is laid out with narrow channels lined with marble around a star-shaped pool with a fountain at the centre.



SHIMLA is the capital of the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, in the Himalayan foothills. Once the summer capital of British India, it remains the terminus of the narrow-gauge Kalka-Shimla Railway, completed in 1903.

Tuk Tuk: A three-wheeled chariot driven by maniacs

GREETINGS from Kumarakom in Kerala Southern India.

In 1984, I stopped off in New Delhi for a day to break up the 28 hour flight to Japan. My timing was unfortunate as I arrived two days after Prime Minister Indira Ghandi had been assassinated and the country was in an uproar.

Despite being mistakenly shot at by a few soldiers, I saw enough to make me want to return and this is what I have been doing.

On Sunday, November 15, I flew from London to Amritsar, but the flight was delayed and I missed the "border ceremony."

This is a daily performance where the Indian and Pakistani border guards square up to each other, menacingly marching with grossly exaggerated "Goose stepping" a la John Cleese in Monty Python's Ministry of silly walks. Have a look on YouTube.

The city of Amritsar looks as if it has had one too many litter festivals and would not be worth a visit if it was not for the Golden Temple which is breathtakingly beautiful.

It is the spiritual centre of the Sikh religion and, in sharp contrast to the chaos in the streets, there is a serenity and sense of peace inside the temple complex.

Unable to locate a taxi to return to my hotel, I took my life in my hands and hailed a Tuk Tuk, a three-wheeled chariot powered by a scooter engine and driven by maniacs.

My driver would be a world champion if he drove Formula One. The way he cut up a bus was impressive, though not too great for his passengers' bowels.

One day in Amritsar was enough and the next morning at 6 AM it was onwards and upwards to Shimla in the Himalayas.

Sixteen hours on Indian trains, all be it in so-called first-class compartments. If that is first-class, then I presume that second-class means you are hanging on to the outside or lying on the roof.

Shimla is where the British moved the seat of government in the summer when the heat in Delhi became unbearable.

The small city is charming as the manic traffic is directed away from the market areas, and people and monkeys can roam around without fear.

An overnight train to New Delhi was surprisingly comfortable, but nothing would prepare one for the chaos in Delhi station.

Perhaps if you had survived a stampede of buffalo then you would take it in your stride, but the words orderly and queue are probably not translatable into Hindi.

Having elbowed my way out of the station, I got a taxi and can imagine what an Indian driving instructor tells his pupils.

"Just press the horn and do what the hell you like. Those red light things are just for rich people. Ignore them, you'll be fine."

I was told that the level of air pollution in Delhi is now the worst in the world.

My hotel had beautiful grounds but two days of waking up to the sound of the birds coughing was enough for me and I headed for Agra and the Taj Mahal.

Photographs do not do the building jus-

POSTCARD FROM INDIA

By
ELFAN
JONES



It glimmers, it's romantic, it's magnificent, it deserves its place as a wonder of the world.

One night there and on to Jaipur.

My train was six hours late and I will never criticize British Rail again, however every cloud has a silver lining.

I had the pleasure of meeting two young lads, Michael Divers from Glasgow and Jay Comes from New York, who were going to a friend's wedding and were good companions as we whiled away the hours.

Jaipur, known as the Pink City, has the impressive Amer Fort and the City Palace among its attractions and is the third arm of what the tourist companies re-

fer to as the Golden Triangle.

Delhi, Agra and Jaipur...How Delhi fits in is a mystery.

A day in Jaipur and another overnight train to Udaipur.

The trip was getting better and better and my Tuk Tuk driver charged me £10 for an eight hour guided tour.

Udaipur is known as lake city. The most famous attractions are the White Palace on the lake which is now a hotel and the City Palace where a Maharaja lives.

He is obviously not short of a bob or two.

That brings me up to today.

I flew from Udaipur to Kerala this morning and took a cab to this retreat for a few days respite before moving on to Mumbai which apparently is as mad as Delhi.

This area is known as the backwaters and nothing much happens here but it takes a long time to do it. This sounds perfect.

The temperature is a very warm 30°C or 85°F so, as I sip my cold Kingfisher beer, it is time to bronze the limbs.

Merry Christmas,
Elfan

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET AIREY

VANCOUVER – On the afternoon of Saturday, November 21, a celebration of life was held in the Fellowship Hall of Knox United Church for the late Margaret Airey, who passed away on September 15.

A number of Vancouver Welsh Society members attended the celebration to honour the contributions Margaret made to the society and to the Welsh of the Lower Mainland in general.

Margaret was a talented musician who shared her gift with many organizations. Her love of music and children made her a perfect piano teacher, a gift she shared with many students in the Dunbar and Kitsilano areas for over 50 years.

Margaret was the accompanist for the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir for their first 10 years and accompanied the choir on concert tours to many parts of the world.

She was made an honorary life member of the choir for her contributions over the years. One of the VWMC's founders, Gwyn Evans, remembers Margaret as an exceptional accompanist with a wonderful personality.

Welsh Society members will remember Margaret primarily for her contributions as accompanist at events in the Cambrian Hall.

Worshippers at the society's monthly church service at the hall especially appreciated Margaret's faithful attendance as accompanist for the congregational hymn-singing and for regular soloist Nerys Haqq.

For her many contributions, Margaret was also made a life member of the Vancouver Welsh Society.

Margaret Airey (Newton) was born in 1917 in southern Ontario and was pre-



MARGARET AIREY

deceased by her husband Jack in 1977 as well as her brother Howard Newton (2006) and her sister Marian Brown (2012), both of Ontario.

She is survived by her sons Paul (Judy) and Howard (Anita), both of Vancouver, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, as well as many extended family members in Ontario and Quebec.

Margaret held a supervisor's certificate in vocal music for high schools and collegiate institutes of Ontario and a teacher's degree in piano and theory from Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music.

Her musical interests were wide-ranging, as evidenced by her own written observations on events in which she participated.

Margaret was fond of writing and some of her writings were displayed during the celebration, with many of those present commending her positive outlook and sense of humour.

During the celebration of life event family members spoke of Margaret's love of family and the many interests that occupied her throughout her long and productive life.

She was loved by all who knew her and will be missed.

Welsh Society honours Captain Lampshire-Jones

VANCOUVER – The Vancouver Welsh Society's monthly bilingual service on Sunday, November 1 was dedicated to long-time member Captain Ieuan Lampshire-Jones.

The captain, whose life reads like a history of most of the last century, is highly respected and admired by Welsh Society members.

Ieuan was born in Aberarth, a small coastal village on the Cardigan coast. The village has a long maritime history and was an important port in the Middle Ages.

In the Nineteenth Century it had a thriving ship-building industry and the ships, mostly manned by local seamen, sailed to all parts of the world.

After the ship-building industry declined the inhabitants of Aberarth continued their close association with the sea.

Ieuan himself comes from a long line of seafarers. In a memoir written on his eightieth birthday he recalls that when he was a boy almost every other house in Aberarth was occupied by someone associated with the sea.

He now says, "I am the last master mariner born and raised in the village."

Music was very much a part of Ieuan's early life and it still is. He recounts that the centre of village life was Bethel Chapel.

He also recalls that the Bethel Sunday School had a special class for active and retired seamen, probably unique in Wales.

He says his mother had a lovely soprano voice and members of the family and friends were avid soloists and choral singers.

Given his maritime background in Aberarth it is no wonder that Ieuan went to sea and contributed so much after he joined his first ship in Avonmouth in 1939 at the age of 16.

A November 2012 Veteran Profile of Ieuan in the magazine *BC Shipping News* carried the headline: 'Seafarer or Surveyor, Captain Jones Outshines Them All'.

The magazine recounted Ieuan's participation as a merchant seaman in the Second World War, for which he won six campaign medals, including such wide-ranging awards as the Burma Invasion Star, the North African Invasion Star and the Atlantic Star with clasp, denoting his contribution to the D-Day landing at Juno Beach.

He was also a recipient of the 1939-1945 World War II Civilian Medal.

When he left the sea in 1969 Ieuan was the senior captain for one of the largest shipping companies in the world, World Wide Shipping out of Hong Kong.

That same year he took up a position in Vancouver opening up a field office for SGS Supervision Services.

As a senior principal and manager for Gen-Testing Laboratories Ieuan built a formidable reputation for his expertise in marine surveying, covering a territory that included the entire Pacific Northwest from Northern California to Greenland.



**CAPTAIN IEUAN
LAMPSHIRE-JONES**

The job mainly involved ship inspections and the supervision of loading and final displacement surveys.

Ieuan's expertise in bulk cargo loading led to his becoming well-known in the shipping world and his advice was sought by many companies and countries throughout the world.

He was also in the habit of writing accounts of his working visits to places like the High Arctic, Brazil and China.

In May 2013, the Association of Marine Surveyors of B.C. held an awards ceremony and dinner in honour of Ieuan.

His wife Philomena was unable to attend as she was then and continues to be a patient at North Vancouver's Evergreen Nursing Home.

As a gesture of support, the Association presented a generous contribution to the nursing home, a gesture the captain says he appreciated above all else.

His three daughters – Susan, Christine and Jill – attended to share in celebrating their father's achievements.

His cheerful personality and sense of humour contributed to the captain's popularity with fellow mariners as it does to members of the Vancouver Welsh Society.

He has served the Welsh Society in many capacities, including terms as president and vice-president.

He has also frequently played piano or organ accompaniments at events in the Cambrian Hall and has for many years played an active role in the society's monthly bilingual church services.

At the November 1 service, Welsh Society member Eifion Williams read out highlights from Ieuan's life achievements.

He concluded with the following remarks, "I think it's appropriate that we recognize Ieuan's achievements today as part of the Vancouver Celebrates Wales events.

"It is here, in our monthly religious services at the Cambrian Hall that three major influences in Ieuan's life come together – his faith, his music and his mother tongue – all nurtured those many years ago in the village of Aberarth and Bethel Chapel.

"Ieuan, I believe I speak for all of us when I say thank you for all you have contributed, not only to us here in the Welsh Society but to people in so many parts of the world who have benefitted from your lifetime of service.

"Captain, we salute you."

Republic of Ireland secures place at Euro 2016:

The Republic of Ireland secured a Euro 2016 spot as two goals from Jon Walters helped them overcome Bosnia-Herzegovina in the play-off second leg at Aviva Stadium in Dublin on November 16.

Walters netted a hugely controversial 24th-minute penalty after Bosnia's Ervin Zukanovic was harshly adjudged to have handled a Daryl Murphy cross.

That put the Irish 2-1 up on aggregate and the win was all but secured when Walters volleyed in on 70 minutes.

The Republic join Northern Ireland, England and Wales in reaching France.

Fortune favours Ireland – finally
Ireland's win came six years after Thierry Henry's infamous handball denied the Irish a place at the 2010 World Cup.

On that occasion, the referee's failure to spot the France forward's blatant infringement in the play-off second leg in Paris led to the Republic's heart-breaking failure to qualify for the finals in South Africa.

But six years on, a hugely contentious decision by Dutch referee Bjorn Kuipers sent the Irish on their way to Euro 2016 as he ruled that Bosnian defender Zukanovic had handled Murphy's cross.

It looked more a case of ball to hand as Zukanovic had no chance to avoid the contact but Walters, back after his first-leg suspension, held his nerve to send his former Stoke City team-mate Asmir Begovic the wrong way from the spot.

It was to prove the game's pivotal moment.

O'Neill and Keane – an unlikely success story

Republic football fans had long wanted Martin O'Neill as the country's manager but his decision to appoint Roy Keane as his assistant led to raised eyebrows as many wondered how two



Martin O'Neill appointed Roy Keane as his assistant when he took over in November 2013.



FANS prepare for summer 2016 in France after Ireland reaches Euro finals.

such strong characters could work together.

After the encouragement of a battling 1-1 draw against world champions Germany in Gelsenkirchen 13 months ago, the Republic's qualification hopes looked in grave doubt as a defeat by Scotland was followed by home draws against Poland and the Scots.

But Ireland's unlikely home victory over

the Germans in October reignited the Republic's prospects and, despite the defeat by Poland three days later, they had put themselves in a position to challenge for a place in France via the play-offs.

With the Football Association of Ireland having already offered O'Neill a new deal, the duo will now be expected to remain in charge for the foreseeable future.

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