

# the celtic connection

ISSUE 25 VOLUME 4

*Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991*

JULY/AUGUST 2016

## What Next? Political upheaval continues in UK after stunning EU vote



THE SHOCKWAVES engulfing the British political establishment continue after the UK voted to leave the European Union on June 23. Standing in front of the gathered international media with his wife Samantha by his side, British Prime Minister David Cameron appeared shattered as he emotionally announced he would be stepping down. He said he wanted to ensure the country had "strong, determined, and committed" leadership to lead negotiations with the EU." Since the vote bitter leadership challenges have ensued. [Read more page 11]



IRISH President Michael D. Higgins greets Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in Glasgow during his four-day trip to Scotland. In an address to the Scottish Parliament, Higgins spoke out about the discourse of fear in the UK's Brexit debate and said he is concerned about the future of the European Union. [Read more on page 13]

### *Fáilte: A Warm Welcome*

TO BOTH THE IRISH WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM AND THE IRISH MEN'S U19 LACROSSE TEAM WHO WILL EACH BE COMPETING IN CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS IN B.C. THIS MONTH. BEST OF LUCK! [MORE DETAILS ON PAGES 14 & 15]

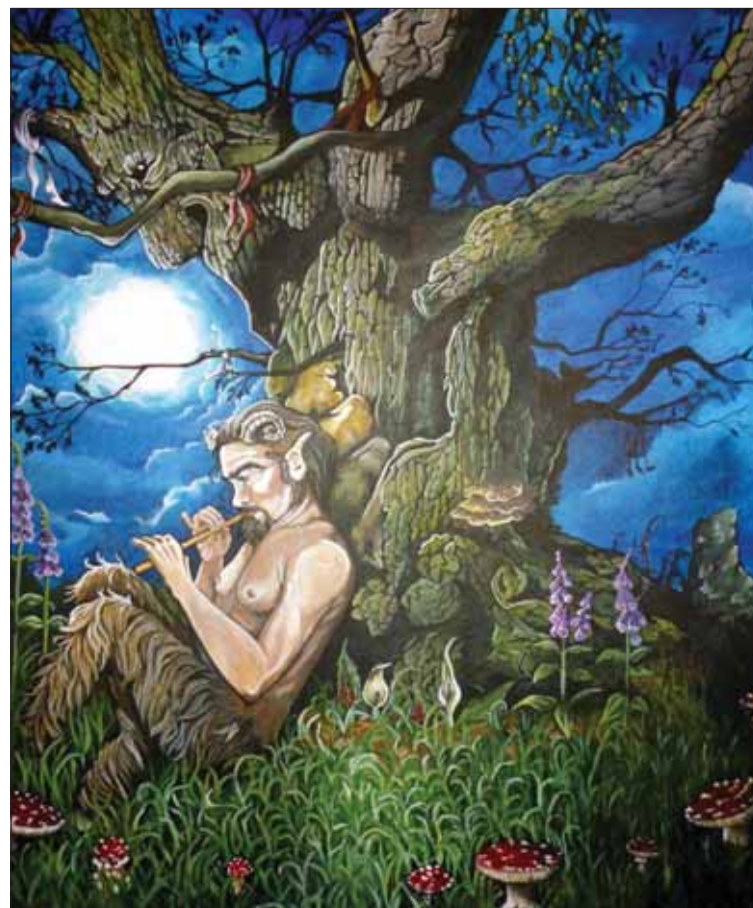


SEVEN years in the making — The Chilcot report into the UK's role in the war in Iraq is finally due to be released on Wednesday, July 6.

[Read more on page 8]



**BATTLE OF THE SOMME:** Commuters across Britain were stopped in their tracks on the morning of July 1 by the moving sight of 'ghost soldiers' dressed in First World War uniforms. The event marked the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, one of the bloodiest battles in human history. [Page 10]



LUGHNASADH (pronounced loo'-na-sadh) is the festival which marks the harvest season and the journey from summer into autumn beginning August 1. This is a time to give thanks for seeds that have grown, harvests gathered, storehouses filled, and mouths fed. We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves, shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow. We sense its passing in rain that dampens, winds that chill, harvest's bounty placed on show. Savour the days and moments. [Read more on page 18]

### WESTERN CANADA GAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

CONGRATULATIONS to the Fraser Valley Gaels, Men's 2016 Senior Football Champions. The Calgary Chieftains GAA ladies, 2016 Ladies Gaelic Football Champions. And, JP Ryans with the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club, Senior Hurling Champions. [More on page 14]

## WIN FREE TICKETS

WIN a round of Guinness and appetizers for 2 at Hooley Sundays with live music at **The Blarney Stone** in Gastown, beginning Sunday, July 24. (See page 3 & 6 for details). Entry by July 15. Mark your entry: Blarney Stone.

WIN a pair (2 tickets) to a **Taste of the Highlands** at the **Canmore Highland Games** in Canmore, Alberta on September 3-4, *plus* a pair (2 tickets) for entrance to the **Canmore Highland Games** (Ceilidh not included). (See page 7 for details). Entry by August 8. Mark your entry: Canmore Highland Games.

WIN a pair (2 tickets) to **Mission Folk Music Festival** with concerts, square dancing, and camping at Fraser River Heritage Park, Mission, B.C., July 22-24. (See page 3 for details). Entry by July 11. Mark your entry: Mission Folk Festival.

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 per event*). Send to: cbutler@telus.net.

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# A fond farewell from Ray Bassett the Irish Ambassador to Canada

**I**RISH ambassadors to Australia, Canada and Greece are among 11 senior diplomatic nominees who have been appointed to new positions this year.

Jim Kelly takes over as ambassador to Canada, the Bahamas and Jamaica from outgoing envoy Ray Bassett.

Kelly, who was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, has an extensive media background. His most recent position since January 2016 was Third Secretary at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland.

Previous experience includes media analyst with San Francisco based Meltwater and editorial and digital marketing with Irish Central in New York City.

He also worked as a media buyer for the large advertising agency Maxus and earlier as a copywriter on the news desk at RTE, the state broadcaster and number one news outlet in Ireland.

During his tenure in Ottawa, Ray Bassett was particularly appreciated by Irish groups and organizations across Canada for his efforts to reach out across this vast country and promote Ireland as a destination for visitors.

He offered an inclusive approach to the Irish diaspora across Canada while Ireland experienced an economic crash and the largest exodus of young workers in recent history.

It is largely due to Bassett's diplomacy and work with the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs that International Experience Canada, a one-year working holiday programme for 18-35 year olds, was extended to a two-year visa for Irish migrants.

In his final message before leaving, Bassett sent a fond farewell to *The Celtic Connection* and our readers.



By  
**MAURA  
DE FREITAS**

He said, "I am leaving Canada in the next few weeks so I thought it was opportune to connect with friends throughout Canada before I depart.

"I have been here six years and it has passed in the blink of an eye. I have had a wonderful experience and will leave with a huge trove of memories and experiences.

"I have been welcomed by Irish community organisations the length and breadth of this country.

"It is an extraordinary privilege to be Irish Ambassador to Canada and to have held the post for six years, the longest since 1939-49, has been truly a terrific experience.

"I never once took it for granted for a second. Myself and Patricia will leave Canada with great memories and lots of great friends."

It was his personal approach that resonated so deeply with Irish ex-pats across the country.

In his message to both Catholine and myself here at *The Celtic Connection*, he wrote, "I always viewed you both, not only as important contacts in the Irish community, but more importantly as among those friends.

"The role you have played with *The Celtic Connection* has been a very valuable one and even more so since you linked Irish communities together all along the west coast."

In closing, he said, "Catholine, every time I pass near the village of Low [Quebec], I think of you and the extraordinary Irish community along the Gatineau. Larry Bradley is still doing very well after the start you gave him in Ottawa.



**RAY BASSETT**



**JIM KELLY**

"I hope when I return to Ireland that I will be able to keep up some association with Canada."

Adieu to our good friend Ray Bassett, and we extend a warm welcome to our new Irish Ambassador Jim Kelly.

## Quote of the Month

"The lamps are going out  
all over Europe,  
we shall not see them  
lit again in our life-time."

— Sir Edgar Grey  
[1862–1933]

*British Foreign Secretary  
on the eve of Britain's entry  
into the First World War  
Monday, 3 August 1914*

## 2017 CSANA Conference will be hosted by Vancouver Welsh Society

VANCOUVER – The Celtic Studies Association of North America (CSANA) is an academic organization founded in 1976 that embraces all aspects of Celtic Studies.

Next year the Vancouver Welsh Society will host the 2017 CSANA conference in Vancouver on April 27–30.

Organizers are excited not only to bring CSANA to Vancouver for the first time but also to work more closely than ever with partners in the Celtic community.

The Vancouver Welsh Society was founded in 1908, and in 1929 its members built the Cambrian Hall, a dedicated Celtic community space where the Welsh language remains in everyday use.

Welsh Society members have enthusiastically supported bringing CSANA to Vancouver and generously donated the use of the Cambrian Hall for the duration of the conference.

With over 200 members in the U.S., Canada, Ireland, Britain, Europe, Australia and Japan, CSANA members are

interested in the languages, literature, history, folklore, music, art and archaeology of ancient, medieval, and modern Celtic cultures.

Members are interested in Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, Cornwall, the Isle of Man, and the continental Celts.

Papers are invited on any aspect of language, literature, history, folklore and/or culture of the Celtic peoples from any period for the upcoming 2017 conference.

Abstracts of approximately 200 words should be sent by November 15, 2016, to Antone Minard via e-mail ([antone\\_minard@sfu.ca](mailto:antone_minard@sfu.ca) or [mminard@sfu.ca](mailto:mminard@sfu.ca)) with the subject line 'CSANA 2017 Abstract'.

Please note that speakers are required to be members of CSANA. A membership form can be downloaded online, and further information about the conference venue, travel to Vancouver, and hotel can be found on the website.

Although most CSANA meetings are held in university settings, membership is open to anyone with a serious interest in Celtic Studies.

For more information, visit: <http://celtic.cmrs.ucla.edu/csana>.



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## THE CELTIC CONNECTION

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# 2016 B.C. Entertainment Hall of Fame honour for Steve Edge of Rogue Folk Club

**V**ANCOUVER – The B.C. Entertainment Hall of Fame has announced this year's list of inductees to honour their significant contributions to the province's entertainment industry and cultural landscape.

Among the luminaries in the 'Pioneer' category, Steve Edge will finally be acknowledged for his long-standing contributions to world folk music in the Vancouver area.

This award will recognize his work as artistic/executive director of The Rogue Folk Club, which he co-founded in the spring of 1987.

His achievements and contributions are vast and varied, including his weekly radio show on CiTR, the UBC campus station.

Steve arrived in Canada from England in 1981 and since The Rogue was launched almost 30 years ago, the club has presented almost 2,000 live music concerts to metro Vancouver audiences.

Thousands of B.C. Canadian and international performers have graced The Rogue stage, affording local audiences a wonderful and often eclectic variety of acoustic folk, Celtic, roots and blues music.

Steve has, in effect, consistently produced a high quality year-round folk festival in the city.

He has also participated in numerous



STEVE EDGE

joint productions and provided guidance and support for many other local organizations and music festivals.

Also, Steve and The Rogue were founding members in 1989 of Folk Alliance International where he has presented workshops and is one of the hosts of the Folk DJ Reception at their annual industry conference of more than 2,000 delegates.

He was instrumental in the three years

of organizing for the five day 2001 Folk Alliance Conference in Vancouver including dozens of public showcase venues along Commercial Drive.

For the past nine years Steve has also produced the acclaimed April In Paris Gypsy Jazz Festival at The Rogue.

Among his many accomplishments, Steve has also been a regular contributor to *The Celtic Connection* newspaper with a lively commentary on news and events across the folk music spectrum and beyond.

We join with his many friends and colleagues in offering our heartiest congratulations on this most well deserved award and our very best wishes.

Steve will be acknowledged as a Pioneer with the B.C. Entertainment Hall of Fame with a photograph in the awards photo gallery and brass plaque in the historic Orpheum Theatre on Granville Street in downtown Vancouver.

The official award ceremony will be held at the home of The Rogue Folk Club, St. James Hall, on Sunday, September 4.

Steve will be honoured along with co-recipient Linda McRae, a former Spirit of the West band member who now resides in Nashville, Tennessee. She will be in town for a concert at The Rogue the same night. Don't miss it!



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# From Vancouver to Manchester ...on the road with Steve

ONLY getting to write this column every two months means there's a lot more to fit in!

Since my last column I've been over to England, we've completed our spring season at The Rogue and are gearing up for festival season out here on the left coast.

We've had some staff changes at **The Rogue** as well, with fiddler **Scherene Auchterlonie** and radio DJ **Paul Norton** replacing **Lydia Hol** and **Linda Bull**.

I've also been busy booking shows for the fall season – and getting ready for a trip to Denmark and beyond in August. No rest for the wicked (or the Rogues)!

My England trip was mostly for the football. I arrived in Manchester on the day of United's final game of the season, and was part of the crowd evacuated when a suspicious package was found in the stadium. That was the first time such a postponement had ever happened in England.

I then spent a couple of days visiting museums (United's own, the Lowry Museum, and the amazing Imperial War Museum North – which is devoted to the experience of war from the perspective of civilians).

Whilst in Manchester I found out I was to be inducted into the **B.C. Entertainment Hall of Fame!**

Wow! What an amazing honour! I'll be inducted as a Pioneer, along with the likes of **Joe Keithley** (DOA), **Tom Lavin** (Powder Blues), **The Filliponi Brothers** (The Penthouse Cabaret!), and former Spirit of the West band member **Linda McRae**.

Linda was born and raised in B.C., but now makes her home in Nashville.

She's playing a Rogue gig at St. James Hall on Sunday, September 4 with **Thad Beckman** – Tom Russell's guitarist for the past few years.

Linda and Thad first met at The Rogue last November, when I had to put them on the same bill as there were no other dates available to suit them and us.

Boy, what a chance meeting and a pleasant surprise that was!

They had each played a set and then got together for an impromptu encore. They covered three Hank Williams tunes and had such a great time that they are now touring together!

Both are impressive songwriters (Linda works a lot with prisoners in such establishments as Folsom Prison, helping them develop their songwriting skills as a way to help ease the pains of incarceration) and both released fine albums last year.

It will be a great concert, with each contributing solo material and with more collaborative material as well.

Making it even more special, the event will also be the official ceremony inducting both Linda and I into the B.C. Entertainment Hall of Fame!



By  
**STEVE  
EDGE**

## THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB



**BARRULE** is a young trad trio from the Isle of Man. They play The Rogue October 2

After Manchester I headed to London for a few days, to explore such delights as the Borough Market, Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese Inn on Fleet Street, the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Royal Geographic Society's amazing exhibition Britain From The Air, and a tour of the Royal Albert Hall with Charlie Richmond and Marilyn Williams, Rogue bar staff stalwarts who happened to be in London at the same time!

I also made it to the FA Cup Final to see United lift the trophy. What an incredible experience that was!

The other highlight of my London trip was seeing Welsh band **9bach** at Bush Hall in Shepherd's Bush.

It's a Victorian / Edwardian hall recently renovated. About the same size as the Wise Hall, but with no "balcony." It has a very ornate white marble stage frieze and a wooden dance floor – with very few seats.

(I just cannot understand how venues can have so few seats these days. Most Vancouver venues – and Bush Hall – only seat about 5-10 percent of the audience; the rest have to stand and sway. I think it's weird! At The Rogue we have seats for everyone. Seems a common courtesy to me....but what would I know?)

**9bach** is a remarkable band fronted by singer **Lisa Jen**, who is flanked on stage by keyboardist **Mirain Roberts** and harpist **Esyllt Jones**.

Lisa lives in Snowdonia and her first language is Welsh. Somehow she has also absorbed Greek rebetika music!

Behind the three women are **Martin Hoyland** (guitar), **Dan Swain** (bass) and **Ali Byworth** (drums) who provide a pulsating rhythmic core to anchor the music.

All the songs are in Welsh, and they give very brief intros to the songs' subject matter, allowing the audience an "in" to the soul of the songs.

The music really speaks for itself, carrying one along on a melodic and engaging rhythmic ride.



**9BACH** is a remarkable band fronted by singer Lisa Jen, who is flanked on stage by keyboardist Mirain Roberts and harpist Esyllt Jones. Lisa lives in Snowdonia and her first language is Welsh.



**LINDA McRAE**, a former member of Spirit of the West, plays a Rogue gig on Sunday, September 4 with **Thad Beckman**.



**OYSTERBAND** will be featured in the line up at both this year's Vancouver Folk Music Festival and the Islands Folk Festival in Duncan, B.C.

They have just released their third CD, *Anian*, which comes with a bonus disc of poems and prose written specially for them by a variety of authors and read by such diverse talents as **Peter Gabriel** (whose record label, Realworld, houses 9bach amongst many other fine bands), the actor **Rhys Ifans**, and Canadian-born singer **Bonnie Dobson**.

Lisa Jen spent some time in Australia, touring with the aboriginal group **The Black Arm Band**, whose singer **Lou Bennett** also reads one of the poems – *Si Hwi Hwi* – a song about slavery.

Another of their songs, *Plenty*, speaks to the abduction of aboriginal children from their families to be raised as "white."

Lisa and Mirain were amazed when I told them we had a similarly tarnished history here in Canada.

I hope 9bach come over here to present their incredible music some day. Soon. They will find a lot of empathy around here, for sure. Check them out on [www.9bach.com](http://www.9bach.com).

Festival season is now upon us, but there aren't all that many Celtic bands playing the Canadian festivals this summer.

**Harrison Festival of the Arts** has **The Paperboys**, **David Francey**, **Norah Rendell**, and Quebec's **Melisande**.

**Vancouver Folk Music Festival** has lots of English bands – and we know how separate England has become recently!

**Oysterband**, **Martin and Eliza Carthy**, **Lucy Ward**, **The Young 'Uns**, and also PEI's **Ten Strings & A Goat Skin**, and Irish quintet **I Draw Slow** – who play more of an "Americana" sound than Celtic.

Oysterband also head over to Duncan for **Islands Folk Festival**, and the same weekend White Rock's amazing fiddler **Kierah** kicks off the **Mission Folk Music Festival**.

**Dervish** play the **Edmonton Folk Music Festival** in August, along with PEI's **The East Pointers** and New-

foundland trad. singer extraordinaire **Matthew Byrne**.

For full details of all the B.C. festivals I'd recommend B.C. Musician magazine's 2016 Festival Edition – [www.bcmusicianmag.com/2016-festival-guide](http://www.bcmusicianmag.com/2016-festival-guide).

And then there's **Shorefest**, where The Rogue presents Canadian bands on our Sunset Beach Stage just prior to the **Celebration of Light** fireworks displays.

Saturday, July 23, Wednesday, July 27, and Saturday, July 30 this year. It's all FREE, and there is a beer garden and food trucks. Check out the line-up on [www.roguefolk.bc.ca](http://www.roguefolk.bc.ca).

Margaret and I are off to Scandinavia right after the Edmonton festival, and we end the month of August at the **Tonder Festival**, just over the German border in Denmark.

Bands like **Shooglenifty**, **Flook**, **Rura**, **Ross Ainslie** and **Jarlath Henderson**, and **The Treacherous Orchestra** are joined there by **Tim O'Brien**, and Canadians **The Barra MacNeils**, **Ten Strings & A Goat Skin** and heaps more Blues and Cajun performers and songwriters, plus great Scandinavian bands like **Vasen** and **The String Sisters**.

We get back just in time for Linda McRae's show in September!

For more information on Rogue shows, visit [www.roguefolk.bc.ca](http://www.roguefolk.bc.ca) (you definitely shouldn't miss the debut of young trad. Celtic trio **Barrule** from the Isle of Man on October 2, for example!).

If you're looking for new CDs of Celtic music you can't go wrong with these:

- *And The Band Played On* – **Four Men & A Dog** – celebrating 25 years of making scintillating Celtic music;

- *What's Next?* – **The Rambling Boys** – another Gino Lupari project, joined by Sean Regan (fiddle), David Munnally (melodeon), and Alan Burke (vocals and guitar);

- *Auprès du Poêle* – **Ten Strings & A Goat Skin** – great young trio from PEI with their second CD, whose title means "around the wood stove";

- *Anian* – **9bach** (see above review);

- *This House Will Stand* – **Oysterband** – a double CD. First one is a Best of from the last 16 years. Second disc is a fine collection of previously unreleased songs;

- *The Gloaming 2* – **The Gloaming** – Martin Hayes, Dennis Cahill, Iarla O'Lionaird and co. with their second beautiful collection;

- *Dinas* – **Calan** – another excellent young Welsh band with fiddles, accordion, pipes and vocals;

- *Manannan's Cloak* – **Barrule** – three young lads from the Isle of Man. Exhilarating Celtic tunes and songs;

- *Gathering* – **Maria Dunn** – Edmonton songwriter's latest collection of inspiring songs about the valiant lives of community activists and heroines like Malala.

- *The Source* – **Afro Celt Sound System** – this one is contentious. There are two bands claiming the same name, made up of two halves of the band. Acrimony and litigation is ongoing. Such a shame! If I could only listen to one band – perish the thought! – they would have been at the top of my list. The new CD is pretty good, but nothing compares to their work with Iarla O'Lionaird in the late 90s and early noughties.

Have a great summer! See you at The Rogue in September – and maybe at a festival or two before then. — *Steve*



## VANCOUVER FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

# I Draw Slow: One of the finest Irish imports since the Fenians tried to invade Canada

VANCOUVER – This year's Vancouver Folk Music Festival, July 15-17 at Jericho Beach Park, showcases an uncommon lineup of fine talent from the UK and Ireland.

There are veterans of the folk music scene like the brilliant Martin Carthy, joined at the festival by his prodigiously-talented daughter Eliza, likely the only father-daughter folk music duo with two MBEs. There's also Oysterband, legends in British folk.

There are young up and comers as well, like the amazing group The Young'uns, guitarists Cian Nugent and Martin Harley, the orchestral folk-rock of Moulettes, and two young women destined to knock festival audience's socks off, the UK's Lucy Ward and the gloriously singular voice of Ireland's Lisa O'Neill.

All these artists are evidence of the huge influence and impact that music from Ireland and the UK have had, and continue to have, on the music we hear in North America – both traditional and contemporary.

But if there is ever any question about the Irish influence in old-time American music, a quick visit to the band I Draw Slow will answer it.

While at first it may seem odd to encounter a great old-time band supported by Culture Ireland, the Irish Government's art export supporters, a close listen reveals the Irish feel at the heart of this music as well as the passion for what happened after the music got to America with many of its fellow countrymen in the Nineteenth Century.

I Draw Slow is a five-piece outfit comprising vocals, guitar, fiddle, banjo and double bass.



IRELAND'S I Draw Slow is a five-piece outfit with Holden siblings Dave on guitar and Louise on vocals, violinist Adrian Hart, claw hammer banjo player Colin Derham, and double bassist Konrad Liddy.

Holden siblings Dave (guitar) and Louise (vocals) have been writing together for two decades. In 2008 the pair teamed up with violinist Adrian Hart, claw hammer banjo player Colin Derham, and double bassist Konrad Liddy to form I Draw Slow.

The progress of I Draw Slow then happened fast. Their second recording, *Redlands*, sold like hot bread and was on the charts in Ireland.

One of the songs on it, *Goldmine*, tells a story by a woman of sex and love and the relationship between the two.

On their most recent recording, *White Wave Chapel*, the band has fashioned an upbeat number with its playfulness that reminds the listener of another Dubliner named Joyce.

The writing, singing and playing in I Draw Slow are all top notch. Already there's a buzz of anticipation for this band, with the sense that this is one of the finest Irish visits to Canada since the Fenians tried to make us a republic.

I Draw Slow and the other groups from Britain and Ireland perform over three days and nights of music in the beachfront setting of the festival.

They're joined by almost 60 artists and groups from 18 countries on seven stages, in addition to shopping, international food, the Little Folks Village and more.

The full day and evening schedule is on the festival website at [thefestival.bc.ca](http://thefestival.bc.ca), where tickets can be purchased for one day or the full weekend. Children 12 and under are free.

## Renowned male Welsh choir to make highly anticipated visit

By ALAN SANDERSON

VANCOUVER – Over the Labour Day weekend (September 1-4) the multi-award-winning male choir, Côr Meibion Colwyn from North Wales will be the featured choir at the North American Festival of Wales, which this year is being held in Calgary.

Music director Tudur Eames will conduct Colwyn in their Saturday concert and also the Cymanfa Ganu (Congregational Hymn Singing). Both events will have audiences of around 700. He will also take the much smaller Ysgol Gân (Singing School).

The choir has consistently been placed first, second, or third in many international competitions and has toured extensively in Britain and elsewhere in Europe.

They have been winners four times at the Welsh National Eisteddfod and in 2015 won third place in the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, one of the largest festivals in the world that attracts competitors from 70-100 different countries every year.



CÔR MEIBION COLWYN pictured above at a concert at Conwy Castle on the north coast of Wales. The award-winning choir will be featured at the 2016 North American Festival of Wales in Calgary this September. They will also visit Vancouver where they will present a joint concert with the Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir on August 28.

They have also raised over £150,000 for different charities.

Before arriving in Calgary, however, the choir is spending a few days in B.C. where on Sunday, August 28 at 7 PM, they will perform in a joint concert with

Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir at Ryerson United Church in Vancouver.

The next day (August 29), they will perform at First United Church in Salmon Arm at 7:30 PM on their way to Calgary.

This concert is organized by Arwyn Gittens and Lawrence Williams, the Shuswap Welsh Club and a number of other local charities and business organizations.

Colwyn completed a new CD in June 2016, which they will be selling on their tour in Canada.

Last October Orpheus had the privilege of performing with Colwyn in Llandudno as part of their seven-concert tour of Wales. Naturally, they are delighted to be able to return the favour.

If you are in Vancouver or Salmon Arm at the end of August, be sure to take in the concert there. I guarantee you won't be disappointed!

For concert details and tickets in Vancouver, go to the Orpheus website [www.vancouverorpheus.org](http://www.vancouverorpheus.org), or phone their information line at (604) 515-5686. In Salmon Arm, call (250) 832-4415 or (250) 832-8547.



## Rogue Folk Club

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Sunday, SEPTEMBER 4

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## Ultraviolet light reveals hidden text in ancient book of Arthurian stories



PHOTO: National Library of Wales  
A PAGE from the *Black Book of Camarthen*, the most treasured book in Welsh history.

CARDIFF – Scholars in Wales have discovered that parts of one of the most important books in Welsh history was erased and some of the texts on its animal-skin pages overwritten.

The book is titled *The Black Book of Camarthen* and includes Arthurian stories, Christian prayers and poetry.

In passages that were not erased, Merlin, Arthur, Cuchulainn, Uther Pendragon, the hero Gereint, the poet Taliesin, Cyridwen, Fairy King Gwyn ap Nudd and other figures of Dark Ages legend, myth and tall tale make appearances in the 750-year-old, 54-page book.

It is the oldest known surviving book entirely in the Welsh language and has some of the earliest references to Myrddin (Merlin) and Arthur.

The verse portrays Arthur and Myrddin (Merlin) before they were king and wise counselor to kings, respectively. In one poem, Arthur is a supplicant to enter the court of a king. Myrddin is a wild man driven mad in battle and extolling the virtues of trees.

Professor Paul Russell and Myriah Williams of the Cambridge Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic have discovered that a man who owned the book in the Sixteenth Century, probably Jasper Gryffyth, erased verse, doodles and marginalia that had been added to the manuscript over the centuries as it changed hands.

Using photo-editing software and ultraviolet light to examine the vellum pages, the scholars revealed poetry that is unknown in the Welsh canon.

The poems are fragmentary, but they hope with further analysis they can read the text, which they think is the ending of a poem on a preceding page and a new poem at the bottom of the page.

Williams said, "The margins of manuscripts often contain medieval and early modern reactions to the text, and these can cast light on what our ancestors thought about what they were reading."

"*The Black Book* was particularly heavily annotated before the end of the Sixteenth Century, and the recovery of erasure has much to tell us about what was already there and can change our understanding of it."

The book can be read, except for a few chapters, at the Celtic Literature Collective.

Currently housed at the National Library in Wales, the *Black Book of Camarthen* (Peniarth MS 1) is a manuscript dating to the middle of the Thirteenth Century.

It is believed to have been the work of a single scribe at the Priory of St. John in Carmarthen, says the Celtic Literature Collective introduction to the book.



PHOTO: Wikimedia Commons  
KING ARTHUR asks the Lady of the Lake for the Sword Excalibur by Walter Crane [1845-1915] from *King Arthur's Knights: The Tales Retold for Boys and Girls* - 1911.

## Hooley Sundays at Gastown's Blarney Stone

VANCOUVER – The Blarney Stone in historic Gastown, a long-time favourite of Irish music fans, has launched a new live music session starting July 24 with Hooley Sundays.

For generations the highlight of Irish social life was the hooley – music, dance, song, and good conversation. The goal of the Blarney Stone's Hooley Sundays is to promote Celtic music and culture in Vancouver.

Voted Best Irish Pub in Vancouver for multiple years, the Blarney Stone is both a local favorite and popular tourist destination, offering a unique pub experience by day and rip roaring, foot stomping good time by night!

No cover charge on Sunday nights for Hooley Sundays, drop in and check it out at 216 Carrall Street in Vancouver. For more information, call (604) 687-4322, or visit online at: [blarneystone.ca](http://blarneystone.ca).



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## TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR JULY

*Celt In A Twist* is local contemporary Celtic radio heard weekly on AM 1470, CJVB in Vancouver.  
[www.worldbeatcanada.com](http://www.worldbeatcanada.com).

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

1. <i>Anian</i> by 9Bach - <i>Anian</i> on Real World.	6. <i>After The Storm</i> by Sketch - <i>Highland Times</i> on Skye Music.
2. <i>An Danna Elegua</i> by Salsa Celtica - <i>The Tall Islands</i> on Discos Leon.	7. <i>Porch Light</i> by Aofie O'Donovan - <i>In the Magic Hour</i> on YepRoc.
3. <i>Aupres Du Poele</i> by Ten Strings And A Goat Skin - <i>Aupres Du Poele</i> on TSAAGS.	8. <i>Gazaremsan</i> by Jocelyn Pettit Band - <i>Caravan</i> on Independent.
4. <i>Le Brasier</i> by Epsilon - <i>Manufacture Du Temps</i> on Coop Breizh.	9. <i>Shannon</i> by Plantec - TBA on Independent.
5. <i>Content Not Seeking Thrills</i> (Ain't You?) - Hackensaw Boys	10. <i>Little Birdie</i> by Yo-Yo Ma & Silk Road Ensemble on <i>Sing Me Home</i> by Sony Masterworks.

**Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:**  
**Kris Drever - If Wishes Were Horses (Reveal Records)**



# What makes the Canmore Highland Games great?

There are so many things that it required a list.....

1. It's held in the best setting in the whole wide world, beneath the majestic peaks of the Three Sisters Mountain in Canmore, Alberta just one hour west of Calgary in the beautiful Canadian Rockies.

2. Big Rock Beer and the Big Rock beer garden with entertainment where you can shelter from the weather, take a meal or beverage break, or just meet with friends or have a cold one or a wee' dram of Famous Grouse.

3. It has the friendliest volunteers you'll find anywhere.

4. The Taste of the Highlands on Saturday, September 3. Where else can you enjoy a Celtic lounge atmosphere in a big heated tent. A great opportunity to find the perfect wine, scotch or beer with appetizers available by some of Canmore's finest restaurants to accompany your beverages.

5. Weather doesn't matter. Whether there's sun, rain or snow, everybody still shows up and all events run as planned. OK, they've had their share of snow stories but really, is the weather really any worse than Scotland?

6. Did we mention Big Rock Beer? OK



THE evening Ceilidh features Solstice, Montreal's favourite Celtic band.

then, Big Rock Beer. They will not run out! Big Rock sends a reefer full of kegs to ensure that.

7. It's a well-established and well-organized event with all the colour, flavour and sound you can imagine coming from the larger Celtic community of Canada and the world.

8. You can win a custom-made kilt outfit courtesy of The Scottish Shoppe in Calgary along with other prizes adding up to over \$9,000 like golf, local products and more.

9. G-r-r-reat entertainment! In 2016 you can experience Montreal's best-kept secret, Solstice, a Celtic band who know how to celebrate with mad flute and tin whistles by Dave Gossage, crazy fiddling by a girl from PEI (Kate Bevan-Baker), and awesome vocals and accompaniment by Pat Lesyk, Bill

Gossage and Rick Irwin.

Then there's the Backbeat Dancers, step-dancing Irish-style that will leave you breathless. The Robert Malcolm Memorial Pipe Band from Vancouver who not only plan to win, but will also play a special set during the Sunday evening Ceilidh. The Glenlily and Glenrose Highland Dancers – you'll see more than the Highland Fling when these top dancers take the stage.

10. There is a tug-of-war that pays out \$2,000 to each top men's and women's team! Enough to make you put a team together to take the loot home!

11. The Massed Bands – the thrill you feel when they all come out on the field and parade for you – they tug at your heart-strings when they play *Amazing Grace*.

The Canmore Highland Games will be held on September 3-4 in Canmore, Alberta. Taste of the Highlands will be held from 5-9 PM on Saturday, September 3 with the full Highland Games on Sunday, September 4 from 8 to 5:30 PM.

The Evening Ceilidh will close the Games on Sunday night from 6 to 11 PM. For tickets and more information, see: [www.canmorehighlandgames.ca](http://www.canmorehighlandgames.ca).



September 3-4, 2016



Taste of the Highlands	Saturday, September 3, 5 - 9 pm
Full Highland Games	Sunday, September 4, 8 am - 5:30 pm
Evening Ceilidh	Sunday, September 4, 6 - 11 pm

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# Former UN weapons inspector says Tony Blair 'misrepresented' Iraq chemical weapons threat

LONDON – Tony Blair “misrepresented” Iraq’s chemical weapons threat, former UN inspector Hans Blix has claimed in a BBC documentary about the War in Iraq.

Blix claimed the former British prime minister “did not represent the reality” ahead of the 2003 invasion.

*Iraq: The Final Judgement* interviewed former weapons inspector Hans Blix and former Labour minister Claire Short – who stepped down as international development secretary in protest at the war in 2003.

The programme comes a week before the Chilcot Inquiry into the war is due to release its findings on July 6.

Blix did not suggest the former PM acted in bad faith, adding, “Many people bring themselves to believe something that they want to believe.”

The Swedish diplomat and politician added, “I think Blair had a feeling that this was an evil regime and that it was a moral thing to do away with it.”

Sir John Chilcot’s inquiry was set up in 2009 by then prime minister Gordon Brown after the withdrawal of the main

body of British troops earlier that year.

The British presence in Iraq, named Operation Telic, resulted in the deaths of 179 service personnel.

The inquiry examined the lead up to the 2003 invasion, and the years up to the 2009 withdrawal.

The report’s long-awaited publication follows 130 sessions of oral evidence, and the testimony of more than 150 witnesses. The inquiry analysed more than 150,000 government documents, as well as other material related to the invasion.

Giving evidence in 2010, Blair said he was convinced by the intelligence reports he was receiving that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein did have weapons of mass destruction.

He acknowledged some of the reports he was given warned some of the intelligence was “sporadic and patchy,” but said throughout the build-up to the invasion, advice from the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) – the UK’s



TONY BLAIR with former U.S. President George W. Bush launched a coalition invasion of Iraq in 2003. Some 179 British service personnel were killed during the conflict, and tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians died.

most senior intelligence body – was that Saddam was continuing his WMD programmes.

“It is hard to come to any other conclusion than that this person is continuing WMD programmes,” he said at the time.

“When you are the prime minister and the Joint Intelligence Committee is giv-

ing you this information, you have got to rely on the people doing it, with the experience and with the commitment and integrity as they do.

“Of course now, with the benefit of hindsight, we look back on the situation differently.”

He also strongly defended his claim in the British Government’s Iraq dossier,

published in September 2002, that the intelligence had established “beyond doubt” that Iraq had WMD.

Short, Labour MP for Birmingham Ladywood from 1983 to 2010, told Panorama that the invasion would be Blair’s “legacy.”

She told the programme “what was known, which was very little indeed, was then exaggerated way beyond to give this imminent threat,” adding, “I mean that’s just dishonest. There’s no question about it.”

She went on, “I think he’d [Tony Blair] made up his mind to be with [George] Bush. And we were massaged and deceived to get us there when it was a manipulation of us – that is us, the parliament, the cabinet, British public opinion, American public opinion by people who were determined to take military action from the beginning.”

The Chilcot Inquiry was initially expected to take no longer than two years. However, it has taken seven years in total – longer than British troops were on Iraqi soil.

This was because the panel under-estimated the “unprecedented scope” of the inquiry and the time it would take to study approximately 150,000 documents, according to Sir John.

## Angry Scots Troll Donald Trump Over Brexit Gaffe



U.S. PRESIDENTIAL candidate Donald Trump chats with the media after he arrived at the Trump International Golf Links at Balmedie, near Aberdeen, Scotland, Saturday June 25, 2016.

GLASGOW – While much of the world was still reeling from the Brexit vote, which saw the U.K. choose to leave the European Union, Donald Trump was in the middle of a trip visiting his mother’s place of birth, Scotland.

Trump’s unusual break from his presidential campaign to visit his golf courses in Ayrshire and Aberdeen, was met with criticism from prominent Republicans who were unhappy that he was more focused on promoting one of his companies than on running for president.

But perhaps the harshest reaction he received came from the people of Scotland who gave him a very cold reception.

Protesters greeted him with golf balls emblazoned with Swastikas – a symbol synonymous with Nazi Germany – at the opening of the golf course.

Local residents, upset by both Trump’s anti-immigrant rhetoric and his earlier attempts to take possession of private

homes and land through eminent domain laws, also expressed their displeasure by raising Mexican flags over adjoining properties.

Michael Forbes, a farmer whose efforts to fight Trump’s Aberdeen course got him voted Scotsman of the Year in 2012 erected a Mexican flag on his property, which is visible from the golf course.

During his visit, Trump reacted with celebration and self-interest to the Brexit vote, predicting that it would benefit his business.

“Look, if the pound goes down, they’re going to do more business,” he said, when asked during a news conference about the referendum’s market ramifications. “When the pound goes down, more people are coming to Turnberry, frankly.”

He compounded the insult with a Twitter post cheering on the Scottish for “taking their country back.” He wrote, “Just arrived in Scotland. Place is going wild over the vote. They took their country back, just like we will take America back. No games!”

The problem, of course, is that Scot-

land voted 62 percent to 38 percent to remain in the European Union.

Trump faced immediate backlash, further compounding an already difficult relationship with the nation.

Among the responses, one read: “@realDonaldTrump you couldn’t be

more out of touch with reality if Nessie bit you on the arse you utter fool. Scotland voted REMAIN.”

Another posted: “@realDonaldTrump Scotland wanted to remain in the EU you utter Twonk- Who is using the Trump family brain cell today?”

## Hey Europe, we were only joking!

BOURNEMOUTH – England has exited Europe twice in four days, once via Iceland. At the time of writing the only piece of Britain still in Europe is the Welsh football team!

There is a very strange phenomenon here at the moment as a sense of disbelief abounds.

The general feeling is “Oops, what the hell have we done and what are we going to do now?”

...Probably the same reaction as when Oliver Cromwell executed King Charles I in 1649.

I confess I voted for Brexit, not for any racist, anti-European or economic reason, but simply because the government were using such irritating, unrealistic, scaremongering tactics that I decided to change my vote to see what would happen.

Another 17 million people also voted for leaving the European Union, but my family and friends, all staunch pro-Europeans, have decided that the result was my fault.

Last Friday I fled to Clonakilty in West Cork, but word also got to them and I was nicknamed Nigel Farage and

### POSTCARD FROM BOURNEMOUTH



By  
ELFAN  
JONES

blamed for single-handedly ruining the Irish economy.

I am back in Bournemouth now keeping a low profile, and watching with a quiet fascination as the blame game unfolds.

Nicola Sturgeon from the Scottish National Party does a good job for Scotland (she’s done well since leaving the Krankies hasn’t she), and is the only British leader that the public seems to respect.

David Cameron has resigned, the Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is facing a massive rebellion within his own party, and we have a certain Boris Johnson waiting to contest the Conservative Party leadership and consequently the new prime minister.

The main reason for people voting Brexit was the fear of overwhelming immigra-

tion. Ambitious politicians feed on that fear blaming all a country’s problems on one issue or one section of society.

Adolph Hitler did it, Nigel Farage does it, Marine Le Penn in France does it and Donald Trump is doing it.

It creates hostility and intolerance, and this little piece my wife spotted in a London paper exemplifies it.

A scene of modern Britain played out recently on a rail replacement bus service near Cardiff....

A woman wearing a niqab (a cloth that covers the face worn by some Muslim women in public) was chatting to her son in another language.

After five minutes, a man suddenly snapped at her, “If you are in the U.K. you should speak English.”

At this another passenger turned round and explained, “We are in Wales and she is speaking Welsh.” Ignorance breeds intolerance.

With Sterling rapidly disappearing down the pan, there is no better time to come over the pond and splash those much coveted dollars around.

Come quickly before Trump buys all of Scotland.

Well, that’s about it...I am about to don a disguise and go out for a pint of French lager.

Best wishes,  
Elfan



# Scotland at the Crossroads after Brexit vote to leave EU



By  
**HARRY  
McGRATH**

EDINBURGH – In the days before the European Union referendum, I was in a small market town in England.

Outside my hotel window, a group of Leave campaigners waved placards at passing motorists who responded with honks of support.

In the local supermarket, most front newspaper covers proclaimed their support for a Brexit and I overheard conversations in which all participants agreed that they would be voting Leave.

There was no obvious public spokesperson for Remain or visible passion for it.

In Scotland, the situation was the polar opposite. All five party leaders in the Scottish Parliament declared for Remain.

Leave posters were scarcer than hen's teeth and friends were scunnered by the anti-immigrant rhetoric of some parts of the Leave campaign and united in their belief that Scotland's interests lay in continued membership of the European Union.

Scotland has a modern tradition of painting its political map one colour. For 50 years it was red for the Labour Party, now it's yellow for the Scottish National Party.

On the morning after the EU referendum a BBC chart had Scotland coloured yellow again; this time to signal its overwhelming support for remaining in the EU.

Every single local authority in Scotland voted to stay.

Unfortunately, my small English market town turned out to be a microcosm of what was happening in other parts of Britain and Scotland now has to contend with a Leave victory.

At the time of writing, the only bright light in the gloom has been the reaction of the Scottish Government.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon immediately moved to reassure EU nationals living in Scotland that they were welcomed and cherished.

She also stated that the Scottish Government would open discussions with the European Commission to explore ways of protecting Scotland's relationship with the EU and assembled a panel of experts to advise it on how to proceed.

Sturgeon's calm and measured approach contrasts with events unfolding elsewhere.

Prime Minister David Cameron fell on his sword having foolishly chosen to brandish it in the first place to appease the right wing of his own party.

With the pound in freefall, Boris Johnson – a key figure in the Leave campaign and prospective successor to Cameron – dropped his court jester routine and replaced it with a deer in the headlights stare.



PHOTO: Scottish Government

NICOLA STURGEON announced plans for a second Scottish independence referendum, following the EU referendum. The first minister said it was "democratically unacceptable" that Scotland faced the prospect of being taken out of the EU after it voted 62 to 38 percent in favour of the UK staying in the EU.

At the time of writing, Johnson's reaction to the unfolding chaos consists of an encomium to his fellow Etonian Cameron whose political career he helped destroy and a risible newspaper column in which he argues that Britain's relationship with the EU will carry on much as before.

Meanwhile the success of the campaign he lead has empowered racists in Britain and beyond with Polish centres vandalised, calls for immigrants to be repatriated and congratulations arriving from anti-immigrant groups across Europe.

It's already obvious that Johnson and the so-called "Brexiters" have no plan for dealing with the consequences of Leave.

And with the opposition Labour Party embroiled in its own internal battles, it's not clear what direction the formerly great British ship of state will take from here or who is going to steer it.

Meanwhile in Scotland, there's talk of a second independence referendum and the possibility of an independent Scotland within the European Union.

The SNP's manifesto at the last Scottish election included a provision for another referendum if there was a "significant and material change in circumstances" such as Scotland being dragged out of the EU against its will.

When that came to pass, Sturgeon stated that a second independence referendum "is on the table."

And while some of the weaknesses in the last independence manifesto still need to be addressed, the ground seems to be shifting.

Polls show increased support for Scottish independence, newspapers that formerly opposed it are now in favour and

even the Tory party in Scotland says that it won't move to block a second independence referendum.

There is still a possibility that Scotland will try to negotiate with the EU to remain inside it without leaving the UK.

Either way Scotland needs to hear the words of welcome from the EU that it failed to supply during the last Scottish referendum.

But this is a new ball game. I've just watched Scottish member Alyn Smith give an impassioned speech to the European Parliament and receive a standing ovation.

He finished with the lines "Scotland didn't let you down. Don't let Scotland down now."

With EU support for a fast-track re-entry, the Leave debacle could yet work in Scotland's favour with businesses from the rest of the UK relocating to a part of it that is still in the EU.

In February I attended a reception in Edinburgh organised by the High Commission of Canada in the UK to promote the benefits to British businesses and consumers of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). That too will need a new home.

An optimist looking down the line can see a social democratic, immigrant friendly, economically successful, EU-member Scotland at the end of it.

Sadly my Remain-voting friends in England have no such prospect.

A friend in Manchester (which voted 60.4/39.6 for Remain) told me that she despairs for the future.

Of Nicola Sturgeon, she says "If only we had someone like her to speak for us."

## Nicola Sturgeon: Another independence vote 'highly likely'

EDINBURGH – Scotland's first minister has said a second independence referendum is "highly likely" after the UK voted to leave the EU.

Nicola Sturgeon said it was "democratically unacceptable" that Scotland faced the prospect of being taken out of the EU against its will.

She said, "After a campaign that has been characterised in the rest of the UK by fear and hate, my priority in the days, weeks and months ahead will be to act at all times in the best interests of Scotland and in a way that unites, not divides us.

"Let me be clear about this. Whatever happens as a result of this outcome, England, Wales and Northern Ireland will always be Scotland's closest neighbours and our best friends – nothing will change that.

"But I want to leave no-one in any doubt about this. I am proud of Scotland and how we voted yesterday.

"We proved that we are a modern, outward looking and inclusive country and we said clearly that we do not want to leave the European Union. I am determined to do what it takes to make sure these aspirations are realised."

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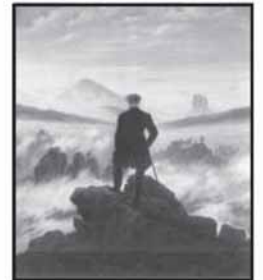
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DANIEL BLAKE (L) played by Dave Johns and the single mother, played by Hayley Squires.

## Ken Loach's new film offers insight into deep discontent of British working-class

LONDON – Ken Loach's New Film *I, Daniel Blake* won the coveted Palme D'Or after reducing 2016 Cannes Film Festival critics to tears.

Loach's new film that takes an uncompromising look at the UK's welfare system and perhaps offers some insight into the depth of British working-class discontent reflected in the Brexit vote.

Set in Newcastle (and shown at the event with subtitles in case people couldn't understand the Geordie accent), *I, Daniel Blake* tells the fictional story of carpenter Daniel Blake who suffers a heart attack and is told by doctors he can no longer work.

An assessment commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) goes against medical advice and rules him too healthy to receive benefits.

Blake – who befriends a single mum – is forced to hunt for jobs which he has to turn down as he is too sick.

The film has particular resonance after the recent story of a partially paralysed man with part of his skull missing declared "fit for work" emerged.

Bailey, who is paralysed down his left side, has trouble walking and needs assistance to get dressed, was deemed to be fit for work following an individual assessment requested by the UK Department of Work and Pensions.

Loach said, "The most vulnerable people are told their poverty is their own fault. If you have no work, it is your fault that you haven't got a job."

"It is shocking. It is not an issue just for people in our country, it is throughout Europe and there is a conscious cruelty in the way we are organising our lives now."

Loach (79) said while researching the film, workers at the DWP admitted to being "humiliated at how they were forced to treat the public."

Many of those involved in the film are from working-class backgrounds including the director and main actors.

Hayley Squires plays the young single mother and her mother still lives in social housing.



BRITISH filmmaker Ken Loach has a track record of making socially conscious documentaries.



KENNY BAILEY, a man who had half his skull removed after suffering a stroke was declared "fit for work" and had his benefits cut.

She said, "Normal people are led to believe that this amount of people are on benefits and are therefore scroungers, and this amount of people are going to work to pay so that they can scrounge."

"They've left us to argue among ourselves so they can keep doing what they are doing."

Loach suggested this is what leads to the rise in popularity of groups like the EDL and Britain First. He said, "It's how the far right rises, isn't it?"

Loach has a legendary track record in socially conscious documentary-making.

Fifty years ago he directed *Cathy Come Home* which examined homelessness. A 2000 industry poll rated it as the second best British TV programme ever made.

*I, Daniel Blake* is set to be released this year but a date has not been set.

## BATTLE OF THE SOMME

### Commuters moved to tears as 'ghost soldiers' break into song

LONDON – Commuters across Britain were stopped in their tracks on the morning of Friday, July 1 by the moving sight of 'ghost soldiers' dressed in First World War uniform.

The live tribute saw thousands of volunteers lined up at railway stations, thoroughfares and high streets across the country in a unique event to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

Some of the 'soldiers' broke into renditions of *We're Here Because We're Here*, sung in the Allied trenches to the tune of *Auld Lang Syne*.

When passers-by approached the men to ask who they were, they silently handed out cards. Each card carried the name of a soldier who died on the day 100 years ago.

The work was partly inspired by tales of sightings during and after the First World War by people who believed they had seen a dead loved one.

One card shared online read: "Private Peter Rafferty. 1st Battalion. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Died at the Somme on 1st July 1916. Aged 22 years."

The bloody Battle of the Somme claimed the lives of more than 50,000 British troops on the first day of the Anglo-French offensive across the fields of northern France a hundred years ago.

Overall, more than one million men were wounded or killed, making it one of the bloodiest battles in human history.

The powerful scenes provided a poignant reminder of the scale of human suffering experienced by so many.

'We're Here Because We're Here' is one of the largest arts participation projects ever staged in the UK with 1,500 participants, 15 organizations and hundreds of volunteers behind the scenes.

The event with a Twitter hashtag #wearehere was organized by Turner-prize winning artist Jeremy Deller in collaboration with National Theatre director Rufus Norris and commissioned by 14 - 18 NOW.

The project enlisted the help of men 18 to 52 each a reminder of an individual soldier killed on the first day of the battle wearing historically accurate uniforms and representing the 15 regiments which suffered losses that day.

Around 1.1 million British and Commonwealth troops died in the war and the anniversary was also commemorated in Canada on Memorial Day in Newfoundland and Labrador, Across the rest of the country it was Canada Day celebrations.

It was a somber ceremony in St. John's on July 1 to mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War. Hundreds of Newfoundland soldiers were slaughtered on the French battlefield Beaumont-Hamel in the opening day of the traumatic Battle of the Somme.

Commemorative wreath-laying ceremonies and a march were held at the Newfoundland National War Memorial and live performances and speeches were held at The Rooms, the provincial museum, archives and art gallery.



HUNDREDS of volunteers participated in the *We're Here Because We're Here* project. Dressed in historically accurate uniforms, the soldiers lined up at railway stations, thoroughfares and high streets to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. The work was partly inspired by tales of sightings during and after the First World War by people who believed they had seen a dead loved one.



AS THE REST of Canada celebrated the nation's birthday, people in Newfoundland and Labrador marked a grim anniversary. The province marked 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel. The largest commemorative event took place at the National War Memorial in St. John's where Princess Anne was among those who laid a wreath. The Newfoundland Regiment suffered a casualty rate of approximately 90 percent with approximately 650 killed on the day.

Princess Anne, who is colonel-in-chief of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, along with Lieutenant Governor Frank Fagan laid the first wreaths at the National War Memorial.

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan issued a statement to acknowledge the sacri-

fices made at the Battle of the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel.

"We remember the incredible bravery of the Canadians and Newfoundlanders who fought in these battles, which began in northern France on July 1, 1916," he said. "We will never forget them."



## Hours after UK votes to leave, Google searchers ask: 'What is the EU?'

LONDON – Hours after the UK voted to leave the European Union, "What is the EU?" became the second top UK Google search on the issue.

Google Trends showed the top query directed to the search engine was "What does it mean to leave the EU?"

The third most searched question on the EU was "Which countries are in the EU?", followed by "What will happen now we've left the EU?"

Completing the top five was the search "How many countries are in the EU?"

The questions formed the top Google searches conducted on the EU once the official Brexit result was announced.



# Britain divided, directionless and leaderless as it prepares for life outside the European Union

LONDON — The campaign to leave the European Union repeatedly urged Britain to “Take back control.” It is now a week since voters narrowly opted for Brexit on June 23, and the country has seldom looked so wildly off the rails.

Political turmoil continues to roil Britain with bitter leadership challenges as parties grapple with the question of how precisely the U.K. will separate from the other 27 nations in the bloc.

Prime Minister David Cameron has handed in his notice.

The leader of the opposition, Jeremy Corbyn, is struggling to survive a coup within his own Labour party.

The pound hit a 31-year low against the dollar and banks lost a third of their value, before stabilising.

Meanwhile there is talk in Scotland and Northern Ireland of secession.

Every one of these calamities was predicted in the event of a Leave victory, and yet still the country seems transfixed by what it has brought upon itself.

Brexit’s grisly first week, and the misery ahead, have already provoked buyer’s remorse.

More than four million people signed a petition calling for a re-run of the vote.

Thousands of European Union supporters marched through the streets of London to protest the vote to leave the EU.

Politicians agree an instant rejection of the result would be wrong. Although there is regret with the Brexit vote, 34 million people have cast their ballot and the result was clear.

A straight rematch would be no fairer than allowing England’s footballers another crack at Iceland, which inflicted a second humiliation a week after the referendum.

## SO WHERE TO NEXT?

The ruling Scottish Nationalists (SNP), who lost an independence referendum in 2014, always said that Britain’s leaving the EU would justify another ballot on independence.

They are right – especially since in 2014 many Scots voted to stay in Britain in order to remain in the EU. But independence would be painful: it might mean promising one day to adopt the euro and hardening the border with England, with which Scotland trades more than it does with the EU.

In Northern Ireland Brexit raises other problems. One is the prospect of resurrecting the border between north and south.

Another shamefully overlooked snag is that Britain’s exit from Europe will break the Good Friday Agreement of 1998, in which Northern Ireland’s peace process was underpinned by the EU.

This treaty has kept the peace in the UK’s most troubled region for nearly 20 years. Fixing the mess will be an urgent task for the next prime minister.

The biggest surprise came from Wales – a region widely expected to favour Remain, much like the UK’s other countries, Scotland and Northern Ire-

land – but where 17 of 22 voting areas ended up backing Brexit.

## LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES

Cameron has said he will not formally trigger Britain’s exit and will leave that task to his successor. This will happen by invoking invoking Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty.

Once that happens, the next prime minister will have two years to negotiate a new deal with the European Union.

Europe has already signalled that it will refuse to budge on likely British demands that the bloc relax its rules requiring freedom of movement for workers across national borders. European leaders say that if Britain wants access to the single market, it will have to accept free movement.

Despite having been considered one of the favourites to replace David Cameron as prime minister, Brexit campaigner Boris Johnson has now ruled himself out of running in the Conservative Party leadership contest following a shock announcement.

The former London mayor dropped his campaign to become Tory Party leader after his former ally Justice Secretary Michael Gove abruptly withdrew his support and decided he would run himself.

Gove’s decision was met with accusations of treachery from Johnson supporters and he is also now facing calls to pull out of the Conservative leadership race.

Home Secretary Theresa May has since become the favourite to lead the party before the next Conservative Party conference in September.

Britain’s main opposition Labour Party is also in turmoil, but is finding it harder to change its leadership.

Jeremy Corbyn is under intense pressure to resign as leader after losing a confidence vote among his lawmakers.

He says he still has the support of the party rank-and-file and of several influential trade unions and is refusing to quit.

A Labour leadership election can only be triggered if Corbyn resigns or if 20 percent of the party’s lawmakers put their names to a letter backing a rival.

But he could stand for the top spot again and it is Labour Party members countrywide who elect the leader.

Last year, almost 60 percent of them backed Corbyn, a 200-to-one outsider to win the top job.

The serial rebel had been on the left-wing fringes of the party for more than three decades.

The mayhem on the Labour benches in the Commons has led to the SNP claiming it now forms the official opposition – because its Westminster leader Angus Robertson has the support of more MPs than Corbyn.

Senior SNP MP Pete Wishart said there are “obligations to be met to be the official opposition” in the Commons and Labour “now can’t meet them.”



MICHAEL GOVE



BORIS JOHNSON



JEREMY CORBYN



BRITISH HOME SECRETARY Theresa May arrives for a cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street in London, Monday, June 27, 2016. May is the current favourite to lead the party before the next Conservative Party conference in September and she has promised to bring the Remain and Leave sides together and “govern for the whole country.”

## In a stunning decision, Britain votes to leave the EU



LABOUR MP Jo Cox [June 22, 1974 – June 16, 2016] who was an advocate for Britain to remain in the EU was killed outside her constituency in Birstall where she had been due to hold a constituency surgery. A 52-year-old man was charged with her murder and will stand trial under terrorism protocols.

LONDON – In the early hours of Friday morning June 24, 2016, it became evident that Britain had voted to leave the European Union – sending shockwaves and uncertainty throughout global financial markets and leaving the Remain campaign in a state of incredulity.

Even with votes still being counted, pro-leave U.K. Independence Party (UKIP) leader Nigel Farage declared “let June 23 go down in our history as our independence day.”

He told reporters that “the dawn is breaking on an independent United Kingdom.”

However, he angered many by saying, “And today honesty, decency and belief in nation is, I think now, going to win.

“And we will have done it without having to fight, without a single bullet being fired. We’ll have done it by damn hard work on the ground.”

His comments have been branded “unbelievably insensitive and crass” after the killing of Labour MP Jo Cox, who

was shot and stabbed to death in her constituency in Birstall just over a week earlier.

Cox had campaigned for the rights of Syrian refugees in her first year as an MP, and was an advocate for Britain to remain in the EU.

The man charged with her murder, Thomas Mair, had a history of psychiatric problems and links to the U.S.-based National Alliance, a neo-Nazi group

He is reported to have shouted “Britain first” as he attacked Cox, and gave his name in court as “death to traitors, freedom for Britain.”

Labour’s former shadow business secretary Chuka Umunna told the BBC, “When Nigel Farage gets up and says this is a victory for decent, honest, real, ordinary people, that tends to suggest that all the people who voted for us to stay don’t fall in to that category.

“The challenge for us as policy makers, as politicians, is how do we knit together our society after this division.”

**BREAKING NEWS:** At press time Nigel Farage has resigned as UKIP Leader. He announced his decision on July 4 saying his “political ambition has been achieved” with the UK having voted to leave the EU.



# Good-humoured Ireland fans made friends in France

DUBLIN – The Republic of Ireland are out of Euro 2016 – but Irish fans can consider themselves champions of the tournament after a fortnight spent winning over the people of Europe.

The fans endeared themselves to locals and other supporters through random acts of kindness, their sense of humour and perhaps also a dash of Irish charm.

Following their team's loss on Sunday, June 26, Irish fans kept on singing despite their devastation at the hands of France.

In between matches they sang lullabies to a baby on a train, changed a tire for an elderly couple, and had the craic with smiling French police officers.

Ireland lost the knock-out showdown 2-1 with their only goal being a Robbie Brady penalty within two minutes of kick-off.

After the final whistle, Irish fans continued to sing and the players stood and applauded their devoted support as they belted out a passionate rendition of *The Fields Of Athenry*.

French fans packed out the Stade de Lyon, clearly outnumbering the Irish contingent who struggled to get their hands on tickets.

Before the match, the Irish and French fans were keen to have their photographs taken together. One Irishman was pictured kissing a Frenchman on the cheek.

French president Francois Hollande posed for pictures with Irish supporters which were posted on the Elysee Twitter account.

In an open letter to Irish fans, Olivier Sauton, a Paris author told them, "France has fallen under your spell."

Former French prime minister Alain Juppe thanked Ireland fans on Twitter when he posted a link to a story and video showing them having a party in a tunnel on a wet night in Bordeaux.

It shows the revellers singing to smiling police officers, "Stand up for the French police."

A French officer, possibly keen for the party to be over so he could clock off for the night, responds in jest by singing, "Go home for the French police."

Most remarkably, Irish fans mingled with their opponents throughout the tournament – singing Abba songs with the Swedes and joking about Irish weather with the Belgians.

On one occasion, Irish and Belgian fans belt out a mighty rendition of Abba's *Dancing Queen*. One fan pointed out that Sweden still has some way to go before outdoing Ireland at Eurovision.

After the games, fans were keen to swap jerseys with their opposite number.

Despite Belgium's big 3-0 win over Ireland, one Irish fan happily swapped jerseys with a Belgian, and the pair stood side by side showing off their new jerseys.

Northern Ireland fans were also moved by how supporters from the Republic sang *Stand Up for the Ulsterman* in the 24th minute of their match against Sweden after the death of 24-year-old Ballymena man Darren Rodgers.



EURO 2016: Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland fans received an award for 'exemplary sportmanship' during the tournament. The mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo said supporters from both sides of the border will be given the Medal of the City of Paris for their exemplary attitude, fair play and good mood.

## Belfast residents living in fear as pallets stacked for huge bonfire

BELFAST – In Northern Ireland, the Eleventh Night or 11<sup>th</sup> Night refers to the night before the Twelfth of July, a yearly Ulster Protestant celebration.

On this night, large towering bonfires are lit in many Protestant/loyalist neighbourhoods in Northern Ireland and are often accompanied by street parties.

The bonfires are mostly made up of wooden pallets and tires, with some reaching over 100 feet tall.

The event has been condemned for displays of sectarian or ethnic hatred, anti-social behaviour, and for the damage and pollution caused by the fires.

The flag of Ireland, Irish nationalist (including republican) symbols, Catholic symbols, and effigies, are burnt on many bonfires.

The tricolours on such bonfires are often daubed with sectarian slogans such as "Kill All Taigs" (KAT) or "Kill All Irish" (KAI). Effigies, and posters of Irish nationalist election candidates, are also sometimes burnt, which has been condemned as "inciting hatred."

There have been attempts to make the event more family-friendly and environmentally-friendly. It is also known as "Bonfire night," in common with other events in which bonfires are lit.

This year, politicians are speaking out as loyalists continue preparations for massive blazes despite promising no repeat of a 50-foot fire last year that forced evacuation of homes.

Fears are now growing for the safety of residents and their homes as another potentially huge bonfire is being built near Chobham Street in east Belfast.

Last year, residents had to be evacuated from their homes, which were boarded up as a massive bonfire was lit on the Eleventh Night.



A CONTROVERSIAL bonfire being lit on the Eleventh Night in Belfast last year.

Local people have contacted the council demanding that they remove the material immediately.

However, council sources said they did not believe this would happen because there would be a difficulty in finding contractors willing to do the job. They said they hoped that this year's bonfire would be smaller.

Ulster Unionist councillor Jim Rodgers said, "We cannot have a repeat of the scenes we witnessed last year."

SDLP councillor Declan Boyle called for swift action from the authorities.

"We spent more than £10,000 boarding up houses last year, and it took six fire appliances and 35 firefighters to monitor the bonfire and hose down properties," he said.

"That was a terrible waste of resources, and at a time when public funds are already over-stretched, any repeat would be unacceptable."

"The situation was allowed to drift last year and we must not meander into allowing a dangerous bonfire to be staged again."

"Nobody objects to a safe celebration but, if it is clear that material being gathered will pose a risk to people or property on the Eleventh Night, it must be removed – and removed now."

Alliance councillor Michael Long expressed serious concerns about the situation and called for the PSNI to take action.



THE IRISH NAVY vessel LÉ Roisin has participated in numerous rescue operations off the Libyan coast.

## Irish, German and Italian ships save more than 600 migrants

DUBLIN – Around 668 migrants were saved from boats in distress in the Mediterranean off Libya in just one day at the end of May, officials say.

They were rescued by Italian coast guard and navy ships, aided by Irish and German vessels and humanitarian organisations, Italian and Irish officials said.

The rescues were the latest by a multinational patrol south of Sicily that has saved thousands.

The Irish military said the vessel LÉ Roisin, deployed in the humanitarian search and rescue mission, saved 123 migrants from a 12-metre-long dinghy and recovered a male body.

A German ship, part of the EU Navfor Med deployment on patrol for migrant smugglers' boats, was also involved in what was a total of four separate rescue operations, the Italian coast guard said.

Meanwhile, with migrant shelters filling up in Sicily, the Italian navy vessel Vega headed toward Reggio Calabria,

a southern Italian mainland port, taking 135 survivors, along with 45 bodies, from a rescue a day earlier.

Under a European Union deal, tens of thousands of those rescued at sea and seeking asylum were supposed to be relocated to other EU nations from Italy and Greece, whose shores have received most of the migrants in recent years.

But with resentment building in some European countries about taking in migrants, the plan never really took off, and only a small percentage have actually been moved.

At the Vatican, Pope Francis told several hundred children, among them many migrants, who came from the Italian south to see him, that migrants "aren't a danger but they are in danger."

Francis has repeatedly expressed dismay that some European nations have refused to accept migrants fleeing poverty or war, and have even thrown up fences and other barriers to thwart the arrivals from journeying northward after reaching the continent's southern shores.

## Irish travellers to U.S. warned over new passport rules

DUBLIN – Irish passport holders are being reminded that they will only gain entry to the U.S. with a valid e-passport ahead of the busy summer period.

Those intending to travel to the country this year are being asked to check their passport to ensure they have the correct version before setting off – after new rules came into effect on April 1.

The U.S. embassy in Dublin has posted on their website, "The U.S. Embassy in Ireland wishes to remind all Irish passport holders who are able to travel to the United States via the Visa Waiver Program that as of 01 April 2016, they must have a valid electronic passport."

"The U.S. Embassy strongly recommends that all travellers check to ensure their passports are valid electronic passports before they make arrangements to travel to the United States."

Older non biometric identity documents will no longer be accepted.

## Brexit will impact Irish economy says ratings agency

DUBLIN – Ratings agency Fitch says that Ireland is facing an increase in unemployment and lower economic growth following the UK's decision to leave the EU.

It adds that the vote is unlikely to have an immediate effect on Ireland's sovereign rating but "a medium-term rating impact would be possible if the economic dislocation of Brexit were to prove severe."

The main factors that it believes will damage Ireland's outlook are the introduction of new trade barriers between Ireland and the UK – and a possible weakening of the Northern Irish peace process.



# Higgins concerned about future of EU after Brexit vote

GLASGOW – Irish President Michael D. Higgins said he is saddened by the discourse of fear in the UK's Brexit debate and he is concerned about the future of the European Union (EU).

President Higgins spoke at a meeting in Glasgow with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon as part of a four-day visit to Scotland.

Following the meeting, Sturgeon said she would be looking to have conversations with countries like Ireland as it begins to explore options to stay in the EU following the British vote to leave the bloc.

She said Ireland was an important friend to Scotland and she looked forward to strengthening links between the countries.

Higgins said the UK's Brexit debate was "rather sad" and that all member states must now be concerned about the future of the Union.

He said the Irish people have benefited for EU membership through freedom to work and study in other states.

"I am concerned, very much, about the future of the EU itself," he said, "and I think that it's a matter that all of the members of the EU must be concerned about together."

"I don't think that it is an issue for one or two member countries. I don't think it is an issue for, as has been referred to, founder members of the EU."

"I am a believer in the EU and I think what we need to do is to rediscover its great moments."

Higgins added, "What I think is rather sad, in relation to the recent consultations which is entirely a matter for the

UK to arrive at its own opinion, was the degree of fear that was in the discourse."

"It seemed to crowd out, if you like, all the things that the people of Europe can achieve together that go far beyond the elimination of war."

"There are new responsibilities in relation to climate change, sustainable development, what we agreed in Paris, in New York, what the young people all over Europe are asking us to do."

During his visit, Higgins addressed members of Glasgow's Irish community at an event at the Govanhill neighbourhood centre.

At a ceremony at Usher Hall in Edinburgh, he was presented with an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. He also took part in an seminar on aspects of Irish history hosted by the University of Edinburgh's School of History, Classics and Archaeology.

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## Brits search for Irish passports to keep European citizenship

DUBLIN – British citizens began frantically looking for ways to keep their European citizenship after a referendum on leaving the EU passed in a close vote.

Google search data on the morning following the vote showed a spike in searches for "getting an Irish passport" from the UK.

Citizens of European Union member states can travel freely across the continent right now. Any restrictions that may be placed on British travelers post-Brexit will be dependent on negotiations between London and Brussels.

British citizens with Irish parents are entitled to hold Irish passports, and those with Irish grandparents can also apply.

Anyone born before 2005 in Northern Ireland, the only part of the United Kingdom that shares a land border with another country, is entitled to Irish citizenship, though there are some restrictions for those born after that date.

Because of the increased number of inquiries, the Irish Passport Office in Dublin issued guidelines to those seeking information on the morning of Friday, June 24.

Belfast's Central Post Office ran out of application forms for Irish passports the next day following the Brexit vote because of heavy demand.

Bridge Street in the city centre was forced to put a notice up stating that an emergency order for the forms had been placed.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin said that entitlements to Irish citizenship and passports for those born on the island of Ireland, and those claiming citizenship through parents or grandparents born in Ireland, are "unchanged" after the referendum result.

In the past decade more than 90,000 people born in Britain have received Irish passports.

And more than 150,000 people born in Northern Ireland received Irish passports in the same period.

And it's not just Northern Ireland that is seeing the spike in demand.

Outside the passport office in London,



Jonathon Potts said, "I don't want to lose my freedom to live and work in 28 different countries and hopefully my Irish grandma will help me."

In March the Irish Department of For-

eign Affairs said it had seen a 33 percent rise in applications from people with an Irish grandparent and 11 percent from people with an Irish parent.

Leon Ward, a 24-year-old from Cardiff in Wales, has an Irish dad.

He said, "I am a citizen of the European Union, I voted to remain in the EU for peace, security, solidarity, unity, rights, free movement and prosperity."

"The UK has decided it is better off alone, a decision I fundamentally disagree with."

"I want to remain a citizen of the EU for all the benefits that come with it."

## New arrangements in Canada for Irish passports

OTTAWA – The Embassy of Ireland has advised it regrets the longer than usual processing delays that passport applicants have faced over the past several months.

A significant factor contributing to these delays has been the high number of incorrectly or incompletely filled out application forms; the number of applications without essential supporting documentation; the number with incorrectly certified identity details or unwitnessed or invalid witnessed parental consents (in the case of minors); the large number of incorrect payment details; and other errors and omissions.

Each of these errors has required time-consuming follow-up work by the passport office team's limited resources. This has in turn caused long processing delays for applicants, including for applicants who correctly submitted their applications.

For this reason, the embassy will no longer accept incorrect or incomplete passport applications.

All applications are pre-screened upon receipt. Any incorrect or incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant indicating the error or omission and asking them to resubmit the form correctly.

This will enable embassy staff to use

their limited resources to process all correctly submitted applications more speedily.

Before filling out an application form for an Irish passport, take time to read carefully what is required.

All necessary information is set out on the application form and its accompanying explanatory material. Information is also available online on the embassy's webpage.

For applicants who have already submitted a passport application and are still awaiting their passport, if the application was complete and correct you will receive your new Irish passport within approximately 20 working days.

If, on the other hand, your application was incorrectly submitted, you will receive your form and documentation by return post, with a request that you attend to any errors or omissions.

The embassy hopes that these new arrangements will enable them to deliver a more efficient service to Irish passport applicants.

Applicants are advised not to make or confirm any travel arrangements until you are in receipt of a valid passport.

For more details, visit: [www.embassyofireland.ca](http://www.embassyofireland.ca), or call (613) 288-3297.



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# Galway: A rising star with a noteworthy honorary citizen

**S**OMEONE who undoubtedly had mixed a pint of stout with a shot of crème de menthe once suggested that Galway is the Paris of Ireland.

Well, as the song has it, “I love Paris in the springtime. I love Paris in the fall. I love Paris in the sunshine. I love Paris in the rain.” And Galway too is loveable in all weathers.

Galway City has long represented an alternative for people to the rackety, pressured life of Dublin.

The reputation that the city has of having a laid-back atmosphere is accurate: musicians and writers have traditionally found in Galway a place well attuned to their spirits.

Drop into Charlie Byrne’s Bookshop, located on one of Galway’s quiet, medieval streets on a Saturday morning.

Trip over the history professors browsing the new deluxe editions and, deeper into the shop, in the second-hand section, meet the hungry students vigorously thumbing books, the budget for which they have regrettably drunk.

The whole shop rises to rafters with accumulated knowledge, recondite books, great classics retold in Irish for children and a repository of Connemara poetry and song now thankfully collected and available to the public.

Walk along the narrow streets of Nun’s Island where James Joyce’s future wife, Nora, was reared that leads to Galway’s imposing Catholic Cathedral.

Cripplingly expensive and ostentatious, and partly built with funds from the Diocese of Massachusetts, the cathedral was out of step with the people when it was erected in the mid-1960s.

The president of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, is an honorary Galway man.

Though his roots are in County Clare, it was in Galway where he lectured on politics and sociology, where he was returned as a TD in General Elections and where he appreciated the need for an Irish language television channel which he helped to steer through the Dail.

Galwegians do not forget his contribution to their city and county.

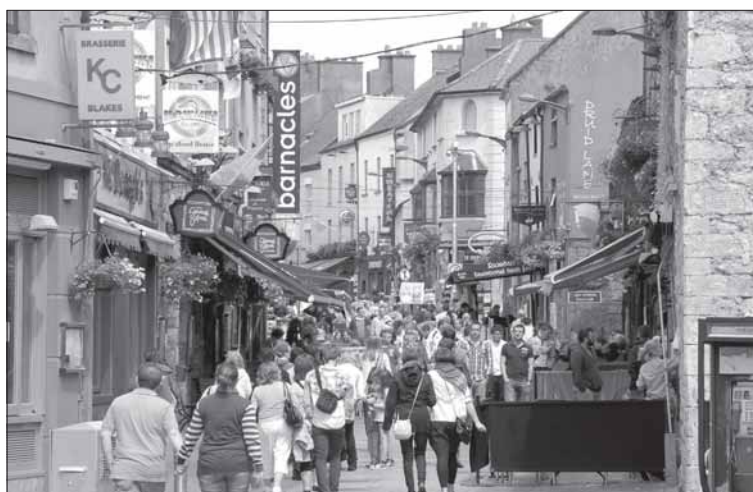
One of his more noteworthy students at NUI Galway, the lyricist of The Saw Doctors, wrote a song about it, “We got Michael D rocking in the Dail for us/ Michael D rocking in the Dail,” which can be rewritten, now that Michael D is rocking in the Aras.

The secret of Galway’s success is its university.

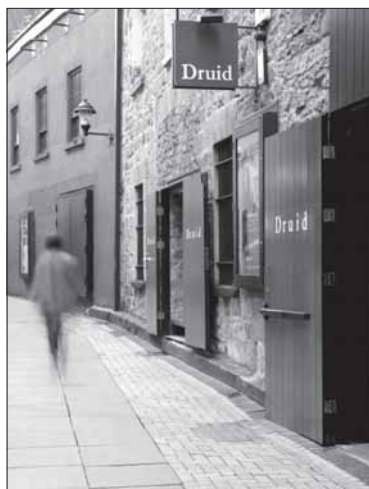
Galway has an ever-expanding, fully functional, 12 months a year (with facilities for summer events to fill the university summer hiatus), self-respecting university that is the de facto destination for students all over Connaught and beyond.

It has become the dynamo of the city whose population is 75,000, more than a quarter of whom are students.

Cork is sustained by enormous pharmaceutical plants and Dublin today has



GALWAY City, located on the west coast of Ireland has long been reputed to be “The City of the Tribes” and this title couldn’t be more suitable nowadays, given the multicultural vibrancy of present-day Galway.



**DRUID THEATRE** – Druid was founded in Galway in 1975 by graduates of the National University of Ireland, Galway, Garry Hynes, Mick Lally (1945 – 2010) and Marie Mullen – the first professional theatre company in Ireland to be based outside Dublin.

40 percent of Ireland’s Gross Domestic Product.

But an exposed, wind-swept city like Galway needs a solid stay against economic instability, and that is what the National University of Ireland in Galway has become.

NUI Galway also brings students from as far away as Donegal and Derry in droves.

As Donegal historian, Breandán Mac Suibhne, put it, “The burghers of Galway cannot believe their luck.

“They now have a public holiday, Donegal Day, to celebrate money being spent on the Corrib that might be spent on the Foyle.”

The citizenry, businesses and organisational committees of Galway are working hard to secure the city’s bid for the City of Culture award in 2020. A perfect vision.

Galway is certainly a contender: Its music, film and theatre scenes are growing and deserve to be bolstered by the investment and attention that such an accolade brings.

Galway can and should look to Derry’s City of Culture 2013 successes and learn from its organisational mishaps.

Unlike Derry, when it started in its bid, the facilities are already built in Gal-

way to nurture music and theatre talent as Garry Hynes’ theatre legacy in the Druid and the consistently good gigs at The Roisin Dubh attest.

In film, however, Galway needs more support. While the Galway Film Festival is very notable and the Irish Film Board is co-headquartered in Galway, in practice most of the film board’s business happens in Dublin.

A new studio is under construction in County Galway which is promising; the success of films such as Póitín and Calvary, show that the west of Ireland deserves to become a de facto definition for film production.

That requires money. Galwegians could put film at the centre of its agenda for artistic growth.

Over the past decades the Galway pub that has not renamed itself, translating from English to Irish, is the exception.

“Fox’s Pub” became “Tigh Fox” and so forth. The propensity to name one’s business in the Irish language was not attended by a growth in the routine use of Irish.

It was, instead, a very successful tourist lure: Traditional Galway, last bastion of Ireland’s ancestral culture, lore and language etc.

Galway became more intensely associated with the trappings of the Irish language even while it became less the home of the language itself. That is unfortunate for the town.

Similarly, the handsome statue of Pádraic Ó Conaire, once the centrepiece of Eyre Square, has been transported to Galway City Museum, substantially less in the public’s view.

Ó Conaire’s brilliant short stories in Irish are now read less and less; his disappearance from Galway City’s main park is sadly symbolic.

Watch the way in which the buskers enliven Shop Street with their amazing array of instruments, blending Irish trad with African beats and Guns n’ Roses.

Their guitar cases fill up with coins, their CDs do not sell. They get the passing public’s attention but short shrift from the elements as they need to pack up again – more rain.

While some parts of Ireland have four seasons in one day, Galway is capable of four seasons in a quarter of an hour.

The gentle drizzle besets the city yet again. It rains in this city almost 300 days of the year. But I love Galway in the rain.



CONGRATS to the Fraser Valley Gaels - 2016 Western Canada GAA Senior Football Champions.

## Western Canada GAA: A thrilling final in Regina, Saskatchewan

Teams from Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina and Montana battled it out over the July 1-2 long weekend.

Congratulations to the Fraser Valley Gaels Gaelic Football club who were awarded the Tom Butler Cup as 2016 Senior Men’s Champions.

The Calgary Chieftains GAA ladies were presented with the Tom Gibbons Cup as 2016 Ladies Gaelic Football Champions.

Winners of the Western Canadian Senior Hurling Championship are JP Ryans with the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club.

Way to go to everyone who participated and particularly to the Regina Gaels football club for their hospitality.

### FINAL RESULTS: 2016 WESTERN CANADA GAA CHAMPIONS

**Hurling Junior** – Edmonton Wolfe Tones

**Hurling Senior** – JP Ryans - ISSC Vancouver

**Junior Football** – Regina Gaels GAA

**Ladies Football** – Calgary Chieftains GAA

**Men’s Senior Football** – Fraser Valley Gaels Gaelic Football



JP RYANS with the Vancouver Irish Sporting and Social Club are this year’s 2016 Western Canada GAA Senior Hurling Champs.

## South Surrey Welcomes Irish Women’s Softball Team

**WHITE ROCK** – White Rock Irish Club president Sharon Woods says club members are very excited to have the women’s Irish softball team participating in the upcoming Surrey 2016 WBSC XV Women’s World Softball Championship – July 15-24.

The Irish team arrive on July 9 and White Rock Irish Club executive member Mairead Nolan has been invited to play with the team.

We would like to wish the Irish softball team and Mairead the very best of luck in this tournament.

It would be great to see lots of Irish flags flying at the games in support of Ireland’s national softball team.

Some important dates include:

**July 10** – Meet Irish community/fundraiser - Dublin Crossing Irish Pub, Surrey - 6 PM. Some great Irish prizes to be won.

**July 11** - Exhibition game – Ireland vs Italy – 4 PM – Fleetwood.

**July 12** – Team welcoming ceremony – 4 PM – Softball City South Surrey.

**July 13** – Exhibition game – Ireland vs Philippines – 4 PM – Fleetwood.

### Tournament Games

**July 15** – Ireland vs Uganda – 11 AM – Softball City South Surrey.

**July 16** – Ireland vs Canada – 5:30 PM – Softball City South Surrey.

**July 17** – Ireland vs Great Britain – 5:30 PM – Softball City South Surrey.

For tickets or more information, see: <https://surrey2016.com/tickets/new>.



# 2016 Western Canada Rose is the first from Saskatchewan

EDMONTON – Molly Fogarty, a 19-year-old radio show host, from North Portal, Saskatchewan, is the new 2016 Western Canada Rose.

She will be this year's entrant in the Rose of Tralee Festival to be held in Ireland from August 17 to 23.

She was selected at a packed Irish Centre in Edmonton on Saturday, May 28 as the Irish Sports and Social Society hosted the event for the tenth time.

A popular choice as Rose, Molly is the first entrant from Saskatchewan. She is also a very talented singer/songwriter who entertained the audience following her selection.

Molly's grandparents emigrated from Limerick and Tipperary and arrived in Saskatchewan in 1957.

Also present at the ceremony were former Roses, Cassandra Sampson, last year's Rose; Jayna Prusko, the 2012 winner; and 2009 Rose, Katherine Quirke.

Other contestants in this year's event were Katherine Dooley and Britney Vauden from Edmonton; Marion Fahy from Fort McMurray; and Catherine Murphy from Calgary.

A remarkable feature of the evening was the large and boisterous rooting sections for the Fort McMurray and Calgary entrants.

Molly now follows in the footsteps of the previous nine women with Irish connections who have represented western Canada so well at previous festivals.

Each of these Roses has shown great potential and created their own success stories in business, education and community involvement.

The Rose of Tralee Festival is a global celebration of Irish culture and each year it brings young women of Irish descent from around the world to Tralee, Co. Kerry.

It offers these young women an opportunity to travel and meet their international peers while forming lifelong friendships, and that is probably the greatest legacy of all.

The phrase "Once a Rose, always a Rose" is heard whenever the value of the event is discussed.

Organizers wish Molly well as she embarks on a year representing western Canada, and hope that her experience is rewarding.

## Irish Men's U19 Lacrosse Team in Coquitlam, B.C.

COQUITLAM – The Irish Men's U19 National Lacrosse Team will be the first under-age team to compete in a major championship at the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) U19 Men's Lacrosse World Championships, from July 7-16 in Coquitlam, B.C.

The team opens against Scotland on **Friday, July 8** at 1 PM, followed by matches against Korea on **Sunday, July 10** at 9:30 AM, and China on **Tuesday, July 12** at 12:30 PM in the group stage of the tournament. The final will be **Saturday, July 16**.

Watch live-streaming of the tournament or follow the team's progress on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



CONTESTANTS at this year's Western Canada Rose of Tralee competition included (L-R) [Standing] Marion Fahy, Catherine Murphy, Molly Fogarty, Britney Vauden and Katherine Dooley. Former Western Canada Roses Jayna Prusko, Cassandra Sampson and Katherine Quirke are pictured sitting in front.



FORMER Western Canada Roses, Cassandra Sampson, Jayna Prusko and Katherine Quirke.



THIS YEAR's Western Canada, Rose Molly Fogarty with Anne Hogan at the Irish Centre in Edmonton.



ENJOYING THE ROSE EVENT at the Irish Centre in Edmonton – sisters Mary Morris, Brigid Nolan and Rosaleen Toner.

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TX's on line only:  
www.byrneandkelly.com/tour-dates/

August 6: Adrian Nation in concert at 8:00 pm  
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2016-17 BOARD MEMBERS and Officers of the Irish Heritage Club – (L-R) [Seated] Jean Roth, Meagan McGuire, Nanci Spieker, Frank Gill, Mary Shriane. [Standing] Candace Dunne, John Keane, Brendan Shriane, Ari Hausler, David Jacobsen, Diane Jacobsen, Heather Murphy, Jane Sepede. [Missing was Corbin Johnson].



IRISH SENIORS LUNCHEON – (L-R) Father John Madigan, Seattle Police Assistant Chief Lesley Cordner, Maureen Keane, Allen Stevenson, Jim Cummins and Lorraine Cunningham on June 25.



COLLEGE DUBLIN law student Sinéad Davies, the 2016 Thomas Addis Emmet Fellow, is in Seattle for two months this summer working in human rights and public interest law.



IRISH DAY AT THE RACES at Emerald Downs on June 26 – Soprano Sarah Dolan, a native of Limerick, singing the Irish National Anthem.

## NOVENA

### 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.

— PMK, MJ, CC, CK, ED, RM, LM

Publication of this prayer  
\$25 monthly



## Finian Rowland May 13, 1927 - June 25, 2016

FINIAN was born May 13, 1927 in Bofeenau, at the foot of Nephin Mountain in northwest Co. Mayo, and died in Seattle on June 25. He was 89.

Finian came to Seattle directly from Ireland in January 1950 and worked first in construction and then with Pacific Northwest Bell for 34 years. At the telephone company, everybody knew him as "Irish."

Since the 1950s, Finian has been actively involved in nearly every Irish organization in Seattle, serving as an officer or as an active member.

He was also a strong supporter of the Seattle Gaels Gaelic footballers and of the Seattle Galway Sister City Association, and served as Honorary Grand Marshal of Seattle's St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1987.



Finian was a strong backer of anything Irish and a wonderful friend to all, Irish or not. His passing truly marks the end of an era. *Solas na bhFlaitheas dó* – May the light of Heaven shine on him.



SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL – Attending the screening of *The Queen of Ireland* (L-R) LGBT activist Gary Bates, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, Rory O'Neill (aka "Panti" Bliss, the Irish drag queen), Honorary Consul of Ireland John Keane, and Consul General of Ireland Philip Grant.



FOLLOWING the Memorial Day Mass at St. Patrick Cemetery on May 30, a wreath was laid at the grave of veteran Thomas O'Connell whose Irish-born great-great-grandfather founded the cemetery in 1880.

# Archbishop of Dublin reveals Pope will visit Ireland in 2018

DUBLIN – The Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, has revealed that Pope Francis has accepted an invitation to attend the World Meeting of Families event in the capital.

The Vatican-sponsored event, which occurs every three years, is due to take place in Dublin in 2018. The last event was held in Philadelphia in 2015.

Archbishop Martin will oversee the World Meeting of Families when it takes place in Dublin in two years' time.

The first and only papal visit to Ireland took place in 1979, when Pope John Paul II visited Dublin, Knock, Limerick, Drogheda and Galway.

The Pope's representative in Ireland, Archbishop Charles Brown, has sig-

nalled his hope that an announcement concerning a visit by the Pontiff was in the pipeline.

Brown previously said that it was his "fervent hope" that the possibility of the Pope visiting Ireland at some point will be realised.

He referred to Taoiseach Enda Kenny's invitation to Pope Francis in April 2013, when he said if the Irish bishops invited the Pontiff, the government would support their request.

"Pope Francis is well aware that many people in Ireland would love for him to come and visit," Brown said.

"I think Ireland would be a marvellous place for him to visit in the European context," he added.



## SEATTLE IRISH NEWS

## PASSINGS

- Finian Rowland, 89, a native of Co. Mayo, died in Seattle on June 25;
- John McPolin, a brother of Cathryn Quinn of Edmonds, died in Ireland on June 20;
- Nora Matava, 91, a native of Co. Cork, died in Bellevue on June 11;
- Eileen Kilgren-Bergman, 69, the long-time manager of the Galway Traders Irish Store, died in Seattle on June 4, just a month after the store closed;
- Michel O'Rourke, 62, a native of Carlingford, Co. Louth, died in Seattle on May 26;
- Michael O'Sullivan, 74, who previously operated the Wee Bit O'Ireland store in Pioneer Square and served as Honorary Grand Marshal of Seattle's St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1997, died near Port Orchard on May 4;
- Joe McAleese, 83, who in 1983 founded Kells at Seattle's Pike Market, died in Ireland on May 15;
- Sean Boyle, 66, the brother of Seattle residents Kay Mc Kenna, Maura Barnes, Liam Boyle and Chris Boyle, died May 8 in Belfast.;
- Margaret (McCullough) Ingram, 91, a native of Belfast, died in Everett on April 27;

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

**JULY 17 - IRISH PICNIC** – Seattle's Irish community picnic is noon-6 PM, Sunday, July 17, at Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah (exit # 15 off I-90). Games and fun for the entire family, and all are welcome.

Free hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided but bring your own drink and a dessert to be shared. There's a covered picnic area and several BBQ grills if you bring charcoal.

Hurling game starts at 1 PM followed by games and fun for the entire family – tug-o-war, sack-races, water balloon toss, etc. For details, e-mail [picnic@irishclub.org](mailto:picnic@irishclub.org) or call (425) 582-2688.

**JULY 23 - MUSIC CONCERT** – The Cascadia Irish Music Week Teacher's Concert, is Saturday, July 23, 8 PM at Wedgwood Presbyterian Church, 8008 35th Avenue NE, Seattle.

Performances by some of the world's finest Irish traditional musicians, including Patsy Hanly – flute; Antoin MacGabhann – fiddle; Josephine Marsh – button accordion; Angelina Carberry – tenor banjo, tenor guitar, mandolin; Randal Bays – fiddle and program director; James Kelly – fiddle; Norah Rendell – flute; Bridget Fitzgerald – vocals; Brian Miller – guitar / bouzouki; Cormac Begley – anglo concertina; and Miray Campbell – tin whistle. Tickets at [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com) or visit [cascadiairish.org](http://cascadiairish.org).

**AUGUST 4 - IRISH BASEBALL** – Irish Night at the Seattle Mariners is Thursday, August 4 vs. the Boston Red Sox at Seattle's Safeco Field. Watch the Tara Academy Irish Dancers and the Seattle Police Pipes and Drums perform in center field about 30 minutes before the game.

But don't delay, we sold out last year and already over 500 Irish Night tickets have been sold. A free Irish Heritage Night Mariners cap and reduced price tickets at [www.mariners.com/Irish](http://www.mariners.com/Irish).



By  
**JOHN  
KEANE**



**SEPTEMBER 2-4 - GAA FINALS** – In the lead-up to the North American GAA Finals in Seattle on September 2-4, the Hogan Stand GAA website in Ireland is paying attention.

At <http://bit.ly/296zbiW>, watch an interview with Seattleite Liam Boyle, the Antrim team's captain when they won the All Ireland Under-21 Gaelic Football Championship in 1969.

At <http://bit.ly/291Hsrl>, watch an interview with Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, and at <http://bit.ly/29ceols> an interview with Brian White, the Chair of the Seattle Gaels which is the main host of the games.

**SEPTEMBER 9 - MOUNT VERNON READING** – On Friday, September 9 at 7 PM, the Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave, Mount Vernon, hosts a reading and book-signing by Tim Egan, the Seattle-based Pulitzer-prize winning author and *New York Times* columnist. Visit [celticarts.org](http://celticarts.org) or call (360) 416-4934 for details.

Egan's highly acclaimed book is *The Immortal Irishman: The Irish Revolutionary Who Became an American Hero*, about Thomas Francis Meagher who was exiled from Ireland to Tasmania in 1848.

After escaping from Tasmania, he came to the U.S. where he led the Irish Brigade in the U.S. Civil War.

Very proud of his Irish heritage, author Egan is descended on his mother's side from the Lynches of Galway.

**IRISH FIDDLES** – *Fiddles On Fire*, a feature length documentary exploring the exploding popularity of traditional music, will include interviews with Seattle fiddler Randal Bays and Irish fiddler James Kelly to be shot during the upcoming Irish Music Week in Olympia from July 18-23.

The film follows virtuoso violinists and fiddlers whose excellence in their tradition-based styles has inspired audiences the world over. This project is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts grants.

**IMMIGRATION RULING** – The Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers (CIIC) based in Boston has expressed its disappointment with the U.S. Supreme Court's recent 4-4 ruling which prevented the implementation of President Obama's 2014 administrative relief programs for immigration.

"CIIC has supported executive action from the beginning, and we are disheartened by the Supreme Court ruling.

"Non-action by SCOTUS leaves millions

of undocumented people in the U.S., many Irish among them, living with uncertainty and fear."

The Coalition serves as a national umbrella organization representing Irish immigration and community centers throughout the U.S. and includes Seattle Irish Immigrant Support as a member.

**DIASPORA MINISTER** – Donegal Fine Gael TD Joe McHugh, who was recently appointed Irish Government Minister for the Diaspora and Overseas Aid, has been invited to attend the North American GAA Finals in Seattle on September 2-4.

McHugh has himself previously lived outside Ireland and helped set up the first GAA club in the United Arab Emirates. In the last government he was minister of state for the Gaeltacht.

**EQUALITY DISCUSSION** – An Ireland says 'YES' to Equality Panel Discussion organized by Irish Network Seattle on June 4, involved "Panti" Bliss, aka Rory O'Neill, the Irish drag queen and gay rights activist.

The very well attended panel discussion follows the screening of *The Queen of Ireland* at the Seattle International Film Festival.

A native of Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, Panti is a figurehead for LGBT rights in Ireland, and one of the world's great drag queens.

**ASSISTANT CHIEF** – Lesley Cordner, a native of Portadown, Co. Armagh, is assistant chief of the Seattle Police Department and she recently spoke at an Irish Seniors' luncheon in Seattle.

Cordner's family moved to the Seattle area in the 1960s when her father worked for Boeing.

They returned to Ireland for a few years in the early 1970s and then came back to Seattle where she became a mechanical engineer and also worked for Boeing.

She joined the Seattle Police Department in 1989 and became assistant chief in 2015. She usually goes to Ireland several times a year to visit family and friends.

**DELAYED JUSTICE** – 76-year-old Jack McCullough, a native of Belfast, was arrested in Seattle in 2012 and wrongly convicted in Illinois of the 1957 murder of a seven-year-old.

Given a life sentence in Illinois, he spent four years in prison before a prosecutor this past March found "clear and convincing evidence" that McCullough was not guilty and he was released.

## MISCELLANEOUS

• David Jacobsen was re-elected president of the Irish Heritage Club and most other officers and board members up for election were also re-elected at the club's recent annual general meeting. Newly elected to the board of directors was Frank Gill replacing Alex Terzieff.

• Independent Councillor Noel Larkin, a native of Portumna, Co. Galway, was elected mayor of Seattle's Sister City of Galway on June 10.

• The *Catholic Northwest* magazine conducted a wonderful interview with Co. Monaghan native Rose Boyle at <http://bit.ly/29cevxq>.

• Congratulations to new Irish Senator Billy Lawless, Ireland's first "diaspora" senator. A native of Galway, Lawless is a prominent immigrant rights advocate who has lived in Chicago since 1998.



**FINAL SESSION AT GALWAY TRADERS** – Members of the Ceol Cascadia Irish Sessioneers gathered for a few last tunes when the Irish import store closed at its Ballard location. Seated front center is the store's owner, Evi Murray.



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## Lughnasadh: The Journey from Summer into Autumn

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

The modern Irish Gaelic name for the month of August is Lúnasa. In Scottish Gaelic Lunasda means the first of August.

On mainland Europe and in Ireland many people continue to celebrate the holiday with bonfires and dancing.

Of the four great Celtic festivals – Imbolc, Bealtaine and Samhain – Lughnasadh was the most joyous because, after 'Hungry July', when stores were being rapidly depleted, farm folk could look forward to the fruits of all their hard work during the previous months.

This is the time to get the crops harvested and brought in safely – into the cool, dark storehouse of our inner selves.

For our ancestors, the final harvest meant fairs and markets, a time of peace between tribes that might usually be at war. These events are connected and recalled in one form or another in myths surrounding life-in-death and death-in-life aspects of gods and goddesses in virtually every culture and religion.

One of several historic sources for the four Celtic fire festivals is the early medieval Irish tale *Tochmarc Emire* (The Wooing of Emer), which is part of the Ulster Cycle.

In the form we know it today it was written in the Tenth or Eleventh Century CE, but it is safe to assume that this tale – like so many others – contains a much older nucleus.

The tale narrates how the hero Cú Chulainn is courting Emer. He receives several tasks to fulfill, one of them being that he must go without sleep for one year.

As Emer utters her challenge, she names the four major points of the Irish-Celtic year, as they are also mentioned in other Irish sources.

Doing this, she does not use the solar festivals, nor Christian ones, which were certainly well known and established by the Tenth Century. Instead Emer chooses the first days of each season.

One of these days is Lughnasadh, marking the beginning of fall. It takes place on the first of August or on the day of the full moon next to this date.

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

We now see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves, shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow. We sense its passing in rain that dampens, winds that chill, harvest's bounty placed on show.

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

August 1 was called Lammas by the Saxons from the Anglo-Saxon hlaf-mas or "loaf feast," referring to the loaves that are baked from the first grain harvested.



## 'Angels' and feathers in Hull UK City of Culture 2017

HULL – A free, aerial acrobatic event showered the centre of Hull with feathers in a "curtain-raiser" for UK City of Culture 2017.

Place des Anges, in Queens Gardens Hull on Saturday, July 2 involved performers dressed as flying angels and fireworks.

Performers glided on wires high above the city's buildings and released 1.5 tonnes of feathers on spectators.

A total of 10,000 free tickets were distributed for the event.

Rosie Millard, who chairs the company running the city of culture activities, said, "This is a wonderful trial run, the curtain-raiser if you like for 2017."

The people in Hull had "a real appetite, they know they have a great year ahead," she added.

Initial demand for the free tickets when they were released had caused the event's website to crash.

The show was created and performed by French theatre producers Gratte Ciel.

Place des Anges was presented by Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and Yorkshire Festival in association with Amy Johnson Festival.

Hull was named the UK's next City of Culture, beating Leicester, Dundee and Swansea Bay to the right to hold the title in 2017.

Hull, known for being the home of poet Philip Larkin, the Ferens gallery and the Hull Truck theatre, will follow the 2013 City of Culture, Derry~Londonderry.

The UK Government chooses a new destination every four years, with the aim of helping tourism and the economy.

Ministers created the UK City of Culture title in an attempt to replicate the

## Looking from the End to the Beginning at Lughnasadh

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE

"*I open at the close.*" So reads the secret inscription on a magical object from the world of Harry Potter, created by J.K. Rowling.

While the Snitch, its inscription, and its contents, went on to become important lore to those fond of Mr. Potter, the inscription lingers, "*I open at the close.*"

Though I wish otherwise, I feel sure I am a muggle, living a dusty, sometimes extraordinary life like other muggles.

To those of the wizarding world, please forgive my co-opting this important moment in what became the death, and rebirth, of Harry Potter in the last installment of Ms. Rowling's literary masterwork.

Instead, I recalled the inscription the other day, as midsummer passed, and the Oak King bowed to the Holly King, victor once again as the bright year stood down.

For me, these days draw to a close the childhood of my oldest, who soon decamps for a distant university.

Bittersweet for sure, but bearable amid the escalated suffering of the innocent at the hands of the hate-full across the face of this shaken blue planet.

Dark and light, young and old, love and hate, open and close. The masquerade of duality dims at dawn.

For these partners are not opposed, but part of one another, wave and particle, evading definition, they are *process*.

The green world is marred by the violence of tormented souls. No wild place is safe, no life is sacred.

This is no time to seek the cover of the trees, but instead to ask their wisdom, seek their strength. It is our fight, played out daily in lives small and large.

The courage of each individual, to speak, act, and live a nurturing truth may never have been so needed.

Are our times so different? Worse than earlier generations? I say "yes."

We are awash in digital waves that sweep our space, spreading messages of every stripe, animal species die off daily, global resources are exhausted, human and nature-devised germs stand out of the frame, waiting to crash the party.

success of Liverpool's year as the European Capital of Culture in 2008.

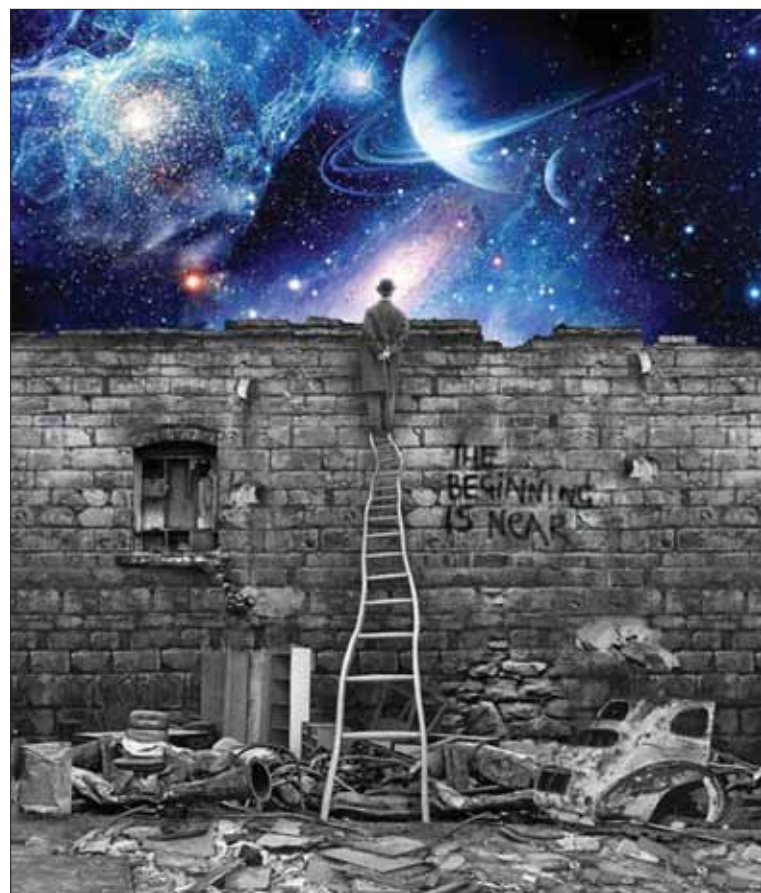
However, the winner does not receive direct funding from the government.

Culture secretary Maria Miller said Derry's tenure was "encouraging economic growth, inspiring social change and bringing communities together."

Hull's most famous cultural figure is Larkin who, while not born there, lived in the city for 30 years and found fame while working as a university librarian.

He produced most of his published poetry while living in the city and Hull's bid is partly based on his work.

A statement from Hull City Council said: "Inspired by Larkin's poem Days, the ambition is for each day of Hull 2017 to make a difference to a life in the city, the UK and the world."



THE END IS NEAR by Imaginary Foundation.

Broaching a new machine age, humans are challenged to redefine their relevancy, decency, and aims.

While we have historically faced such uncertainty, we have never had the capabilities now afforded by our technology.

There is no avoiding the volatility, no turning back, there is no safe ground. Endings – at midsummer, at old age, of disease, or tragically in a nightclub – surround us.

Very old wisdom holds that there is light in the darkest of seasons, as there is dark in the brightest of days.

No century is immune to the fracturing effect of dark and light.

To witness the struggle, and partake in the process is possibly the bigger point of mortal life.

At some juncture in our days, like Mr. Potter, there is an acceptance of what came before, and what our role might be in carrying that forward.

Luckily for Harry Potter, acceptance of his fate led to fulfillment of his destiny – and an ultimately better turn for

wizard and muggle alike.

Openings and closings are points on the road of becoming.

Deceptive in their confidence, they are markers we assign to particular segments of an unmapped exploration.

What is an opening for one, is an end for another, or an *in between* for someone else. Truth on the matter is utterly relative.

To shake off the shackles of fate takes nothing less than everything you've got.

In a world with swiftly hardening hearts, the journey is all uphill.

We live in these times. We cannot turn away.

While we are here, we only intuitively comprehend the *open* that follows the end of physical death.

As autumn, and Lughnasadh, approach, we may not be at that end, but we are at a close. Something deep moves in the repose of close.

Seek and strive on, find what you thought impossible, and remember that all of life is held within the words, "*I open at the close.*"



ARTISTS dressed as angels occupied buildings in Hull high above the crowds during a free aerial acrobatic event where crowds were showered with feathers in a "curtain-raiser" for UK City of Culture 2017.



# Margaret Atwood's 'Alias Grace,' to be CBC-Netflix miniseries

TORONTO – A miniseries based on Margaret Atwood's novel *Alias Grace* will screen on CBC and Netflix.

Oscar-nominated filmmaker Sarah Polley is writing and producing the six-hour project, which will begin shooting in Ontario in August. Mary Harron will direct.

The story is inspired by the real-life murder case involving Grace Marks, an Irish immigrant and maid in Upper Canada.

She and stable hand James McDermott were convicted of the murders of their employer, Thomas Kinnear, and his housekeeper/mistress, Nancy Montgomery, in 1843.

McDermott was hanged while Marks was sentenced to life imprisonment. After 30 years in jail, she was exonerated.

Grace Marks was born in Ulster in 1828 and emigrated to Canada with her parents, four brothers, and four sisters in 1840 at the age of 13. Her father was a stonemason.

Now the story of how she was jailed for the killing at a farm near Toronto is set to be turned into a true crime series. It will reportedly be shown on the internet streaming service Netflix.

Another Irish servant, James McDermott, admitted to the murder but said he was under Marks' spell and claimed she was the mastermind.

"Grace Marks is wrong in stating she had no hand in the murder; she was the means from beginning to end," McDermott stated in his signed confession to Mr. George Walton in *The Trials of James McDermott and Grace Marks at Toronto, Upper Canada, November 3rd and 4th, 1843*.

Hired as a maid in the Kinnear home



PHOTO: Collection of the Toronto Public Library

SKETCHES of Grace Marks and James McDermott from their trial in 1843. Whether or not she was guilty of murder, Grace Marks was haunted by visions while in Kingston Penitentiary, and became one of the first women in Canada to be deemed criminally insane.

for a monthly pay of \$3, Marks was to provide assistance to Montgomery.

Twenty-year-old James McDermott had been hired only days earlier, and the new workers took a liking to each other.

Arriving in Canada in 1837, the young man had served with the Glengarry Light Infantry until it was disbanded and he was discharged.

Each accused claimed the other wanted to steal the large bundle of cash Kinnear was bringing home.

In his confession, McDermott said following the murder, "While I harnessed the riding horse into his new buggy, Grace collected all the valuables in the house. You know, Sir, we got safe on board the steamer at Toronto but owing to an unfortunate delay, we were apprehended..." Their grand plan of escape to New York was over.

Marks, who was 16 at the time of the crime, was tried alongside McDermott. He was hanged for the crime but her sentence was reduced from death to life imprisonment because of her "feeble sex" and "extreme youth."

She was initially committed to an asylum as she began to suffer delusions and was then transferred to Kingston Penitentiary, but after almost 30 years she was pardoned and released. She adopted the name Mary Whitney and moved to New York.

The CBC television series of her story has been bought by Netflix and is based on the 1996 novel *Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood.

During research for the novel, Atwood found discrepancies in the historical accounts and the series will consider both sides of the trial before letting the viewers decide.

## '66 Days' - New documentary examines the life of Bobby Sands

*'They have nothing in their whole imperial arsenal that can break the spirit of one Irishman who doesn't want to be broken'*

– Bobby Sands [March 9, 1954 - May 5, 1981]

GALWAY – In this year of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1981 hunger strikes, the leading and iconic figure in that event, Bobby Sands, is the subject of a new documentary.

*Bobby Sands: 66 Days*, directed by Brendan Byrne, will be screened as part of the 2016 Galway Film Fleadh.

The movie tells the story of Sands' life on film for the first time, based on the diary he kept for the 17 days of his hunger strike, along with eye-witness testimony, unseen archive, reconstructions, and animation.

Alongside this, the film also seeks to understand the events that first politicised Sands and the influences of Irish Republican history on his actions.

Over the years Sands has been described in many ways, including IRA volunteer, hero, martyr, terrorist, criminal, political prisoner, poet, MP for Fer-



BOBBY SANDS was the first protester to die during the 1981 hunger strikes. Another 10 would die before the strike ended.

managh-South Tyrone, writer, icon, and Irish Republican.

Sands was 27-years-old when he lost his life during the 1981 hunger strike, protesting the end to "political prisoner" status for IRA prisoners. His funeral was attended by 100,000 people.

But, the best place to get to know the man is through his prose and poetry as collected in his book *Writings From Prison*.

His life and actions had very wide and far reaching consequences, particularly the 1981 hunger strikes which saw the IRA and INLA in a duel to the death with Margaret Thatcher in a demand for the right to be recognised as political prisoners.

Thatcher refused to give way and won praise for her stance. Yet, after the hunger strikes were called off, the prisoners' demands were quietly met.

In the following years, British diplomats were instructed that the strikes were a defeat for the UK Government.

Sands' stance turned him into an international figure, and his election as an MP became a powerful argument for Sinn Féin to embrace politics, leading the movement towards eventual cease-fire and the peace process.

*Variety* said of the film, "This finely crafted documentary may well long stand as the most balanced among such treatments, as it respectfully examines Sands' folk-heroic legacy rather than simply amplifying it."

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May is Hemochromatosis Awareness Month

If you are of Celtic or northern European heritage (the group at highest risk) please take a moment to answer a few simple questions on our quick self-assessment:

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CAROLINE AHERNE [back row, centre], actress and writer, beloved for creating BBC sitcom *The Royle Family* and gossiping granny *Mrs Merton*, was determined to slip away without making a fuss. Pictured: The cast of *The Royle Family* in 1998.

## Caroline Aherne, award-winning writer and actress dies aged 52

MANCHESTER – Caroline Mary Aherne, an English comedian and BAFTA-winning writer and actress died on July 2 at the age of 52.

Best known for performing as the acerbic chat show host *Mrs Merton*, roles in *The Fast Show*, and as lead in *The Royle Family*.

Aherne, who co-wrote, directed and starred in *The Royle Family*, revealed two years ago she had been undergoing treatment for lung cancer in her home city of Manchester. She was born with a rare form of retina cancer and later received treatment for bladder cancer.

“Caroline Aherne has sadly passed away after a brave battle with cancer,” her publicist Neil Reading said.

“The Bafta award-winning writer and comedy actor died earlier today at her home in Timperley, Greater Manchester. She was 52. The family ask for privacy at this very sad time.”

Aherne created some of British comedy’s best-loved characters: lazy daughter Denise in *The Royle Family*, acerbic chat show host *Mrs Merton* – which first aired on BBC2 in 1995 – and memorable *Fast Show* characters such as the Checkout Girl and Poula Fisch, a TV weather girl in an unnamed country where the sun was always “scorchio!”

*The Royle Family* was created after she and friend Craig Cash, who played gormless Dave Best in the show, threw themselves into their work after a suicide attempt by Aherne, which she described as her lowest ebb.

The show won four gongs at the 1999 British Comedy Awards including best actress for Aherne.

The *Mrs Merton Christmas Show* won the best talk show Bafta in 1997, while *The Royle Family* collected best sitcom award in 2000 and 2007. Aherne was nominated for BAFTAs for her performance in both shows, as well as her directing of *The Royle Family* in 2001.

During the 1990s Aherne suffered from depression and alcoholism, which she

blamed on the pressures of celebrity.

In 1998 she attempted suicide and was treated at the Priory. She suffered from bladder cancer and from a rare cancer of the retina.

Tributes from those Aherne worked with have been flooding in.

BBC director general Tony Hall said: “She was a brilliant, award winning comedy writer and performer, much loved by audiences – especially for *The Royle Family* and *Mrs Merton* and for her wonderful voicing of many shows. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.”

The daughter of Irish immigrants Bert and Maureen, Aherne grew up on a council estate in Wythenshawe, Manchester, and her first job was answering phones at BBC offices in the city.

Both Aherne and her older brother Patrick were born with the rare form of retina cancer which she was treated for into her twenties.

She then underwent treatment for bladder cancer, the same disease that later took the life of her boyfriend Matt Bower in 1997.

The actor’s illness first came to light in 2014 when she agreed to take part in an appeal in Manchester that was asking patients and carers to help improve standards of care.

In pledging her support she said: “I’ve had cancer and my brother’s had cancer and we know how it affects people.”

Aherne, who had been a smoker, also spoke of her battles with depression and alcohol, following the breakdown of her marriage to former New Order member Peter Hook, the death of her father, and struggles with fame.

She spent time at the Priory clinic before moving to Australia to escape the public eye.

She made her return to television in 2014 as the narrator of popular Channel 4 show *Gogglebox*.

She was forced to take time off from narrating the show earlier this year while she received treatment for the disease.

# Drug smuggler Melissa Reid arrives back in UK

GLASGOW – Convicted drug mule Melissa Reid has arrived back on home soil after spending nearly three years in jail in Peru.

The 22-year-old Scot arrived at Glasgow Airport on June 22 accompanied by her father Billy after completing the last leg of her journey to the UK from Lima.

Reid, from Lenzie, East Dunbartonshire, was caught in August 2013 with 23-year-old Michaela McCollum, from Dungannon, Co Tyrone, trying to smuggle cocaine worth £1.5 million in food bags from Peru to Spain.

The pair – nicknamed the “Peru Two” – were jailed for six years and eight months after admitting the offence.

But a judge last month ordered Reid to be expelled from the South American country under an early release scheme for deporting first-time drug offenders.

Janeth Sanchez, a spokeswoman for Peru’s prison service, said that the Scot had “served her time in prison according to the law and can now go to her country, free, to the streets.”

A Scottish Prison Service spokeswoman said it is not involved with Reid’s case.

McCollum was freed in March under new legislation but was required to remain on parole in Peru for an undisclosed period of time.

The two women had initially claimed they were forced into carrying the drugs – around 24 pounds (11 kilograms) of



MELISSA REID is escorted through security at Lima airport by authorities as she is deported from the country following her release from prison.



MICHAELLA MCCOLLUM from Dungannon, Co. Tyrone was released earlier on parole.

cocaine – but then pleaded guilty to the charges.

McCollum and Reid faced the prospect of a maximum 15-year prison term but struck a behind-closed-doors plea bargain to secure the shorter sentence.

Around nine in 10 of the 1,809 foreigners in Peru’s prisons are either sentenced or awaiting trials for drug trafficking.

Reid’s father has previously said the impact of his daughter’s crime on his family had been “horrendous,” and spoke in a video warning of the consequences of drug offences abroad.

A spokeswoman for the British Foreign Office said, “We continue to provide assistance to Melissa Reid and remain in contact with her family and local authorities.”

It is understood Reid will not have a criminal record in the UK as a result of her conviction in Peru.

## Irish Film Board calls for restoration of funding to 20 million euros

DUBLIN – The Irish Film Board has called for an immediate restoration of its capital funding to 20 million euros, its pre-recession budget.

Successive governments have cut the board’s funding for film, animation and television drama projects by 44 percent since 2008, whittling it down to the current level of 11.2 million euro.

IFB chairwoman designate Dr. Annie Doona said she had met Heather Humphreys, the Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts and the Gaeltacht, and the minister had expressed “strong support” for its new five-year strategy.

“What we’re asking for is an immediate 20 million euro. That’s what we need,” Dr. Doona said. “The minister has expressed support for us, but clearly the government as a whole has funding priorities.”

She said the industry wanted to build on its recent achievements, which saw Irish-supported films win a record eight Oscar nominations at this year’s Academy Awards.

“We want to seize the day,” Dr. Doona said. “We want to develop creative talent and build a stronger film culture in Ireland.”



SAOIRSE RONAN as “Eilis” in *Brooklyn*, the film adaptation of Colm Tóibín’s internationally celebrated novel.

The recent critical triumph has been matched by some commercial success.

In 2015 and 2016 to date, Irish films including *Brooklyn*, *Room*, *Sing Street*, *Love & Friendship*, *Song of the Sea* and *The Lobster* have taken a combined \$140 million at the worldwide box office, with *Brooklyn* accounting for about \$62 million of this.

Irish films have attracted an estimated 18 million cinema admissions in this period, while the growing video-on-demand market, as well as DVD and television sales, will swell the total audience further.

Minister Humphreys announced last July that the board would be renamed Screen Ireland.

More collaboration between the IFB and other sources of funding, such as the RTÉ and the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, is part of the five-year plan.

“We sometimes feel we compete for funding, and we compete for funds within the film space, and we don’t want to do that.

“We want to be working together as the Irish film sector in making Ireland international film champions.”