

the celtic connection

ISSUE 25 VOLUME 5

Proudly Serving Celts in North America Since 1991

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016



THE BIGGEST Gaelic Games event in North America took place in Seattle on the weekend of September 2-4, 2016 with over 1,500 players and 85 teams from across the USA, Canada and the Caribbean competing. [Pictured above] Seattle Mayor Ed Murray [second from right] presents the Championship Trophy to Donie Breathnach, captain of the San Francisco Naomh Padraig hurling team after they won the North American Senior Hurling Championship final. Pictured on the left is Seattle Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole and Irish Consul General Philip Grant on the right. [Read more on pages 20, 21 & 23]



BREAKING GROUND by Norfolk, England artist, Rob Barnes.

[Read more about the artist inside on page 2]



IRELAND'S O'Donovan brothers are the latest Olympic Internet sensation after delivering a comical interview to RTÉ Sport about their silver medal win. Gary (R) and Paul (L) O'Donovan are pictured above celebrating after their win in the Lightweight Men's Double Sculls Final at The Lagoa Stadium in Rio on August 12. [Read more on page 23]



A MAGNIFICENT 12-foot Celtic Cross stands beside a triple cenotaph as a memorial to survivors of Ireland's Great Hunger who settled in western Quebec. The story behind this monument is a very stirring one that finally comes to completion later this month in Martindale, Quebec. [Read more on page 12]

Walking the Path at Samhain Into the Twilight of the Year



OME would argue that a path that cannot be seen does not exist. But vision is only one of many senses.

The harvest and mowing of crops – the completion of a task-filled season – again clears space to the horizon line at Samhain.

Not only is the landscape easier to navigate, but in the gloaming, the beginning can be seen just beyond the finish.

To a point, an overgrown garden, field, or psyche has repose. Left to its wildishness, it wanders, fills and lives iteratively.

Successive seasons pass, and although little seems to change, fundamental transformation takes place.

Crops, plants, and ideas grow, wear, and are consumed, making way for the next something, that is never quite the same as before.

A once-cultivated field or form left to its internal strivings loses dimension over time.

Without footprint or friction, idyll turns to natural rhythms far longer than a human lifespan.

For mortal life, seasons rightly punctuate that idyll, proffering youth, growth, harvest, and death.

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE

At Samhain, whose bonfires burn brightly at dusk on October 31, the year descends to its finish.

In the ashes of that same fire, on November 1, the Celtic New Year is born, along with the winter season.

Not even bright Beltaine, on May 1, champions as much transformation.

Harvest in, the distance opens before our eyes, where just before, thick fruition stood tall.

Time cuts it all – and confers discernment in its stead.

Trails carefully laid between rows disappear and matted, fallen leaves soon disguise even the deeply rutted lane. Above and below, only the felt path remains.

At Samhain, that path rises, careens, motivates, tears down, and drives us on.

Order is lost, but structure remains – it will push, drag, or pull even the ridiculously stubborn to their fate.

Those not gripped entirely by the experience may instead find destiny, the conscious transformation of the cultivated form.

Sometime in life – and routinely at Samhain – the visible path disappears.

The ambiguity drives some mad and some to greatness.

But to most it offers a quickening of senses too often unused – a reminder to see with the heart, and hear with the soul.

May you find shelter from the storm and warmth in the laughter of friends and family in the season of Samhain. Blessed Be. [ALSO see page 24]

WIN FREE TICKETS

Win a pair of tickets to see **Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones** at Blue Frog Studios in White Rock on October 28. (See page 3 & 7 for details). Entry by October 14. Mark your entry: Derek Warfield.

Win tickets to see **Celtic Thunder** – giveaway tickets are for concerts in the following three venues only: **Abbotsford** at the Abbotsford Centre on November 23; **Prince George** at CN Centre on November 26; and **Edmonton** at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium on November 29. Also, for giveaway Celtic Thunder's newly released album entitled *Legacy* in CD & DVD. (See page 3 & 6 for details). Entry by October 21. Mark your entry: Celtic Thunder and indicate either Abbotsford, Edmonton or Prince George.

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). E-mail: cbutler@telus.net.

Publication
Mail Agreement:
4009398

ABOUT OUR COVER ARTIST

ARTIST Rob Barnes studied painting and printmaking at Hull College of Art and London University in the early 1960s.

He taught etching, screen-printing, linocut and related surface printmaking at Keswick Hall College in Norfolk. He later moved to the University of East Anglia where he continued teaching in the School of Education until 2006. He is based in South Norfolk.

He has exhibited regularly in London and many of his etchings and linocuts are in private collections. More recently he has returned to linocuts, enjoying the strong physical nature of this medium.

His linocuts are inspired mainly by the landscape of East Anglia. Effects of light and colour, weather and atmosphere contribute to the final linocut.

Recent work has been inspired by observing the changing fields and wildlife through the seasons. Coastal prints are inspired by Norfolk and Suffolk waterways. All prints are in limited editions.

"I enjoy the challenge of cutting lino with a certain freedom in the cutting strokes," he says. "I also find printmaking fascinating when I blend and graduate colours. This gives me an opportunity to play with light and shade, much as I first saw it in the subject that inspired the idea."

Speaking about his inspiration, Rob says, "Living in Langley, half a mile from the River Yare in Norfolk England, I look out across the marshes in one direction and across open fields in the other.

"There are Muntjac deer and hares in winter chasing across the fields opposite. As spring approaches, there are times when I could almost sell tickets for the display of hares chasing and competing.

"There can be as many as 10 in the field and they can be surprisingly large. Hares have become a popular subject for artists, and I can see why.

"They are entertaining and seem to announce the arrival of spring with their wake-up fights and chases. I see them as silhouettes against the light and they never stay still for long.

"I see nature as movement in the landscape and changes in the seasons. My



ROB BARNES in his studio in Norfolk, England. The Albion press he works with pictured above is a copy of one made in 1854. It was cast and constructed by Harry Rochat Ltd. in 2013.

linocuts are often about the way farmers have shaped hedges and ploughed fields.

"These provide the playground for animals and birds in this crow-country of drained marshland."

He added, "Some rural images are timeless, but villages change. The tractors I used to drive as a boy are now collectable classics and the local farmers seem to spend no time now before another crop is sown.

"The fields I portray in my linocuts often roll well into the far distance. I like to feel the viewer can walk into the pictures and identify with my interpretation of nature.

"The surrounding landscape is by no means flat. I prefer to use some imagination to complete my design so I rarely stick with the original sketches.

"I want to do more than copy a sketch to the lino and cut it out. I have found that for me, the process of cutting lino needs an element of chance. I leave some decisions until after I have taken the first proof of a new print.

"Artists in this part of the world are keen to capture the changes of light and atmosphere. The challenge for me is to do that in a printmaking medium.

"This often means blending colours gradually across or down the design. Linocuts are hand inked so keeping this blend consistent through a small edition of prints is the hardest aspect of working the way I do. There is very little margin for error."

For more information about the work of Rob Barnes, visit his website at www.robarnesart.co.uk or e-mail: barnesart@btinternet.com.

Irish Seniors.... Mark Your Calendar!

VANCOUVER – The Irish Heritage Society wants to invite all Irish seniors and their spouse or significant other to the Hilton Hotel at Metrotown in Burnaby for lunch on Wednesday, December 14. It is advisable to book your spot early as space is limited. To reserve, call George McDonnell at (604) 948-2885.

Prince William and Kate coming to B.C. this fall

LONDON, England – More details have been released about the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's upcoming visit to Canada from September 24 to October 1.

Kensington Palace has tweeted that Prince William and his wife, Kate, will visit Vancouver, Victoria, Bella Bella, Haida Gwaii and Kelowna in British Columbia as well as Whitehorse and Carcross in the Yukon.

This will be the royal couple's second visit to Canada.

Their first, following their 2011 wedding, took them to Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, Charlottetown, Summerside, Yellowknife, Calgary and Slave Lake after that community was ravaged by a widespread forest fire.

The then-newlyweds drew large crowds wherever they went, including a packed Canada Day gathering on Parliament Hill.

The couple's young children will reportedly accompany them on this year's tour.



THE Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are set to visit British Columbia and Yukon this fall, in their second royal visit to Canada and first since becoming parents. They are pictured above on their first official visit to Canada in 2011.

FRANK AND BRENDA Dudfield recently returned from a visit to the UK and Ireland where they attended two walking festivals – one in Newcasttle in the Mourne Mountains in Northern Ireland and the other in Castlebar in the Republic of Ireland. During their five week visit, they also did walks in Somerset and the Lake District – over 155 kilometres. In addition to visiting friends and family along the way, they also drove around the Northern Irish Causeway Coast Road and Mourne Coastal Route; Giant's Causeway; Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge; Londonderry; Marble Arch caves; took a tour of Belfast; some of the Wild Atlantic Coast Road; Cliffs of Moher; Blarney Castle and kissed the Blarney Stone; Waterford Crystal, before returning to Wales and England.



Prayer for the Feast of Saint Raphael the Archangel



Vouchsafe, O Lord God, to send holy Raphael the Archangel to aid us. May he whom we believe ever to stand before Thy Majesty, present our poor prayers to be blessed by Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, One God, world without end. Amen.

THE CELTIC CONNECTION

ISSUE 25 VOLUME 5 - Established in 1991

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

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Canada Post Canadian Publications Agreement 40009398



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Galway has been crowned European Capital of Culture 2020

ANOTHER feather in the cap for Galway City, "The City of the Tribes," otherwise known as the Paris of Ireland. It has now been crowned European Capital of Culture 2020.

The city saw off competition from Limerick and The Three Sisters (Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny) to take the prestigious title at a ceremony in the National Concert Hall in Dublin on July 15.

The formal designation of Galway by the relevant Irish authorities is expected to take place in the coming months and Galway will hold the 2020 title along with Rijeka in Croatia.

Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys with members of the Galway team who secured the European Capital of Culture designation for 2020.

"Hosting the European Capital of Culture presents a unique and important opportunity to showcase a city, bringing with it an unprecedented focus at local,



national and international level. It will allow Galway and Ireland as a whole, to put our best cultural foot forward and promote the best of Irish creativity," she said.

Started in 1985 on the initiative of the

then Greek Minister of Culture Melina Mercouri, European Capitals of Culture have developed into one of the most ambitious cultural projects in Europe and become one of the best known – and most appreciated – activities of the European Union.

COMHALTAS

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This project is funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

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DECEMBER 3 - BURTON CUMMINGS THEATRE, WINNIPEG

BUY TICKETS AT LIVENATION.COM

Looking ahead to more great tunes after an incredible music-filled summer

WHAT a month! August began and ended with two of the biggest folk festivals on the planet: **Edmonton** and Denmark's **Tonder**.

In between, Margaret and I went on a Baltic Cruise to Tallinn, St. Petersburg, Helsinki, Stockholm. Copenhagen and more.

Arrived back just in time to present a radio show, run the door for a dance, and then play bodhran with **Linda McRae** after we were both inducted into the **BC Entertainment Hall of Fame** at St. James!

To be honest, so much has happened since Edmonton that I can barely recall that many details!

There were stunning sets from African singer **Fatoumata Diawara** and Quebec's **Barr Brothers** to open the event on the Thursday, but I went for a walk up the hill for the next set and didn't stay for the last set of the night.

I recall jumping at the chance to see **Maura O'Connell** and **Karan Casey** on the Friday evening. Maura has officially retired, but was in such great voice that I invited her to continue her retirement with a Rogue gig some day soon!

Tom Russell was up next with his new guitarist **Jason Wilber** – who also tours with **John Prine**.

There's usually some good Irish music on hand at Edmonton, and this year we had the rare chance to see three veterans of the trad. scene playing together: **Matt Molly** of The Chieftains on flute, with fiddler **John Carty** and guitarist **Arty McGlynn**.

Dervish also made a rare appearance in western Canada, and were superb as ever! **Niamh Parsons & Graham Dunne** treated us to some songs from her great new CD, *Kind Providence*.

Canadian Celtic music was represented by the brilliant PEI trio **The East Pointers** and Newfoundland singer **Matthew Byrne**, while Australia's **Mae Trio** were also impressive.

The most pleasant surprise for me was a workshop with the East Pointers, Denmark's **Dreamer's Circus** and an Irish-Scots-Canadian combo called **The Step Crew**.

The Step Crew comprises – amongst others – Ottawa Valley brothers **Jon and Nathan Pilatzke**, Scots singer **Alyth McCormack**, the extraordinary step-dancer **Cara Butler**, and Vancouver's **Mark Sullivan** (fiddle) and **Rob Becker** (bass).

Leaving Edmonton on the Monday we flew to Toronto then on to Copenhagen to board our cruise ship.

The next 12 days are also a bit of a blur, with **St. Petersburg** being an outstanding two-day experience that defied belief!

Such incredible palaces and churches, and so many bridges (over 400!) Talk about culture shock!

Highlights included a wine bar / speak-easy off Nevsky Prospekt called **Garagiste**, an evening vodka cruise on the canals, and of course, The Hermitage Museum and the Church On The Spilled Blood.

We didn't hear much music on the cruise, just some early music in Tallinn,

and a Finnish trio playing kantele in Helsinki, but we weren't concerned; we had the big treat in Tonder still to come.

My first impression of the **Tonder Festival** was of a festival of excellent food and drink with incidental music!

In all there are 11 stages, 13 drinking establishments – beer, wine, coffee – and 19 food vendors.

These are mostly in tents with wooden floors and the choice of food and drink is exemplary.

Evidently, Danes are very particular about the quality of their comestibles!

The venues range from the large outdoor stage with a concrete forecourt and grassy slope behind to the more intimate jam tent and Dublin pub.

There are two very large tents – where audience and stage are completely covered – and several smaller ones, including two spiegel tents.

If you haven't yet experienced a spiegel tent try to find one on your next trip to Europe.

There are only about six in Europe, one in Australia, and apparently two in North America.

Picture a circular venue with booths around the sides, a stage at one "end," a bar at the other, and a dance floor / rows of seats in the middle.

Billowing red curtains with gold brocade adorn the ceiling, the floor and the booths are made of wood, with mirrors on the pillars and two rows of stained glass windows all around the walls.

The interior is all rich reds, browns and golds and the mirrors and windows add sparkle and magic to the feel of the place.

We began our first ever Tonder experience with Irish band **Hudson Taylor** in the large spiegel tent, Palais de Glaces (capacity 500).

It was almost 30C outside and pretty warm inside too! Hudson Taylor are like a latter-day Everly Brothers. Great songs and great harmonies.

I met up with a Danish friend and his wife and they treated us to some great food and wine and we led them out to hear **The Peatbog Faeries** in the great outdoors.

They had never been to Tonder before, and though they like all types of music, they had never heard of the bands at the festival.

I described the Faeries as something akin to Pink Floyd with beats and bagpipes.

They did not disappoint, although we waited in vain for a large inflatable pig or a flying saucer to appear over the Open Air stage!

Unable to keep up with the drinking pace, Margaret and I wound our way back to the Palais to hear young Scots trio **Talisk**.

Fiercely fast concertina, with fiddle and guitar, Talisk won the best young band award at Celtic Connections this year (I think that's where it was).



By
**STEVE
EDGE**

THE ROGUE FOLK CLUB



CONNIE KALDOR

Then we crossed the "street" to the huge Tent 1 (capacity maybe 2,000+) to see **The String Sisters** (**Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh**, **Annbjorg Lien**, **Catriona MacDonald**, **Liz Carroll**, **Emma Hardelin** and **Liz Knowles**).

Fabulous! We'd seen them at Celtic Colours last October, but this time they were without **James MacIntosh** of Shooogenifty on drums.

James had an unfortunate accident on his birthday this year, and broke his leg. It went septic, and he has had several operations since then.

Happily, he's on the mend now, it seems! Sadly, though, The Shooogs didn't make their scheduled appearance at Tonder.

We were invited to attend the festival as guests of **Folk SPOT Denmark** – along with other presenters and media from Belgium, Germany, USA, Poland, Finland, Norway and Canada.

We heard some great Danish music from the likes of **Himmerland**, **Basco**, **Fru Skaggerak**, **Fromseier-Hockings**, and more.

They also gave us a place to stay and shuttled us around the town and beyond. What a treat!

Over the weekend we also saw a wonderful set from **Eliza Carthy & The Wayward Band** (who needs Bellowhead anyway??), **Rosanne Cash & John Leventhal**, **Tim O'Brien & David Grier**, **Eric Bibb**, **Ten Strings & A Goat Skin**, **A.J. Croce** (some piano player, that man!), Sweden's **Vasen**, and gospel heavy-hitters **Blind Boys of Alabama**, **Fairfield Four**, and **The McCrary Sisters**.

With so many stages there are inevitably going to be some sound bleed problems. These were mostly at the bottom end of the sound spectrum, causing me to consider christening this piece *The Rolling Tonder Review*.

(Tonder is actually pronounced more like a cross between *Turner* and *Tuna*, but in this case the Irish pronunciation of *thunder* seems more appropriate!)

Most of this *thunder* could be attributed to marauding Scots bands like **Rura**, **Manran**, and **Treacherous Orchestra**.

Great bands, and great fun – the more-



BARRULE is a stunning young trio from the Isle of Man who will play The Rogue on Sunday October 2. These three young guys play the most scintillating Celtic music and they also sing in both English and Manx.



TRI-CONTINENTAL (**Bill Bourne**, **Madagascar Slim**, and **Lester Quitzau**), a Canadian blues and roots supergroup, return on September 17 after a 12 year absence.

so when it is not someone else you want to hear at the time!

Tonder is nothing like any Canadian festival – nor any other festival I've attended. It really is a fabulous music event, and the food is superb.

Most Danes speak perfect English and it's an extremely friendly event. I'll definitely be back!

So now we're back in Vancouver, and a day after touching down I was hosting *The Edge On Folk*, with **Linda McRae** singing LIVE in the studio.

The following night she and I were both inducted into the **BC Entertainment Hall of Fame** at her concert at St. James Hall.

She even asked me to play bodhran on a couple of tunes – although it came as a complete surprise and I was only given my old drum without a beater!

It was great fun, though, and such a great honour to be given a plaque at The Orpheum and a star to wear on my collar. Wow.

Up next at The Rogue it's Ontario singer songwriter **Craig Cardiff** (**September 15**) who writes many of his songs from anecdotes given him by the audience in his "Book of Truths." A uniquely engaging and compelling performer.

Then, on **September 17**, it's the return – after a 12 year absence – of Canadian blues and roots supergroup **Tri-Continental** (**Bill Bourne**, **Madagascar Slim**, and **Lester Quitzau**).

Don Ross and **Brooke Miller** return on **September 23** with their amazing guitar poetry, and we've just added a

show with legendary Canadian songwriter **Connie Kaldor** – one of the nation's most entertaining performers (**September 29**.)

On **Sunday October 2**, we are bringing in a stunning young trio from the Isle of Man: **Barrule**.

These three young guys play some of the most scintillating Celtic music we've ever heard. They also sing in both English and Manx.

This is their first ever Canadian tour, and we are convinced that they will make a hugely favourable impression.

We hope all local Celtic music aficionados will take a chance on this band; you will not regret it, I promise you!

On **October 6**, American blues artist **Guy Davis** returns to The Rogue, and the following night, **Birds of Chicago** grace our stage again (this show will definitely sell out, so don't delay! Buy your tickets now!)

We are also bringing back Washington DC's live band of the year for the last four years, **The Bumper Jacks**. They will perform at **CBC Studio 700** on **October 14**.

The following night, **Fred Eaglesmith** plays a rare duo gig with **Tiff Ginn** at **The Rio Theatre** (Commercial and Broadway.)

We round out our October program with a solo show by prolific English songwriter **Jez Lowe** (**October 19**) and popular Canadian singer **Roy Forbes** (**October 22**).

Unless otherwise stated, all shows are at **St. James Hall** (3214 West 10th Avenue). Tickets and information can be found on www.roguefolk.bc.ca.



AUDIENCES around the world enjoy the benefit of touring Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann groups bringing Irish music, dance and storytelling on annual tours. The group will play Vancouver on Tuesday, September 20 at Notre Dame Regional Secondary High School at 7:30 PM.

Comhaltas: Keeping the Flame of Irish Culture Alive

"Take Comhaltas out of the equation, turn back the clock and contemplate Ireland without Comhaltas and the sheer scale of what we owe you is revealed."

– Remarks by former President of Ireland Mary McAleese

on the fiftieth anniversary of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann VANCOUVER – Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann is the largest group involved in the preservation and promotion of Irish traditional music.

Headquartered in Dublin, it is a non-profit cultural movement with hundreds of local branches around the world, and members have been working for the cause of Irish music since it was established 65 years ago.

You would hardly think that Irish traditional music was ever in trouble. Walk into an Irish pub anywhere in the world today and you might well be treated to an informal "session" – musicians playing for their own pleasure and that of their listeners.

It might start with a fiddle player pulling an instrument from a battered case. Maybe a button accordion emerges from under a chair.

A flute is pulled from a bag, and the music continues with the haunting sounds that were once the preserve of the rural country kitchen. But it was not always that way.

There was a time when the mere survival of Irish traditional music was not at all a sure thing.

Comhaltas was founded in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath by a group of traditional pipers who felt that the Irish musical tradition was in decline. It was initially named Cumann Ceoltóirí na hÉireann, changing to its present name the following year.

It began in January 1951, when representatives of the Thomas Street (Dublin) Pipers' Club went to Mullingar for a meeting with traditional music enthusiasts from County Westmeath.

This led to a decision to hold a Fleadh Cheoil that May in conjunction with Feis Lár na hÉireann, a Gaelic League Feis which had been held in Mullingar for many years.

In the years before the Fleadh, although the ordinary people of Ireland loved traditional music, the hundreds of traditional musicians in the country were largely unappreciated in popular social and intellectual circles.

Fleadhanna Cheoil gave traditional musicians a platform where they could play to an appreciative audience and where traditional style was the criterion.



That first Fleadh Cheoil in 1951 attracted only a few hundred patrons – a small but enthusiastic crowd.

Within five years, however, this annual gathering had grown to become a great national festival attended by traditional musicians, singers, and dancers from all parts of Ireland and overseas.

Today, Comhaltas has grown with the times and it has become the foremost movement preserving and promoting Irish traditional music.

Branches of Comhaltas have formed in every county in Ireland and also abroad, organising classes, concerts, and sessions in local communities.

In fact, there are hundreds of branches in 15 countries on four continents including the United States, Britain, Canada, Japan and elsewhere.

Audiences around the world also enjoy the benefit of the touring Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann groups bringing Irish music, dance and storytelling on annual tours.

Here in Vancouver, the group will appear in a concert hosted by the Ireland Canada Monument Society on Tuesday, September 20 at Notre Dame Regional Secondary High School.

It will be presented in the newly renovated Father Jose Cuddy Auditorium and patrons are requested to enter via the Parker Street entrance. On site parking is available on Kaslo Street.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 16.

To purchase, e-mail Brendan Flynn at: brendanflynn_1@hotmail.com, or call (604) 777-9943, or George McDonnell at: crumlin@eastlink.ca, or call (604) 948-2885.

Book online at: www.ticketfly.com/event/1313959.

‘Dearest Old Girl’: From Margaret to Hanna, From Montreal to Dublin, a sister writes home

VANCOUVER – On Sunday, October 23, the Irish Women's Network will host a luncheon at the Langara Golf Clubhouse in Vancouver, B.C. with special guest Professor Dara Culhane who will present a reading of letters written by her grandmother to her great-aunt Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington in Ireland.

"This reading weaves photographs, diaries, and family stories together with letters home written by my grandmother, Margaret Sheehy Culhane Casey, from Montreal, to her sister, Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington, in Dublin, between 1922-1939," writes Dara.

In her letters, Margaret tells her sisters about her marriage and her children, and her experiences of what she describes as "a life in exile" in Montreal.

She shares her loneliness and her yearning for home in Ireland; she recounts her often desperate and sometimes humorous efforts to find work; and she spares no one in her frank commentaries on political movements in Quebec



and Ireland.

Most of all these letters offer us insights into Margaret's and her sisters' deep desires to remain in close and constant touch, year-after-year, as if they lived a mile or two, rather than an ocean, away from each other.

Dara says, "I hope that you will enjoy listening to my reading of these letters and my telling of these stories. Perhaps you, too, have a box of letters somewhere that you might be led to open up and read?"

For tickets, go to: www.irishwomenbc.net/events.html. If you have any questions, e-mail: irishwomensnetwork@gmail.com.



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Sat., SEPTEMBER 17
Lester Quitzau/Bill Bourne/
Madagascar Slim
Tri Continental

Friday, SEPTEMBER 23
guitar poets with a new duo sound
Don Ross & Brooke Miller

Thursday, SEPTEMBER 29
Legendary Canadian songwriter
Connie Kaldor

Sunday, OCTOBER 2
Young Isle of Man Celtic trad. trio
Barrule

Thursday, OCTOBER 6
Blues from the chocolate man
Guy Davis

Friday, OCTOBER 7
Stunning nouveau folk
Birds of Chicago

Friday, OCTOBER 14 *CBC*
Bumper Jacksons

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Festival Interceltique de Lorient: The Biggest Celtic Music Festival on the Planet

aS producer/host of the weekly *Maui Celtic Radio Show*, I recently attended the 46th Festival Interceltique de Lorient in the Celtic region of Brittany, France, on invitation with *Blues and Roots Radio*.

I'd heard this was the biggest Celtic music festival on the planet, but experiencing 10 days of pan-Celtic music and Breton culture far exceeded my expectations.

Galician piper Carlos Núñez told me that Brittany is the centre of the Celtic music world, and I certainly believe that now. In fact, the Breton audiences go crazy for all kinds of Celtic music.

The figures confirm that, with 700,000 festival-goers there for 200 concerts on 12 stages, with 4,500 artists.

Over 70,000 people watched the Grand Parade of Celtic Nations through the streets into the stadium, with 1.4 million viewers on French national television.

You can hear music all afternoon, evening and into the wee hours in all the Celtic Nations' tents.

Choose between four concerts each evening as well, one being the spectacular 'Nuit Interceltique' at the stadium, a music and light show with 500 performers, closing with fireworks displays on five nights.

The entire centre of Lorient is occupied by the festival, from the stadium and concert theatres, to the nations' tents lining the quays around the marina.

There are art shows, conferences, booths of artists and authors, luthiers and pipe-makers, Breton artisans and specialty food vendors.

The surrounding streets of local cafes and bars have Celtic bands playing to their patrons.

Breton sports and Bagad (pipeband) championships were held in the stadium. The festival hub had displays of traditional Breton costumes, and bagpipes from around the world.

Each year has a featured nation, with this year being Australia.

Thanks to Neil Mitchell of Blues and Roots Radio, and the music co-ordinator William Hutton (singer with Scots-Australian Celtic rockers Claymore), the Canadian heads of our station, Stevie and Anne Connor, and myself could all meet at this festival.

The Aussie tent was packed with great Celtic acts from down-under – the legendary ex-pat Scots songwriter Eric Bogle, Welsh/Aussie singer-harpist Siobhan Owen, and bands Saoirse, The Kelly Family, and Claymore with their own Highland dancers.

New to me were the energetic Sásta and the 'wall of sound' of Murphy's Pigs, belting out Irish classics with 11 men on stage – the late-night crowds were going ballistic!

By **HAMISH BURGESS**



WELSH/AUSTRALIAN Siobhan Owen at the 46th Festival Interceltique de Lorient.



ERIC BOGLE with Hamish Burgess at the 46th Festival Interceltique de Lorient.

Breton music legends Alan Stivell and Dan Ar Braz had enthusiastic receptions from the locals at big concerts, as did Australian guitar master Tommy Emmanuel.

Bands at the Breton stage had folks continually dancing in the distinctive local style, and every night a Fest Noz had traditional music and dance.

The Asturian tent was always jumping, introducing me to the band Corquieu, and no less popular was the Acadian tent where the highlight was fiddler Dominique Dupuis.

I found a few familiar faces in the Cornish/Manx combined tent, and Welsh lads Mabon were on top form.

Centenary of the Irish Rebellion, was a moving concert with 1916 Visionaries and their words by Lorcan Mac Mathuna with top musicians and a narrator.



THE SPECTACULAR Nuit Interceltique at the 46th Festival Interceltique de Lorient.



ALL PHOTOS:
© Hamish Burgess
THE FRIEL SISTERS with Hamish Burgess at the 46th Festival Interceltique de Lorient.

The final concert was attended by 8,000 folks with the brilliant Solas and Irish pop stars The Corrs.

Stand-out moments: interviewing epic songwriter Eric Bogle and surprise meetings with musicians who I didn't realise would be there.

Among these were Duncan Chisholm's band members Ali Hutton and Jarlath Henderson – great craic backstage with those three.

Great new musical discoveries, The Friel Sisters rocking the Irish tent, high energy Manx trad lads Mec Lir, brilliant Galician piper Anxo Lorenzo (paired with Scots piping wizard Fred Morrison), and Scots group Barluath.

Many new Aussie friends, and very late nights with the gents of Murphy's Pigs!

I was also close enough to take (late) morning drives to see the incredible 10,000 menhirs or standing stones and megalithic tombs of Carnac and Locmariaquer.

Special thanks to festival director Lisardo Lombardia, and press liaison Julie Oviedo, who tell me the 2017 festival will feature Scotland as the showcased nation. Surely one to see!

For more information, see Festival Interceltique de Lorient at: www.festival-interceltique.bzh.

Don't miss two festival specials coming up on the Maui Celtic Radio Show – details at <http://mauiceltic.com/radio.htm> or contact Hamish at hamish@mauiceltic.com.



CELTIC Thunder is back on tour and features five male vocalists backed by the amazing eight-piece Celtic Thunder band. The group will play a series of dates in western Canada this fall starting in Abbotsford on Wednesday, November 23.

Celtic Thunder Legacy on tour across the U.S. and Canada

CELTIC Thunder is back on tour and features five male vocalists backed by the amazing eight-piece Celtic Thunder band, ensuring that their new show 'Celtic Thunder Legacy' has something special to offer everyone.

Continuing their tradition of paying homage to the musical culture and traditions of Ireland, their latest show is a depiction of both their musical footprint over the past eight years as well as their amazing heritage of Irish and Celtic music.

Both the ensemble and solo performances in this thrilling evening of entertainment highlight the diversity of Irish music and song.

Powerful anthems *Ireland's Call* and *Caledonia*, heartwarming ballads *Song For The Mira* and *Take Me Home* and lively crowd favorites such as *Seven Drunken Nights* all serve to showcase the musical talent of each soloist.

Formed in Dublin in 2007, Celtic Thunder is a multi-dimensional musical and theatrical ensemble celebrated around the world for emotionally powerful performances and a state-of-the-art production.

Billboard magazine has named Celtic Thunder the Top World Album Artist (in 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2015) while the group has had LPs placed in the World Album Top 10 every year since 2008.

Tour dates for the Celtic Thunder Legacy include: Abbotsford Centre in Abbotsford on **November 23**; South Okanagan Events Centre in Penticton on **November 24**; the CN Centre in Prince George on **November 26**; the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium in Edmonton on **November 29**; TCU Place in Saskatoon on **December 1**; and Burton Cummings Theatre in Winnipeg on **December 3**.

Tickets on sale now at livenation.com or through the venue box office.



TOP 10 CELTIC HITS FOR SEPTEMBER

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

www.worldbeatcanada.com.

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

1. *Antwerp* by The Breath - Carry Your Kin on Real World.
2. *Row by Row* by The Led Farmers - Katie on Sulsa.
3. *An Danna Elegua* by Salsa Celtica - The Tall Islands on Discos Leon.
4. *Aupres Du Poele* by Ten Strings And A Goat Skin - *Aupres Du Poele* on TSAAGS.
5. *Anian* by 9Bach - *Anian* on Real World.
6. *England* by The Young Folk - Tyf Hoo Eul Nk G on Independent.
7. *After The Storm* by Sketch - Highland Times on Skye Music.
8. *Le Brasier* by Epsilon - *Manufacture Du Temps* on Coop Breizh.
9. *Shannon* by Plantec - TBA on Independent.
10. *Coffin Ship* by Paddy Murphy - *Coffin Ship* on ATS Records.

Celt In A Twist Pick Of The Month:
The Led Farmers - Katie (Suisa Records)

The Legendary Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones to play 2 nights in White Rock

WHITE ROCK, B.C. – A special group of Irish men and women have been responsible for preservation of the tradition of Irish ballad singing over the past 50 years.

Derek Warfield is a distinguished name among them.

For nearly 40 years he was the founder/leader of the legendary Wolfe Tones (named after the Eighteenth Century Irish Revolutionary Theobald Wolfe Tone).

He is revered as a singer, songwriter, historian and entertainer in all parts of the world where Irish roots have been put down.

The Wolfe Tones enjoyed phenomenal success with 13 best-selling albums, three number one hits, many television appearances and shows in esteemed venues such as New York's Carnegie Hall and The Royal Albert Hall in London.

Derek has been proudly presented with the keys to San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles for his contributions to Irish song and music over the years and was honoured as "Dublin Gael of The Year 2013" by the New York Dublin Society.



DEREK Warfield is revered as a singer, songwriter, historian and entertainer by Irish around the world.

Since breaking away from the Wolfe Tones in 2001, Derek's solo career has yielded 11 albums to date, the most successful of them being *On the One Road*, *The Bonnie Blue Flag* and *Let Ye All be Irish Tonight*.

Now, the legend of Derek Warfield continues with his band containing some of the finest musicians and singers in Irish music – The Young Wolfe Tones features Damaris Woods on banjo; Peadar Hickey on guitar and vocals; and Daniel O'Sullivan on uilleann pipes and vocals.

Derek Warfield's 50 years of experience coupled with the talent and energy of The Young Wolfe Tones brings the old tradition of Irish balladry into a new age.

Don't miss Derek Warfield and The Young Wolfe Tones appearing two nights at Blue Frog Studios, 1328 Johnston Road in White Rock on Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29, 2016.

Tickets online at: bluefrogstudios.ca (604) 542-3055.



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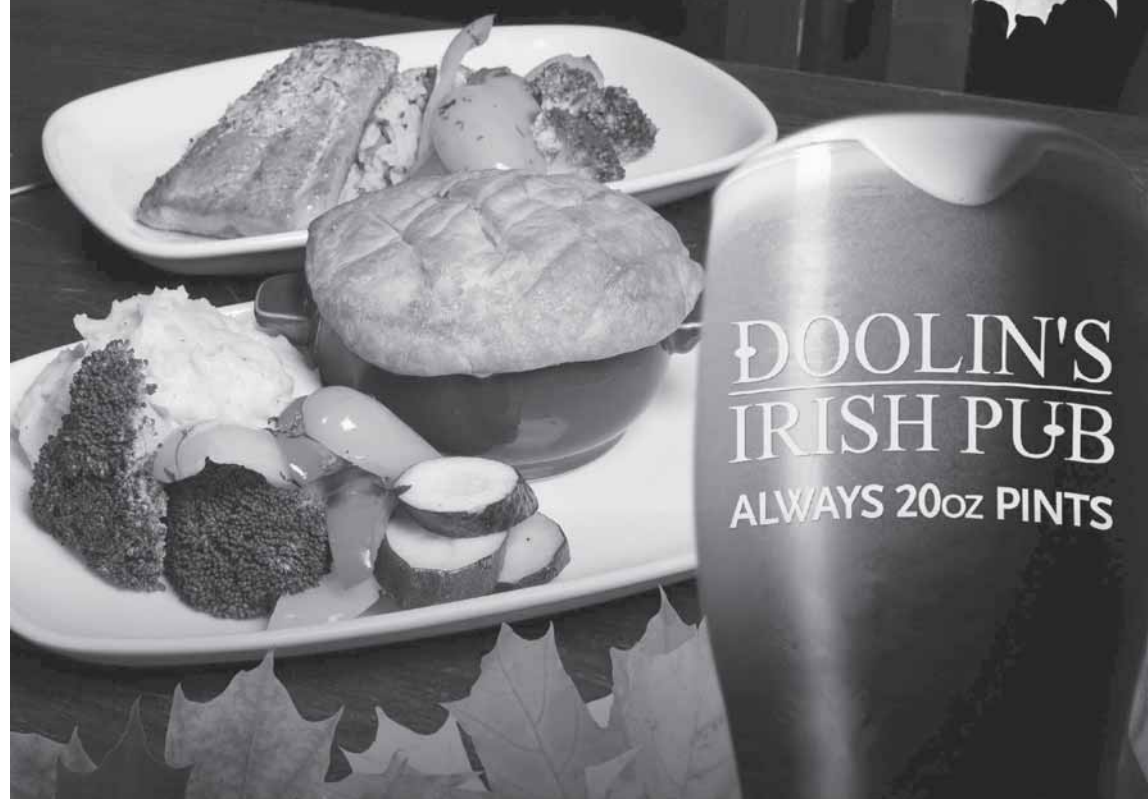
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BRITISH MPs have debated a petition signed by more than 4.1 million people demanding a second referendum on European Union membership.

British MPs debate Brexit referendum

LONDON – The UK parliament has debated a petition signed by more than four million people calling for a second referendum on EU membership.

The debate, which took place in the British parliament's second debating chamber on Monday, September 5, did not give MPs legal authority to decide on a second referendum, but demonstrated that the Brexit debate is still raging in the country.

British MPs are obliged to consider for debate any petition which receives more than 100,000 signatures.

Almost half of those who voted in the June referendum wanted Britain to stay in the EU and some are still marching and protesting. While not many believe a second referendum is likely, they still want Britain to keep close ties with Europe.

Prime Minister Theresa May has ruled out a second referendum, saying that she is preparing to trigger the formal divorce proceedings that would eventually take Britain out of the club it first joined in 1973.

During the June 23 referendum, 17.4 million people, or 51.9 percent of the electorate, voted to leave the EU while 48.1 percent, or 16.1 million people, voted to stay. Some 4.14 million people have now signed the petition calling for a second referendum.

During the recent debate, David Davis, Britain's newly appointed Brexit minister, made it clear that the UK is leaving the EU.

"There will be no attempt to stay in the EU by the back door," he said. "No attempt to delay, frustrate or thwart the

will of the British people.

"No attempt to engineer a second referendum because some people didn't like the first answer," he said.

David Lammy, of the opposition Labour Party, said the public had been "lied to" during the referendum campaign and a second vote on the Brexit deal was the only way out of a "constitutional crisis."

He said the meaning of Brexit was unclear, as were the terms whereby Britain would have access to the European single market.

David Davis has come under some criticism not only from Labour MPs but also from the MPs from the governing Conservative Party.

They were mainly asking for more details saying that the government is badly prepared for Brexit and it still does not have a clear plan for the way forward.

The Brexit result unleashed immediate political and financial market turmoil in Britain.

The vote has also raised questions about the future of Britain and post World War II European integration, though the initial economic effect of the Brexit vote has been less negative than was predicted by those who campaigned to remain within the EU.

Several lawsuits have been launched to force the government to accept that parliament should decide on whether Britain should trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which would begin the formal exit process from the EU, rather than allowing the prime minister to decide alone.

SNP MPs form Brexit committee to shadow UK Government

EDINBURGH – The Scottish Nationalist Party has created a Brexit committee of its MPs to track the UK Government's negotiations to leave the EU.

Angus Robertson, the party's Westminster leader, will chair the committee.

The other members of the group are former First Minister Alex Salmond, Stephen Gethins, Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh and Hannah Bardell.

Gethins will act as the party's spokesman on Brexit in Westminster in a role which will see him shadow David Davis, the recently appointed minister for leaving the EU.

Robertson, the MP for Moray, said, "Our job is to protect Scotland's place

in Europe. The SNP will work hard at Westminster to do just that and we will work together as a team in the House of Commons and with the Scottish Government.

"So far the UK Government has not thought through plans but Brexit will be hugely damaging.

"Scotland voted to remain in the European Union and the SNP will try to ensure that remain means remain and we protect our economy, jobs and the rights which Europe guarantees."

The formation of the SNP Coordination Group comes after Nicola Sturgeon appointed Mike Russell to a ministerial role in her government to lead talks with the UK Government over Brexit.

Nicole Davison: Vancouver's new British Consul General

VANCOUVER – Vancouver has a new British Consul General who arrived this summer to take up the position.

Nicole Davison arrived in July 2016 and she is the British Government's new representative in British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. She is accompanied by her partner, Karen.

Nicole joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1988 and has served in South Africa, Bangladesh, Ukraine and China.

Most recently, she was the Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Zagreb, Croatia.

In London, Nicole has worked in the FCO's Western European Department and Latin America and Caribbean Department.

She has also been responsible for the FCO's parliamentary affairs and ran one of the teams in the FCO's Global Response Centre (covering consular and political crises).



NICOLE DAVISON, Vancouver's new British Consul General arrived this summer to take up her new position. She is the British Government's new representative in British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

In her spare time, Nicole is a keen photographer.

The Consul General is the senior UK official in a Consulate-General, which is a subordinate office to the Embassy or High Commission, usually located in another major city.

The Consul General represents the UK Government and is typically responsible for consular, visa and trade activities in their city or region.

We would like to extend a warm west coast welcome to Nicole Davison in her new role at British Consul General in Vancouver.

New 25-year-old Duke of Westminster has strong Vancouver connections

VANCOUVER – A 25-year-old man just became one of the most eligible bachelors in the world – and he has ties to Vancouver.

It is not something he would have wished for himself, but at the age of 25 Hugh Richard Louis Grosvenor has been left contemplating the fact that overnight he became Britain's most eligible bachelor.

Following the sudden death of the Duke of Westminster on August 9, 2016, at the age of 64, the young account manager has inherited his father's title and estate, making him one of the richest men in the world.

By inheriting the bulk of his father's fortune, estimated at C\$13.9 billion by Forbes, the new duke becomes the third richest person in the UK and the 68th wealthiest in the world.

At the heart of the family fortune is a property portfolio which includes 300 acres in two of London's most expensive neighbourhoods, Mayfair and Belgravia, as well as huge tracts in Oxford, Cheshire, Scotland and Spain.

What many may not know is that the family's wealth, first started more than 400 years ago, includes Grosvenor Group, a real estate arm with significant holdings in Metro Vancouver, including the mighty Annacis Island.

Annacis Island may be a secret short cut for traffic-weary commuters trying to get onto the Alex Fraser Bridge, as well as being the home of Metro Vancouver's main sewage treatment plant, but it had nobler beginnings, at least for Grosvenor.

The family trust bought the 1,200-acre island in 1953 as its first international project. Annacis, once a former farming and fishing island in the middle of



HUGH Grosvenor has inherited an estimated C\$13.9 billion to become the third richest person in the U.K.

the Fraser River, became Canada's first industrial park.

The island is now fully developed as an industrial hub, but Grosvenor still owns 210 acres and nine industrial buildings covering 1.1 million square feet.

Since Annacis, Grosvenor has diversified into residential and commercial property development.

The company has a long list of completed projects in B.C., and has four active ones: the 57-unit Grosvenor Ambleside in West Vancouver; the 82-unit Connaught; the 212-unit Grosvenor Pacific at 1380-1382 Hornby Street, including a heritage restoration of the 1888 Leslie House, once the home of Umberto Menghi's Il Giardino restaurant; and a 60-townhome project on Oak Street between 46th and 49th Avenues.

Last November, Grosvenor also announced a \$165-million financing partnership with Vancouver-based Kingswood Capital and Nicola Wealth Management to provide mezzanine financing for 10 condo projects in B.C. and the U.S., including Intracorp's

Belpark in Vancouver, Boffo Development's Pitt River Development, and Millennium Development's Gilmore project in Burnaby.

"This is the largest pipeline of projects we've had in the last 30 years," said Michael Ward, Grosvenor's senior vice-president and general manager of the Vancouver office.

Grosvenor's North American real estate properties are distinctly pedestrian compared to the origins and addresses of its original holdings.

The family's history reaches back nearly a millennium to William the Conqueror, and its wealth flows from the 1677 marriage of Mary Davies and Sir Thomas Grosvenor, which gave the family title to 500 acres of what would become central London.

It still owns 300 acres there, including 190 acres in Belgravia, adjacent to Buckingham Palace, the land for which was also provided by the Grosvenors. They also retain their ancestral home, the 10,800-acre Eaton Hall estate.

While Hugh Grosvenor may now be the most eligible bachelor in the U.K., he apparently has a somewhat humble childhood and is understandably private.

His father, who was born in Co. Fermanagh in Northern Ireland, made it clear early on that he might be extraordinarily wealthy some day, but that he had to earn his place in life.

In 1993, when his son was two, the Duke said in an interview that, "He's been born with the longest silver spoon anyone can have, but he can't go through life sucking on it. He has to put back what he has been given."

The fact that Grosvenor's family stand to pay very little if any inheritance tax on his fortune has led to calls for a review of how the inheritance of trust funds and similar assets are handled in the UK.

The current Labour Party leadership contest resembles a Puccini Opera because you know it cannot end well

GREETINGS from Bournemouth where, because it is Monday and most people are working, the sun is shining, the temperature is in the mid-twenties, and a gentle breeze cools the tanning bodies on the beach.

On the weekend it was bitterly cold, with high winds and icy showers. The Bournemouth Air Show took place and one million people were expected to visit and enjoy the spectacle.

The sheer determination of the British holidaymaker to have a good time never ceases to impress me.

Hundreds of thousands of people turned up in Cagoules in windbreakers and K-Ways, to sit on the sand in weather conditions that would have sent Scott of the Antarctic running for shelter.

As the Red Arrows roared overhead performing exciting and intricate maneuvers, kids dressed only in swim costumes built sandcastles and invited the onset of hyperthermia.

With blue lips they ate ice cream and whistled their approval of the helicopter displays. A few people actually ran into the sea but I presumed that they would later be sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

It brought back memories of a day out to the funfair at Porthcawl in South Wales many years ago while I was still in my twenties.

On this day I witnessed a very irritated mother obviously on holiday and firmly holding the arm of her seven or eight-year-old son. With her free hand she repeatedly smacked him on the head whilst shouting "enjoy uself can't u."

The spirit of you-will-have-a-good-time-or-die-trying lives on.

This month has been all about the Olympic Games and I have been glued to the television for hours on end.

I loved every minute of it, although the time zone difference has played havoc with my sleep patterns. Now that it is over I can go to bed before 2:30 AM.

It is amazing how we all become experts on sports we know absolutely nothing about.

My wife and I judged the diving, gave points to the gymnasts for levels of difficulty on the parallel bars, floor exercise and the trampoline.

We criticised the tactics of swimmers, cyclists and long distance runners, all with a glass of wine in hand and from the comfort of an armchair.

The sport that puzzled me was taekwondo in which Jade Jones from Denbighshire won a gold medal. It is a bizarre spectacle.

Combatants circle each other, hopping around on one leg like two praying mantises, trying to kick their opponent in the head.

I guessed that it must have started out as an exercise for the ninja, the Japanese assassins, but it originated in Korea and has obviously found its way to North Wales where I suppose there is not much to do on a Saturday night.

POSTCARD FROM BOURNEMOUTH



By
ELFAN
JONES

Any way it was great that she won and we now have a couple of weeks to catch up on our sleep before the Paralympics begin.

Politically there is little to report mainly because parliament is on holiday and the politicians are busy working out their expenses.

The Labour Party continues to tear itself apart and the leadership contest between the incumbent leader, Jeremy Corbyn and his challenger Owen Smith will end on September 24. It resembles a Puccini opera because you know it cannot end well.

The party is so deeply divided that in all probability the loser could form a new political party and split the Labour vote.

There really is no opposition party at the moment, which means the Tories are likely to be in power for the foreseeable future.

A depressing thought, although generally there is an air of expectation in the country.

Now that the Brexit hysteria has subsided the more optimistic commentators are emerging to tell us that perhaps the world is not coming to an end and we might survive outside the EU.

House prices in London have fallen by 10 percent, but that has happened before, and as there is such a housing shortage it is highly likely that they will bounce back.

The value of the pound has also dropped against most currencies making holidays abroad more expensive; consequently more people are taking their holidays here in the U.K. which is good news for the U.K tourist industry and people selling cagoules and umbrellas.

For the first time in decades, Britain's part in the Commonwealth is being discussed and having largely ignored our friends for 40 years in favour of peoples we have spent half our history fighting (except Portuguese our oldest allies).

Now, the opportunities to improve trade with our Commonwealth partners are being highlighted.

With that in mind, I will play my part by ignoring a pleasant bottle of Fleurie from the Beaujolais area of France and instead open a South African Pinot Noir.

*Happy days
Elfan*



THERE was confusion at Heathrow Airport as Team GB athletes searched for their luggage in a sea of red bags.

British Olympic team's 900 identical bags cause headaches at baggage claim

LONDON – Team Great Britain brought home a total of 67 medals from the Rio Olympics and 900 identical red bags.

Issuing matching Team GB bags might have been a cool idea in theory, but in practice it appears to have created a whole lot of confusion.

Along with the team, several athletes also tweeted about the mess, including silver medal windsurfer Nick Dempsey.

Gold medal-winning rower Alex Gregory was also looking for his red bag.

As was fellow gold medal rower Matt

Langridge, who uploaded a panoramic view that looks like a "Where's Waldo" tableau.

Bronze medal sailor Luke Patience's surname seemed extra relevant for the situation.

Meanwhile, sailor Sophie Ainsworth didn't mind her long search for her bag. Honoured to be a part of the Olympics, Ainsworth called the issue a "fantastic problem to have."

Skeet shooter Elena Allen didn't say how long she searched for her bag, but simply said it took "awhile."

The good news is that it appears everyone found their respective luggage, including sprinter Richard Kilty, marathon runner Aly Dixon and trampoline gymnast Kat Driscoll.

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Time to Re-launch the Scotland/Canada Writers' Exchange



By
**HARRY
McGRATH**

EDINBURGH – As a seasoned student of Scottish-Canadian relations, I can't remember a time when the mood of both countries was so closely aligned.

In my February column, I noted that *The National* newspaper in Scotland and the *Toronto Star* simultaneously embraced refugees with headlines that read "Welcome to Scotland" and "Welcome to Canada" respectively.

Before I left Scotland for Canada last week, I read that Police Scotland had made the hijab part of its uniform.

On arriving in Vancouver I saw exactly the same story except with RCMP substituting for Police Scotland.

Add the fact that the Scottish and Canadian Governments have remarkably national visions and political narratives and it seems that a new chapter is being written in the book of Scottish-Canadian connections.

With governments, media and national police forces singing from the same hymn sheet, there's never been a better time to investigate new ways to link Scotland and Canada.

The historical connections between the two countries are well-known and sometimes occlude the contemporary ones.

But the Edinburgh Book Festival's recent hosting of a theatre adaption of Alice Munro's *View from Castle Rock* was a timely reminder of what can happen when personal family history (the journey of Munro's ancestors from Leith Docks to Canada in 1818) is imagined by one of the great writers of our time.

The Munro adaption rekindled memories of the lost and (at least to me) much lamented Canada-Scotland Writers-in-Residence Exchange which was established in 1978 and lasted off and on until 1996.

It allowed a Canadian writer to take up residence in Scotland for a year and Scottish writers to travel in the other direction.

Canadians selected for the exchange included Alistair MacLeod, Dennis Lee and Graeme Gibson and the first Scot to travel to Canada was Liz Lochhead who, until recently, was Scotland's national poet or Makar.

In an interview recorded in 1992, MacLeod referred to the exchange and said that "When you read in Edinburgh and [Scottish poet] Sorley MacLean was there you felt a real warmth in the room."

He also spoke of meeting Iain Crichton Smith and George Mackay Brown and the affinity he felt with certain writers "who were somewhat like yourself."

Dennis Lee, who has an Order of Canada, also has fond memories of his year in Edinburgh.

It was while there that he met Scottish writer Alasdair Gray.



PHOTO: Normal McBeath
THE FIRST Scot to travel to Canada on the Writers' Exchange Program was Liz Lochhead who, until recently, was Scotland's national poet or Makar.

Gray subsequently paraphrases lines from Lee's poem *Civil Elegies* and rendered them as "work as if you live in the early days of a better nation" which has become a kind of unofficial national motto in Scotland.

In 2013, I interviewed Lee for a piece in the *Scottish Review of Books* and he told me that he was "tickled to have those lines written in stone in Scotland. And I'm even more tickled by how off-centre, in fact downright loopy, the whole shebang is."

He also revealed that he wrote the poetry collection *Riffs* in Edinburgh though it wasn't published until after he returned to Canada. The love-affair inspired, jazz influenced, quick-fire pieces introduced what one critic called "near-sense" poetry to his repertoire.

Earlier today, I spotted a new edition of *Riffs* in the University of British Columbia bookstore, published by Black Books in 2015; 35 years after Lee spent

his exchange year in Scotland's capital city.

The benefits of cultural exchanges are not always so quantifiable, but it does seem like the perfect time for Scotland and Canada to look again at a writers' programme.

Alistair MacLeod died in 2014 and the three writers he felt affinity with in Scotland all predeceased him, but it's not just the ravages of time that would make a new exchange programme different from the old one.

Back in the day, the Canada Council sent 10 writers to Scotland: nine men and one woman.

There may have been some clues as to what a new Canada Scotland writers' exchange would look like in a session I attended at the Edinburgh International Book Festival just before I left for Vancouver.

It was called "From Sutherland to Saskatoon" and featured memoirist Myrna Kostash, cultural geographer Candace Savage, spoken word artist Chimwenwe Undi, Métis poet Gregory Scofield, and Edinburgh-based Canadian poet Theresa Munoz.

It was hosted by Charlene Deihl, the director of the Winnipeg Book Festival, in the convivial surroundings of the Spiegeltent in Charlotte Square.

I sat with Asif Khan, the newly appointed director of the Scottish Poetry Library who is not short of ideas himself about how to connect Scottish writers with Canada.

Novelist Mary Paulson-Ellis was also in the audience and live tweeted "fascinating diversity on show."

Scotland is some years behind Canada in terms of diversity, but it's getting there.

The pro-immigrant, pro-diversity, noises emanating from governments and public bodies on both sides of the Atlantic are extremely encouraging, especially when so many are heading in the other direction.

It is in this context, that cultural leaders in Scotland and in Canada should take another look at the writers' exchange programme and create one for our times.

Canada's new passport requirements come into effect this month

OTTAWA – Canada's new passport requirements come into effect in late September, forcing Canadians with dual citizenship to carry a valid Canadian passport to enter the country when travelling by air.

Starting September 30, all air travellers must have the appropriate documents to travel to Canada before boarding their departing flight.

"A valid Canadian passport is the only reliable and universally accepted travel document that provides proof that you are a citizen and have the right to enter Canada without being subjected to immigration screening," reads a statement posted on the Canadian Government website.

The new requirement, known as an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA),

was introduced earlier this year but hasn't been strictly enforced. However, the government had been encouraging dual citizens to obtain a valid Canadian passport.

"Leniency will be shown to travellers who are caught unaware until September 29, 2016," reads a notice on the Government of Canada website.

Prior to the change, Canadians who hold dual citizenship were able to enter Canada with their foreign passports and use a driver's licence or citizenship card to prove Canadian citizenship.

Now, air travellers must have either a valid Canadian passport; a Canadian temporary passport; or a Canadian emergency travel document for proof of citizenship. The new requirements only currently apply to air travel.



DOCTORS say mold and fungi lurking inside bagpipes probably caused a fatal infection they called "bagpipe lung."

Mold in instrument blamed for death of bagpipe player

Doctors have an important message for musicians: Don't forget to clean your instruments. It could be a matter of life and death.

Their warning was inspired by a 61-year-old British bagpipe player who developed a dry cough and breathlessness that worsened over a period of seven years.

His condition became so severe that he could walk only 22 yards before tuckering out. Previously, he'd been able to walk far enough to finish a 10K, according to a case report published in the journal *Thorax*.

The man, who was not identified, was diagnosed with hypersensitivity pneumonitis in 2009, or HP, a rare disease of the lungs but doctors couldn't pinpoint the cause: He didn't keep birds and his house was mold-free.

HP is the result of an allergic reaction to mold, fungus, dust or other substances a patient breathes.

As a result, the tiny spaces in the lungs between the air sacs, airways and blood

vessels become inflamed, and breathing can be severely impaired.

But when his symptoms improved during a three-month vacation to Australia – a trip he didn't bring his beloved bagpipes on – doctors decided to test his instrument. They found a slew of fungi living in the plaid bags.

The man eventually died from the disease, and an autopsy found severe lung damage.

At home, the man played his bagpipes daily, even as his breathing deteriorated and more medications were added to his drug regimen.

Eventually, the patient's condition became so bad that he had to be hospitalized. There, doctors treated him with a cocktail of IV antibiotics and an antifungal drug.

After he was admitted to the hospital, it occurred to someone to test his bagpipes to see whether they were the source of his HP.

The hunch proved correct. Samples of air from inside the bag were found to contain the fungi *Rhodotorula mucilaginosa*, *Fusarium oxysporum* and various species of *Penicillium*.

Entertaining Afternoon with 'Outlander' Gaelic Language Consultant

SURREY, BC – Facebook group Outlandish Vancouver will host Adhamh Ó Broin at the Surrey Guilford Library on October 22, 2016.

Adhamh who is from Argyll now lives and works out of his home base of Glasgow, Scotland.

He is the Gaelic language consultant for the hit television show *Outlander*, but for this event, he will be regaling guests with some stories and then provide tutelage about Scots Gaelic and some lessons.

Adhamh is passionate about bringing back Gaelic to all facets of Scottish life in his homeland.

He was nominated for an award for his International Contribution to Scottish Gaelic in 2014. He is also an accomplished singer and songwriter.

Everyone is invited to attend this wonderful and definitely entertaining afternoon with him in Surrey, B.C. The room is inside the Guilford Library with entry from the inside of the library.

Doors to the event will open at 12:20 PM and starts at 12:30 PM. The last hour will be devoted to Q&A and will conclude at 4:30 PM. Tickets are limited.

Afterwards, all those who are interested will proceed to the Sheraton Vancouver Guilford Hotel for a book signing by Diana Gabladon who will be attending the Surrey International Writers Conference. There is no charge to attend the book signing, which commences at 5:30 PM.

Book online at: www.eventbrite.com/e/gaelic-seminar-with-adhamh-o-broin-tickets-26986470259.

Famous Welsh Male Choir Joins Local Orpheus Choir in Memorable Concert

VANCOUVER – As part of their 2015 tour of Wales, the Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir performed with one of Wales' most famous choirs, Cor Meibion Colwyn (Colwyn Male Choir), at a joint concert in Llandudno, North Wales.

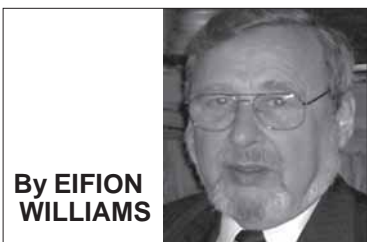
Several positive comments on the Orpheus performance appeared later on the Colwyn Choir's website, among them: "The joy they feel conveys itself to the hearts of the audience" and "The Choir has an eclectic repertoire and vocal joie de vivre."

On Sunday, August 28, a large Vancouver audience enjoyed a reciprocal visit by Cor Meibion Colwyn at another joint concert with the Orpheus Choir in Ryerson United Church, Kerrisdale.

Once again, the two choirs wowed the audience with their singing and the obvious camaraderie among the members.



LIANA SAVARD, the Orpheus artistic director.



Cor Meibion Colwyn has won numerous awards at prestigious events, including the Welsh National Eisteddfod and the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

The choir has toured extensively in the UK and Europe and has also raised

large sums for different charities.

The Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir is well-known in British Columbia for its eclectic mix of popular ballads, sacred songs, Canadiana and rousing male voice classics.

It is also known for its original arrangements of contemporary works. The choir regularly tours B.C. to entertain small communities and has also carried out several national tours.

At the Vancouver concert both choirs sang a variety of musical items. Among the highlights were a medley of Beatles songs by the Colwyn Choir and a beautiful rendition of Paul Simon's *Bridge Over Troubled Water* by the Orpheus.

In an impressive finale, the combined choirs brought the audience to its feet with rousing renditions of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* and the popular Welsh hymn *Gwahoddiaid*.

Cor Meibion Colwyn was conducted by Musical Director Tudur Eames and the Orpheus Choir by its Artistic Director Liana Savard. The accompanists were Mary Darling for Cor Meibion Colwyn and Barry Yamanouchi for the Orpheus. Katherine Goheen provided violin accompaniment to two of the Orpheus songs.

On Friday evening, August 26, the Vancouver Welsh Society welcomed the Colwyn Choir to Canada with a social evening at the Cambrian Hall, where the choir entertained the members with impromptu singing of some of the songs from their repertoire.

Following the concert on August 28, the Orpheus Choir hosted the Colwyn singers at an 'after-glow' session at the Cambrian Hall.

Orpheus publicist Robert Forbes later thanked the Vancouver Welsh Society for making the Cambrian Hall available for the post-concert event and especially thanked Welsh Society member Gillian Rogers for her part in organizing the event.

Commenting on the joint concert, Norman Thomson, president of the Orpheus Male Choir, said: "My email has been alive with all our choir members saying what a wonderful concert it was and how much they enjoyed singing with Colwyn again."

"Fond memories of our trip to Wales last year have been rekindled. The packed audience was a testimonial to

the close knit Welsh community's appreciation of the nation's singing talent."

On August 29, Cor Meibion Colwyn travelled to Salmon Arm for a performance in the town's First United Church.

They then went on to be the featured choral attraction at the North American Festival of Wales, held this year in Calgary on September 1-4.

[More Welsh news on page 24]



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Wales demands a rerun of EU Referendum

CARDIFF – One in 20 people in Wales have demanded a rerun of the EU referendum.

The country backed Leave in the June referendum on whether the UK should stay in the European Union (EU).

But since the historic vote a total of 156,850 Welsh people have put their names to the petition on Parliament's website calling for a second EU referendum.

Wales has a population of 3.1 million people, which means that one in 20 Welsh people have joined the call for a rerun of the vote.

As you might expect from a country that backed Leave this is less than the UK average of one person in 16.

However there were distinct regional variations within Wales.

Central and north Cardiff are the keenest places in Wales for another say on whether Britain should stay in the EU or leave.

One in 11 people in the two constituencies have signed the petition. This comes after the Welsh capital voted "remain" in the referendum by 60 percent to 40 percent.

The petition argues that the referendum should be rerun "if the remain or leave vote is less than 60% based a turnout less than 75%".

Ironically the man who started it, William Oliver Healey, was on the Leave side and set it up as a fallback in case Remain won.

But his petition has become by far and away the most popular one ever on the site, with 4.1m signatures.

Unsurprisingly the areas with the most signatures come from cities such as London, Bristol, Brighton and Cambridge that backed Remain.



WELSH SOCIETY President David Llewelyn Williams welcoming Colwyn choir members to Vancouver.

'May the light of heaven shine on the souls of the Gaels who left Ireland in the years of the Great Famine'



ANY of our readers will be familiar with our reporting on the Martindale Pioneer Cemetery over the years. This month we will journey there once again to conclude the work of a lifetime for Catholine Butler who was a founding partner with this newspaper.

Located along the banks of the Gatineau River in western Quebec, just north of Canada's National Capital Region, lies a small rural community with deep Irish roots.

In the Township of Low this unique memorial stands in testament to the survivors of Ireland's Great Hunger who settled in this area.

Situated in the old graveyard at St. Martin's parish, the monument consists of a triple cenotaph with a listing of names of those buried there along with a magnificent 12-foot Celtic cross.

Inscribed at the base of the Celtic cross in English, French and Irish are the following words: "May the light of heaven shine on the souls of the Gaels who left Ireland in the years of the Great Famine to find eternal rest in this soil. They will be remembered as long as love and music last."

On Sunday, September 18, 2016, a special ceremony will be held at Martindale Pioneer Cemetery to unveil a plaque with information about the individuals who worked to put the memorial in place.

Over the years countless visitors have stopped by the site to look up their ancestors and reflect on the hardships and immense struggle of those early settlers.

Many have expressed deep gratitude for the memorial but often they wonder how it came about and what happened to the original headstones in the cemetery.

There is a very compelling story behind this monument and it dates back to the early 1960s when a young mother – Elaine Gannon – pregnant with her fourth child began to visit the graveyard.

The old cemetery had been long abandoned and many of the headstones engraved with shamrocks and harps were covered in bramble.

During her visits, Elaine became aware of the high number of infant and maternal mortality rates of those settlers in the late 1800s. Many young women and young babies were buried in the old graveyard.

At the time Elaine was very ill herself with German measles and while praying for help from her ancestors, she vowed to commit herself to restoring their burial ground if she could survive this pregnancy.

She already had three small children who needed their mother but she knew this child was not viable.

In those years the Catholic Church held sway in Quebec and termination of a pregnancy was impossible regardless of the circumstances.

By MAURA DE FREITAS



CATHOLINE BUTLER

In the end she survived but her child did not.

For almost a year afterward Elaine struggled to regain her health but when she finally recovered she never forgot her promise.

As soon as she could gather enough strength, she began to focus on restoration of the old graveyard.

Unfortunately the parish priest took a very difficult stance and obstructed any such effort.

He declared she was not qualified to undertake this task and university scholars were the only ones who could undertake this project.

In addition, he insisted the best way to restore the burial ground was to demolish everything and start from the beginning.

And this is exactly what happened.

One Sunday morning a huge trench was dug and all the headstones were pushed into it and covered over.

The destruction was devastating for Elaine but this was an era where to challenge the local priest was to risk exclusion from the rest of the community. So the entire matter was hushed over and put to rest.

As shocking as all this seems, Elaine became custodian of the only listing of those buried on the site as all official records related to the old graveyard disappeared from the parish.

She had been granted a one-night only reprieve by the priest to view those records in a moment of benevolence prior to the destruction.

Painstakingly, all night long, she wrote out in longhand a list of those interred in the cemetery and for years she kept those names close to her.

Elaine and her husband went on to open an Irish pub in Ottawa, Ontario, known as the Molly Maguires.

It was the first authentic Irish pub in the area, and with live Irish entertainment nightly it was wildly successful.



THE triple cenotaph with a listing of the names stands in the shadow of the magnificent Celtic cross at Martindale Pioneer Cemetery. Many were survivors of Ireland's Great Hunger who settled in western Quebec.

Elaine established an entertainment agency and started to book Irish groups on tour across North America.

Throughout these years her passion for the old graveyard never dimmed and it was these Irish musicians who encouraged her and offered to help. A number volunteered to play at a fundraiser to help establish a memorial for those buried in Martindale.

By this time, the site had become a cow pasture with history covered over and a distant memory for many locals.

So it was in the early 1970s that Elaine began work to restore the names on a monument with the help of her musicians and a number of friends in the Ottawa Irish community.



MARTIN BROWN is pictured above on September 19, 1982 at a ceremony to unveil the Celtic cross in Martindale. In the background Elaine [Catholine Butler] is interviewed by a local television station. Now, 34 years later, another celebration will be held this September 18 to unveil plaques in English and French with information about the graveyard. The ceremony in true Irish style will be followed with music, song and dance.

Two prominent local men, Martin Brown and Eddie McLaughlin, stepped forward to stand beside her and offered support with the project. Another woman, Bernice McSheffrey offered help with research.

It was with their assistance that enough money was finally raised to put the triple cenotaph in place with a listing of all the names of those buried on the site.

It wasn't until the 1980s that the Celtic cross was finally added to the site. This was the result of an anonymous benefactor whose identity has never been revealed.

Belfast artist, Ethna O'Kane, designed the Celtic cross depicting the story of crossing across the Atlantic on the coffin ships with the loss of so many women and children in mind.

It was unveiled 34 years ago on September 19, 1982.

While the names of those buried are recorded on the cenotaph and their story conveyed through the design on the Celtic cross – the names of those responsible for the memorial were lost in time.

Now, only one of these key people who worked on the project remains and she is also elderly.

Her name has changed, the former Elaine Gannon is now known as Catholine Butler following a second marriage to a County Mayo man living in Vancouver, British Columbia.

She was instrumental in helping to launch *The Celtic Connection* newspaper in western Canada which has served Celts across the region for the past 25 years.

Now, it is her most fervent wish to ensure that the correct information on Martindale Pioneer Cemetery be available in years to come for all – particularly descendants of those who found peace and prosperity in this new land.

For more background and history on this intriguing area, read more online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Martindale-Pioneer-Cemetery-Low-Quebec-16391180303714>.

IrishCentral sold to New York consortium

NEW YORK – IrishCentral, the New York-based news and entertainment website, has been bought by a consortium led by an entrepreneur who helped build Broadway.com, the theatre information and ticket website, in a deal worth about US\$3 million.

Publisher Niall O'Dowd has sold the popular Irish-American website to Liam Lynch (39), a New York-based venture capitalist and investor in digital companies, and a number of Irish technology and media entrepreneur.

O'Dowd will retain a small shareholding and continue to write for the website – which he founded in 2009 – as managing editor under a three-year contract.

Lynch hopes to double the monthly unique viewers to IrishCentral from three million over the next two to three years.

Lynch's minority co-investors are Seamus McAteer, who was involved with Millennial Media and Shane Naughton, who has invested in NewsWhip and Mike Brewster.

The website, which is profitable, has seven staff in Manhattan.

O'Dowd's *Irish Voice* newspaper and *Irish America* magazine are not part of the transaction.

His backers in the website – Wall Street investors Dennis Fitzgerald and Dennis Kelleher, and Bluff Point Associates, the Connecticut-based private equity firm – have been bought out.

"I am 63-years-old and I very much want to see this site grow and expand after I'm gone, and I needed a very strong partner to make that happen," said O'Dowd.

"This is exactly the kind of partner we needed: a young, dynamic businessman



NIALL O'DOWD

with a great track record."

Lynch, a board member of Co-operation Ireland and investor in Irish digital company LikeCharity, said he was attracted by IrishCentral's strong advertisers such as Guinness, Aer Lingus, CIE Tours and Tourism Ireland, and the potential to sell to an Irish-American audience.

A third-generation Irish-American, Lynch is from New Jersey. His father Edmund has worked for the Lawyers Alliance for Justice in Ireland, a group involved in the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

Montreal's Grey Nuns helped victims of Ireland's Great Hunger

MONTREAL'S Grey Nuns are being honoured, in a touring exhibition, for their charity in caring for and dying with the sick Great Hunger victims in the fever sheds by the St. Lawrence River.

"Saving the Famine Irish: The Grey Nuns and the Great Hunger," opened at Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut, and was displayed at the Centaur Theatre in Montreal earlier this year.

The Nuns' own writings on the disaster are the "most detailed eye-witness accounts of the suffering," according to the National University of Ireland, Galway, (NUIG) Famine Archives. Their annals have been digitized, transcribed and translated and can now be read online.

The exhibit is part of the Digital Irish Famine Archive which aims to make accessible eyewitness accounts of the Irish famine migration to Canada in 1847-1848 that would otherwise be unknown. It also pays tribute to those who cared for Irish famine emigrants.

When the coffin ships from Ireland began arriving in 1847 there were 50,000 people in Montreal.

Over 100,000 Irish, emaciated and often diseased with typhus and other deadly infections, were on their way to Quebec and understandably many Montrealers were afraid.

The immigration depot on Grosse Île near Quebec City was unable to handle the deluge of Irish refugees and as many as 5,000 died there. Another 5,000 – at least – died during the crossing from Ireland.

Those Irish who survived were quarantined in the 22 fever sheds, built near where Montreal's Victoria Bridge now stands.



THEOPHILE HAMEL'S painting "Le Typhus," The Grey Nuns tending to the Irish at the fever sheds in Montreal.

Citizens, afraid of catching diseases, rioted but the trouble was quelled by Mayor John Mills, who approved the sheds, nursed the ill himself, caught typhus and died of it.

At least seven nuns died while caring for the sick and many became severely ill as they nursed the Irish and found homes for the 1,500 orphans.

Also among those caring for the Irish were Catholic and Anglican clergymen, and several priests also lost their lives. There are also tales of British soldiers on security detail at the sheds giving up their rations to feed the Irish.

The Digital Irish Famine Archive was first developed by Dr. Jason King at the University of Limerick in 2012.

In 2015, he expanded it in partnership with the Moore Institute at the National University of Ireland, Galway; the Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University; the Irish National Famine Museum; the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation; the Ireland Park Foundation; the iNua Partnership; and the Irish Research Council.

In a statement, Canada's Ambassador

to Ireland Kevin Vickers announced the opening of the exhibit in Dublin.

He said, "It gives me great pleasure to announce that the 'Saving the Famine Irish: The Grey Nuns and the Great Hunger' exhibit...is coming to Dublin for the Irish National Famine Commemoration in September, and then will travel around the country.

"Next year marks the 170th anniversary of the Irish Famine migration and the 150th anniversary of the founding of Canada.

"It is only fitting that we pay tribute to these Canadian caregivers of the Famine Irish who express our values and the enduring ties between our two countries."

Irish President Michael D. Higgins is also a patron of the archive. He said, "During that bleak and terrible period of our history, an estimated 100,000 Irish people fled to Canada. It is impossible to imagine the pain, fear, despair and suffering of these emigrants, many of whom lost beloved family members on their journey."

The archive can be viewed at faminearchive.nuigalway.ie.

A lighter look at the Celtic Curse known as Hemochromatosis

By PETER DUECK

(Excerpted from the original story found on www.toomuchiron.ca)

My doctor says that I have hemochromatosis. I do not quite believe him, even though I respect him for his credentials, fellowships, reputation and gentle care.

I think that he is wrong – at least in my case. And before you play the armchair psychologist on me and tell me that I am in denial, please hear me out.

I admit to having too much iron and not being happy about it – I know the health complications that can result if I do nothing. It appears that genetics and an aging body are catching up with me.

Thanks to my wife and doctor, I have agreed to treatment. Everyone in the know is convinced that I have the HFE gene for hemochromatosis.

But I think – and my young son agrees – that in reality I've become a ghoul; a slave to the vampire; one of his regulars.

Not really sick, just a little weak and now enslaved to his teeth: the phlebotomies, or blood-lettings, that I need to lower my iron level and manage my condition.

It all started a few years ago with my brother who fell off a roof and almost died. Throughout his recovery he maintained his lovely flushed cheeks.

An observant and knowledgeable doctor (a friend of the vampire) encouraged the testing for hemochromatosis.

Sure enough, brother B has too much iron and has the genes. The same goes for most of the siblings.

In order to achieve peace in the family, I finally got tested and the rest is history – ghouls and all!

How did this genetic mutation occur? What do we know about the HFE gene? Wouldn't you know it, the Irish are to blame, or at least the Celts.

One of my ancestors, after experiencing a continuous shortage of iron, developed a "survival" genetic mutation and his body began to over-absorb iron.

Today nearly 10 percent of people with European roots carry a mutated HFE gene.

Next week, as scheduled, I will show up at the vampire's lair, the hospital, for my blood-letting.

The receptionist will greet me with a smile and say, "oh, the ghoul has arrived."

A very experienced nurse will get me settled in my bed or lounge chair. With the near perfect combination of pleasantness, authority and proficiency, she will find a vein, and the phlebotomy will begin.

As I relax to read or think while they take the blood that will help get my iron levels back to normal, I will take for granted that I am a patient in good hands and in an excellent health system.

But as I doze off it occurs to me that I should consider arranging my phlebotomy schedule around the phases of the moon.

Hereditary hemochromatosis is a genetic condition that causes your body to absorb and retain too much dietary iron, potentially leading to serious disease and early death.

Signs and symptoms may include chronic fatigue, joint pain, irregular heartbeat, mood swings, thyroid problems, bronzing of the skin, loss of libido, and premature menopause amongst others.

Once diagnosed, hemochromatosis can usually be managed through phlebotomies, or blood-lettings. Visit www.toomuchiron.ca/celtic for more information.

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Also known as the Celtic Curse, HHC causes the body to retain too much iron – and if undiagnosed and untreated – can potentially lead to heart disease, liver disease, diabetes, arthritis, and some forms of cancer.

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 and determine if you may be at risk.

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Academics rally for Canadian-Irish professor jailed in Iran

MONTREAL – Academics from Ireland and Canada are calling for the immediate release of Homa Hoodfar from an Iranian jail, where she has been held since her June 6 arrest in Tehran.

Kimberley Manning, principal of Concordia University's Simone de Beauvoir Institute, says there is growing concern within the academic community about Hoodfar's detention and deteriorating health.

She described the Concordia anthropology professor's situation as "life or death" and called on the Canadian and Iranian Governments to do everything in their power to bring her home.

"This is an emergency," she said. "Right now, we don't even know whether Dr. Hoodfar is still alive."

Manning took part in a news conference in Montreal, while colleagues in Ireland held a rally in Dublin on Wednesday, September 7.

After staying quiet through the summer in the hopes the issue could be resolved through legal and diplomatic channels, the group of academics decided to speak out because of her deteriorating health.

Hoodfar who is a citizen of Canada, Ireland and Iran has been imprisoned in Iran since June.

She was recently hospitalized, is barely conscious and can hardly walk or talk, according to her family.

She is being kept in solitary confinement nearly three months after her arrest in Tehran on June 6 while on a personal and research visit to Iran, said her niece, Amanda Ghahremani.

Hoodfar's family says Iranian authorities have refused regular visits by her lawyer and have tried to dismiss him.

During his one visit in July, he was forbidden to discuss her case and has been denied all access to her legal file, the family said.

Hoodfar is 65 and suffers from a rare neurological disease called myasthenia gravis, which causes severe muscle weakness.

She writes frequently on sexuality and gender in Islam. She went to Iran in February to see family and conduct research in a visit that coincided with Iranian elections.

"My aunt is an academic. She's not an activist," Ghahremani said. "She has never violated any Iranian law. She's always worked ... within the parameters of the constitution and Islamic strictures."

Two days before her departure back to Canada in March, she was visited by the counter-intelligence unit of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, who seized her computer and passport and told her not to leave the country.

After interrogation at Evin prison in June, she was arrested and since then has had no contact with her family.

Iranian authorities have charged her



HOMA HOODFAR

"Ireland has quite a good diplomatic relationship with Iran, and we're really hoping that the Irish Government will do all it can to secure Homa's release"

with collaborating with a hostile government against national security and with propaganda against the state – charges her family calls trumped-up.

The charges were never presented to her lawyer and instead were published in the Iranian press, quoting the prosecutor as saying Hoodfar was "dabbling in feminism."

A court set terms for her to be released on bail, but her lawyer's numerous attempts to post bail have been ignored.

"We were asked by the Iranian judicial authorities to tone down the media on Homa's case in order to allow the legal process to take its course," Ghahremani said. "The court has blatantly and repeatedly violated Iran's own laws."

Amnesty International has weighed in, calling Hoodfar a prisoner of conscience and contextualizing her detention against what it called a "broad and chilling crackdown against women's rights activists and researchers" in Iran.

Hoodfar's family met with Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion in June and was assured the government was trying every diplomatic channel.

Without formal diplomatic channels in Iran – Canada closed its Tehran Embassy in 2012 – Ottawa has to rely on allies with official diplomatic ties.

Thomas Juneau, a Middle East expert at the University of Ottawa, said "not having an embassy in Tehran makes this hard."

Her supporters believe Ireland may be in a better position to negotiate.

"Ireland has quite a good diplomatic relationship with Iran, and we're really hoping that the Irish Government will do all it can to secure Homa's release," said Emer O'Toole, a professor of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia.

IRISH CLUB OF WHITE ROCK

An Irish Welcome Awaits in Surrey, Langley, or White Rock

By SHARON WOODS
President of the Irish Club
of White Rock

The Irish Club of White Rock had a very successful annual summer barbecue on Sunday, August 14 at Peace Arch Park in Surrey and best of all.....the weather co-operated!

A great crowd of young and old enjoyed wonderful food cooked by our own infamous chef Robbie Greville. Music was provided by Vinny Crowley, and there were fun and games for all the young folk.

If you had the misfortune of missing it this year, mark it on your calendar for next summer. It was wonderful to see John and Mary Harrington, many thanks for joining us. We all wish John a speedy recovery.

On October 28 and 29 Derek Warfield and The Young Wolfe Tones will be back in White Rock performing at the Blue Frog Studio.

More news to come later on events for fall and winter. Suggestions are always welcome, please drop us a line with your ideas.

If there are new Irish families in town,



MEMBERS of the Irish Club of White Rock at the annual summer barbecue at Peace Arch Park on August 14.

please pass their name along to us. Also, if someone needs support in any way, please get in touch.

Keep in mind if you are moving out to Surrey, Langley or White Rock, there

is always an Irish welcome here for you.

For more information, see www.irishclubofwhiterock.com or visit on Facebook.

UBC proud owner of US\$202,000 rare copy of Chaucer book from 1896

VANCOUVER – UBC Library and the faculty of arts have just acquired a rare and valuable copy of the Kelmscott Chaucer.

Printed in a limited edition of only 438 copies, the Works of Geoffrey Chaucer published by William Morris's Kelmscott Press in 1896 is known for its unique type, lavish decorative borders and remarkable illustrations.

Morris designed the entire book, including the borders and initial capitals. Some of it was printed in red ink, which would have required a second pass through the hand-operated press.

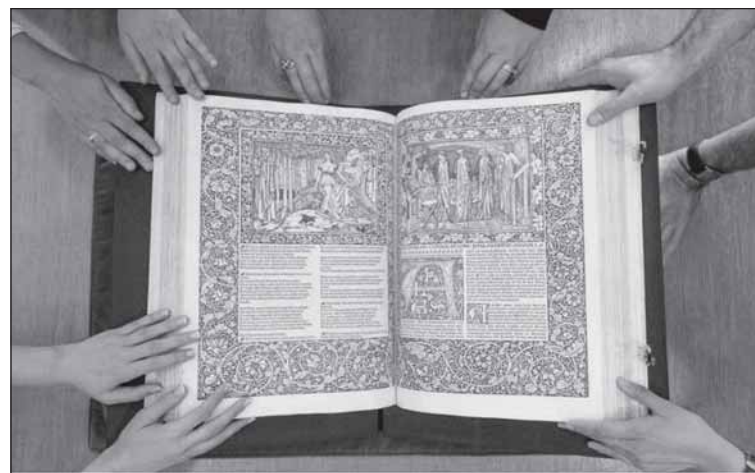
The Irish poet William Butler Yeats called it "the most beautiful of all printed books".

UBC acquired the book after two years of fundraising for \$202,000 USD, making it one of the most valuable in the university's Rare Books and Special Collections.

Only 438 copies of the limited edition were printed, and just 48 copies were bound in white pigskin leather and affixed with silver clasps.

It is one of only seven or eight copies believed to be located in Canada, and is the only copy in western Canada.

"This book was never really available for sale to the public," said Katherine Kalsbeek, head of UBC's rare books



THE University of British Columbia has acquired a rare hand-printed Victorian Chaucer volume 'The Kelmscott Chaucer,' as it is known, giving a unique insight into printing technologies old and new.

and special collections department.

"Even back in 1896, it was regarded as a very special book that only certain people were able to afford or acquire."

Those interested in viewing the book can visit the Rare Books and Special Collections during opening hours at UBC's Point Grey campus, or take a tour offered each Wednesday between 11 AM and noon.

Also plan to view the facsimile of the magnificent Book of Kells at the same time.

One of Ireland's greatest cultural treasures, this rare facsimile was donated to UBC by the local Irish community over 25 years ago, but remains largely un-

discovered since it was donated to the university.

A masterpiece of illuminated Celtic artwork, it is virtually identical to the original – brilliant colour illuminating Celtic calligraphy, vellum-thickness and wormholes included.

The manuscript is available for viewing to the public upon appointment through the Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of British Columbia in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre located at 1961 East Mall in Vancouver.

For information, call (604) 822-2521, or e-mail: rare.books@ubc.ca. For opening hours and tour information, visit <http://rbcs.library.ubc.ca>.



MEMBERS of the Prince George Celtic Club and friends in Barkerville, British Columbia for the Bloomsday celebrations this summer.

PRINCE GEORGE CELTIC CLUB

Celebrating Bloomsday in historic Barkerville and Wells

By MIKE AND CAROLYN KELLY

On the weekend of June 17-18, about 30 people from the Prince George Celtic Club made a two hour trip south to Barkerville and Wells for the club's annual Bloomsday celebration.

Some stayed overnight at either the Wells Hotel or the Hubs Motel while others made it a day trip. One favourite stop among the attractions was Hal's Halibut and Chips tent at the Hubs Motel.

Barkerville was the main town of the Cariboo Gold Rush in British Columbia after the first gold strike in 1861. Once the largest city north of San Francisco and west of Chicago, it has now been preserved as a historic site.

The original Bloomsday was created as a celebration of the literary genius of James Joyce, highlighted by readings from his sometimes notorious novel *Ulysses*, but the PG Celtic Club now invites excerpts from the work of other Irish writers.

Club members always have a lot of fun and many make the visit to Barkerville an annual event to celebrate Bloomsday.

Dressed in period costumes to reflect the early 1900s, club members gathered at Barkerville's House Hotel at 1 PM on the Saturday.

The BHH provided tasty sandwiches and refreshments while very generously allowing the group this time frame to meet on their premises. No doubt many others guests also enjoyed the Bloomsday readings, music, and songs.

As visitors to Barkerville wandered its streets, more than a few are drawn in to see the presentations and check out the amazing hats on some of the ladies!

Saturday afternoon at the Barkerville House Hotel was followed by an informal evening ceilidh at the Wells Hotel pub where more music and song filled the hours pulling in locals, including people working in Barkerville for the season along with an occasional bagpiper!

Out came the guitars, bodhran drums, fiddles, pennywhistles, even songbooks, as one after another shared songs and tunes dear to their hearts.



JULIE, Josephine, Shannon, Richard, and Finola with the PG Celtic Club in Barkerville.



KAY, Tony, Nick and Jackie with the PG Celtic Club at the Bloomsday event.



NORM LEE and Julia Whittaker read from *Ulysses*.

Members returned to their homes knowing that Barkerville and Wells had a wee taste of "Prince George Celtic," and they can look for their return again next June.

Bloomsday in Barkerville is the final event on the club's September to June calendar which usually sees members gather monthly at the Twisted Cork to

share music, readings, and sometimes a dance related to one of the featured Celtic nations.


The PG Celtic Club is headed into its 40th year anniversary in 2017 and anyone wishing more information is invited to view the club's Facebook page which features bits of information and photos submitted by members.



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Bishop Edward Daly: 'A life so well lived in the service of a community which very badly needed it'



FATHER Edward Daly waves a white handkerchief on January 30, 1972, as the body of Bloody Sunday victim Jackie Duddy is carried away.

"the day I lost any romantic notions or ambivalence I may have had about the morality of the use of arms as a means of resolving our political problems. Ever since that terrible day, I could no longer find any justification for the use of armed aggression by any faction in the North."

— Bishop Edward Daly reflecting on Bloody Sunday.

WHEN The news broke on August 8 that Bishop Edward Daly had died I was (and still am) away on holidays. So his two memoirs are not at my elbow as I write this – more's the pity because they are very quotable. Here goes anyway.

The man who was to become the Catholic Bishop of Derry during most of the Troubles was born in 1933 in Beleek, in County Fermanagh, right on the border which had hardly been instituted a decade by then.

A bi-national and a bi-cultural awareness was codified with the drawing of the border and it was in this atmosphere that Eddie Daly grew up, reared by kindly and modern-minded parents.

When he was sent to boarding school in St. Columb's College, Derry, World War II rationing was still a fact of life.

It was a gruelling regime, which he wrote in his first memoir, *Mister are you a Priest?*, in which boarders were essentially imprisoned in the college for three months at a stretch, entering in September and re-emerging, considerably emaciated, for Christmas.

When I asked Daly, in an interview for a documentary film I wrote a number of years ago, if he and his school-mates were ever hungry, he quipped: "we were never any other way."

Daly trained for the priesthood in Rome,

THE VIEW FROM IRELAND



By MAURICE FITZPATRICK

finding the atmosphere and life in Italy wholly embracing.

Yet the North of Ireland, with its cauldron of sectarian tension which was about to bubble up, drew him back in the mid-1960s to live and serve as a priest, and he remained there for the rest of his days.

His first posting was to Castlederg, a then deeply divided small town in Tyrone.

He developed an amateur theatre group there to produce plays as a means of entertainment, but also as a device to enable a divided people to communicate, to appreciate each other's perspectives.

Daly brought his theatre producing skills



BISHOP Edward Daly [December 5, 1933 – August 8, 2016], pictured in 2014, had battled a long-term illness.

to his next billet, Derry, where at first he was a parish priest in the Bogside.

In Derry City he also saw for the first time how starkly the unionist system in the North of Ireland was rigged against Catholics, and he later expressed how embarrassed he was that he did not lead an initiative to "stand up to it."

It took the Civil Rights Movement to light up the way.

If you have only seen one image of Daly, it is likely to be the shot of his emerging around a Derry corner on Bloody Sunday, holding aloft a bloody handkerchief to gain safe passage for Jackie Duddy to receive medical atten-

tion (his heroic efforts were in vain, the boy died).

Daly's presence on the 30th January 1972 march was notable since it had been declared an illegal march by the Northern Irish State, and also since the de facto leader of Northern nationalism, John Hume, to whom Daly was very close all his life, publicly declared his non-identification with the march and urged people not to participate.

Still, Daly and others marched, and Northern Ireland spiralled into communal conflict that prevailed for the following decades, until the IRA Cease-fire.

Bloody Sunday haunted Daly all his life. He administered the last rites to several of the victims shot, and in an emotional interview given that day he averred "it was murder."

He readily gave evidence to the Saville Tribunal to the same effect, condemning the so-called professional army.

Yet he was – and in this he was allied with Hume – always clear that murder did not justify more murder.

The homilies he delivered as bishop at St. Eugene's Cathedral in Derry, many of which form the source material of his second memoir, *A Troubled See*, vigorously condemn paramilitary activity and those who supported it at election time.

As bishop, Daly cut a political and even an occasionally outspoken figure. He understood how to wield episcopal power, and he was adept at influencing the media.

The expanded civic role he occupied railed his opponents, who targeted him with bully-boy tactics especially over his decisions prohibiting military funerals for IRA volunteers; however, it also rallied his supporters, raising their morale against the backdrop of continuous IRA

violence.

A fundamental moment in the evolution of Daly's public role in Derry was the murder of Pat Gillespie by the IRA in 1990.

The IRA wished to target a checkpoint army base outside Derry and used Pat Gillespie (an innocent and devout man who worked as a cook) as a "human bomb" by forcing him to drive a van into the checkpoint where it was exploded.

Something in Daly snapped when he had to respond to the callousness of this act: the homily he delivered, in which he stated that the IRA architects of the explosion were followers of Satan, is well worth reading.

If Daly's period as bishop delimited the Troubles, his time as Bishop of Derry also marked the decline and fall of the primacy of Catholic leaders in Irish life.

By turns a modernising force and a traditionalist, Daly was both deeply committed to upholding the Catholic faith and to communicating it to an increasingly disaffected community.

His mind seemed to have evolved – his critics would say he contradicted himself – as time passed.

How, for example, to reconcile Daly's criticism of priests who laicised because they wished to marry in his first memoir with an exhortation, in his second memoir, to the Catholic church that celibacy should be optional?

But doctrinal issues and political controversies cannot overshadow a life so well lived in the service of a community which very badly needed it.

The phrase "cometh the hour, cometh the man" seems to have been coined to describe the role Eddie Daly played in the 1970s and 1980s in Derry. *Ar dheis dé go raibh a anam dílis.*

Legal advice sought over 'Derry' name change

DERRY & STRABANE Council is seeking legal advice over the potential for having the city's name changed officially from Londonderry to Derry.

It is more than a year since the council voted by majority to write to the then Environment Minister Mark H. Durkan seeking clarification on how to go about the change over. A report on the matter is expected to be brought back before the council in the autumn.

The motion proposed by Sinn Féin Councillor Eric McGinley was voted upon at the Guildhall in July 2015 and was passed with the full support of Sinn Féin, SDLP and the Independent Councillors, despite opposition from the minority unionist bloc.

The council took the vote after being told that a request had been received for a public vote on installing "Derry" as the officially recognised name of the city.

Speaking at the time, McGinley said changing the name would help market

the city under a single name identity. However the move was branded "disgusting" by DUP Councillor David Ramsey.

Back in 1984, the name of the council was changed from Londonderry to Derry City Council (which has since been adopted in the current supercouncil name), but the name of the city, for official purposes, was not changed.

During a previous challenge, the High Court in 2007 ruled that the name of the city could only be altered via a new law or via royal prerogative.

Derry's name has been contentious ever since the 'London' prefix was added by Royal Charter in the early 1600s. The Royal Charter was granted by King James I during the Plantation of Ulster.

The city has been variously recorded as 'Derry', 'Daire' or 'Doire' since the early Christian period, and was an important trading port and ecclesiastical centre during the Middle Ages.

Rose of Tralee: Protester removed after storming stage



MAGGIE MCELDOWNEY, the Chicago Rose, was crowned the 2016 Rose of Tralee at the international festival on August 23.

WESTERN CANADA ROSE Molly Fogarty onstage with host Dáithí Ó Sé at the Rose of Tralee International Festival. Molly is from North Portal, Saskatchewan and the 19-year-old was selected at the Irish Centre in Edmonton, Alberta on Saturday, May 28.

TRALEE, Co. Kerry – The Chicago Rose, 27-year-old Maggie Rose McEldowney, was crowned as the 2016 Rose of Tralee at the International Rose of Tralee Festival on August 23.

Maggie was the first Rose on the live show and during her interview with host Dáithí Ó Sé she spoke of her Irish heritage, in particular her grandparents who hail from Co. Derry.

She works as the Director of Development for a Catholic High School and is on the Board of the Young Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago, a committee responsible for coordinating fundraisers that celebrate Irish culture.

Maggie takes over the crown from last year's winner, Elysha Brennan, who was the Meath Rose.

The selection, which is broadcast over two nights by RTÉ, has been hosted by Dáithí Ó Sé since 2010. It was previously presented for 17 years by Gay Byrne.

Viewers of the competition were surprised the night before the final selection when a man dressed as a priest stormed the stage, interrupting the live-televised event, holding up a placard while shouting: "Fathers for justice!"

The protester took to the stage while contestant Cavan Rose, Lisa Reilly, was speaking to Dáithí Ó Sé.

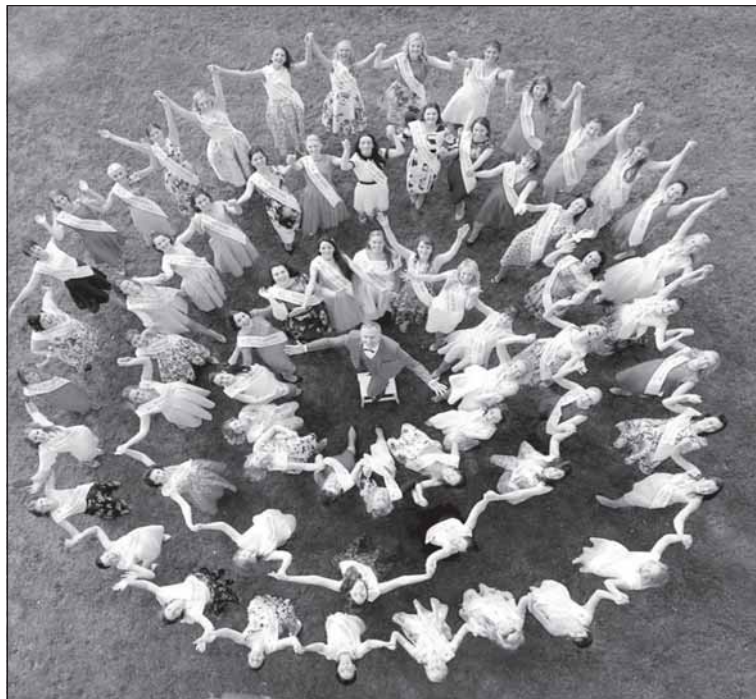
Journalist Andrea Smith with *Irish Independent* who was live-blogging the event said while the incident probably gave the organisers a fright, it was also probably the most exciting thing that's ever happened in the history of the Rose of Tralee.

It is understood the man was Matt O'Connor, a founder of Fathers 4 Justice, who is originally from County Kerry but now lives in England.

The group are best known for a series of high-profile stunts. In 2004, a campaigner dressed as Batman held a protest on a balcony of Buckingham Palace.



A PROTESTER dressed as a priest burst onto the stage shouting "Fathers for justice," while Cavan Rose, Lisa Reilly was speaking to presenter Dáithí Ó Sé.



THE ROSE OF TRALEE FESTIVAL is an international event which is celebrated among Irish communities all over the world. It is one of Ireland's largest and longest running festivals, celebrating 57 years in 2016. The heart of the festival is the selection of the Rose of Tralee which brings young women of Irish descent from around the world to County Kerry, Ireland for a global celebration of Irish culture. The festival also includes street entertainment, carnival, live concerts, theatre, circus, markets, funfair, fireworks and Rose Parades.

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Mike McDonnell /ISSC Scholarship Fund:
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Successful applicants contacted November 10
Scholarship Award Night – Saturday Nov 19

Irish Jaunting Cart, built by one of the members of the ISSC is looking for a good home (call the centre for info)

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Ireland to challenge Apple's massive tax bill

DUBLIN – Following intense discussions, Ireland's cabinet has agreed to join Apple in appealing a multi-billion-euro back tax demand that the European Commission has levied against the Silicon Valley giant.

This decision was made despite misgivings among independents who back the fragile coalition.

The Commission's ruling that the U.S. tech giant must pay up to 13 billion euros (plus interest) to Dublin has angered Washington, which accuses the EU of trying to grab tax revenue that should go to the U.S. Government.

With transatlantic tensions rising, the White House said President Barack Obama would raise the issue of tax avoidance by some multinational corporations at a summit of the G20 leading economies in the Chinese city of Hangzhou on September 4-5.

Paradoxically, Ireland is determined not to receive the tax windfall, which would be equivalent to what it spent last year on funding its struggling health service.

But while journalists, analysts, and social-justice crusaders quickly began counting Ireland's blessings, the country's government was rightly outraged.

The Commission's decision is an attempt to forbid smaller jurisdictions from using more attractive tax regimes to compete for foreign investment with larger rivals. Ireland has confirmed it will appeal the decision.

Ireland's reaction shows that the country's government understands the stakes involved.

Irish Finance Minister Michael Noonan immediately declared that Dublin would appeal the Commission's decision "to defend the integrity of our tax system; to provide tax certainty to business; and to challenge the encroachment of EU state aid rules into the sovereign member state competence of taxation."

Over the years, Ireland has built a reputation for low corporate taxes, which helped place the country on the map for the global business community and overcome its limited scale and peripheral location.

The strategy paid off: According to the American Chamber of Commerce in Ireland, more than 700 U.S. companies, largely drawn in by the lowest corporate tax rate in Western Europe (12.5 percent), have established branches in the country, creating 140,000 jobs.

Apple, in particular, played a groundbreaking role in securing Ireland's international recognition.

As CEO Tim Cook reminded the world in an open letter, the company opened its first European office in 1980 in Cork, a region with high unemployment and low investment.

That office started with 60 workers. Thirty-six years later, Apple employs 6,000 people in the country. And there can be no doubting that Ireland's low tax rate helped provide Apple a reason for its continued investment in the country.

Noonan has insisted Dublin would fight any adverse ruling ever since the Eu-



IRISH Minister for Finance Michael Noonan (right) and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Paschal Donohoe speak to the media in Dublin on September 2, 2016.



APPLE'S offices in Cork in the Republic of Ireland where it employs over 5,000 people.

“Multinationals provide absolutely vital jobs to the economy ... (but) multinationals should pay a fair rate of tax in Ireland.”

European Union began investigating Apple's Irish tax affairs in 2014.

The stance taken by European Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager is that Apple's low tax arrangements in Ireland constitute illegal state aid.

Noonan finally won over independent support for the challenge at a cabinet meeting on Friday, September 2.

An earlier attempt had failed to persuade the independent lawmakers whose support is vital for the minority government to agree to fight the EU ruling.

The Independent Alliance, a group of five lawmakers, fell in line after the coalition agreed to conduct a review of what tax multinationals pay and what should they pay.

Transport Minister Shane Ross, an Alliance member, defended Apple up to a point.

"I think they were acting legally. What they were doing was making use of extraordinary loopholes that existed there," he told reporters.

"Multinationals provide absolutely vital jobs to the economy ... (but) multinationals should pay a fair rate of tax in Ireland."

A failure of the Alliance to come on board would have cast doubt on the government's survival prospects. Dublin has just over two months to lodge an appeal.

The main opposition party, Fianna Fail, also favours challenging Brussels, so the government should easily win the Dail's backing to fight what is by far the largest anti-competition measure imposed on a company by the EU.

Some Irish voters are astounded that the government might turn down the money, and the left-wing Sinn Fein party has led attacks from the opposition.

According to Apple, "the Commission's case is not about how much Apple pays in taxes, it's about which government collects the money."

Apple is the latest, and perhaps the most visible, target in a streak of cases that include Amazon and Starbucks.

But while it is tempting to rejoice when powerful corporations are hit by governments, the truth is that Apple is by no means the Commission's biggest victim.

The iPhone manufacturer has some \$232 billion in reserve; it will barely blink if it has to pay the fine.

But countries like Ireland – and consumers around the world – will be paying the cost of this misguided decision for decades to come.



THE DEER collided with competitor Shane O'Reilly as he cycled in Phoenix Park in Dublin.

PHOTO: Eric Scraggs

Deer collides with competitor at Dublin city triathlon

DUBLIN – Triathlons are tough at the best of times, but one competitor in the Dublin city event got more than he bargained for when he and a deer collided.

Photographer Eric Scraggs snapped the moment Shane O'Reilly was struck by the animal as he cycled in Phoenix Park.

O'Reilly from Blackrock in County Dublin told Irish broadcaster RTÉ that he was left with a cracked helmet following the incident on Sunday, but managed to carry on.

The park is home to around 500 deer.

"The helmet definitely saved me," O'Reilly added. "Apart from that, my

shoulder was a bit sore and I had a headache."

The competitor completed the race in two hours 25 minutes.

Scraggs said he never thought deer would "try and leap over the cyclists."

"I had a feeling they might make their way across the cyclists' path, so I tracked them through my lens," he said.

"I never envisaged that they would actually try and leap over the cyclists. It all happened so fast, it was a really heavy crash.

"It was a relief to see the competitor get back to his feet and continue."

It is understood the deer has also recovered.

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, RD, LM

NOVENA TO ST. ANTHONY
Remember, O Saint of Miracles, that you have never failed to help and comfort anyone who has ever sought you in a time of need. I too come to you, who are so rich in graces and the favoured friend of the Infant Jesus, confident that I do not pray in vain. Eloquent preacher of the Infinite Mercy of God, do not refuse my prayer, but take my request before the throne of God, so that I may have help and strength in my present trial and necessity. Listen to my voice, together with that of your friars who ask you a grace for me. Amen. – SVS

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. – SVS

NOVENA TO ST. CLARE

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

NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this special one (mention favour). Take it dear Heart of Jesus, and place this request in your own broken heart where your Father can see it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. Amen. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified and loved throughout the whole world. Say this prayer for three days. Publication promised and favour will be granted. Never known to fail. – NB

Gay couple resign from church choir over text from religious activist

DUBLIN – A gay couple have resigned from leading a church choir after claims they came under intense pressure from a religious activist.

Married couple Jacinta O'Donnell and Geraldine Flanagan have been involved in the St. Michael's church choir in Athy, Co. Kildare, for a number of years.

However, the women claim that local church activist Anthony Murphy called for them to resign from their position in the church because they "contradict" the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The bizarre story has engulfed social media after it unfolded on Kildare FM.

The couple married in July and have been heavily involved in the adult and children's choir at the church.

But they have now left after claims that Murphy sent a text calling for them to resign.

The Kildare women say that although they have not been asked to resign by the clergy, they feared demonstrations would be held.

"We felt the ordinary people who were just going along to their weekly mass didn't need to be subjected to this," Jacinta told her local radio station on September 8.

"We thought we were going to slip away quietly in the background, that was our intention, as hurtful as it may have been.

"Geraldine and I have only wanted to provide a music ministry to enhance the Eucharist and bringing this trouble to the church door would be futile.

"We met with the adult choir because we felt they needed to be told the truth of the situation."

Church activist Murphy said that he didn't ask the couple to resign, but that he sent a text to Jacinta days after the couple's wedding, to "do the right thing."

"The way the choir operates in Athy, Jacinta and Geraldine are positioned on the altar in the sanctuary, on a stage almost, sharing the stage with the parish priest," said Murphy.

"You cannot have a contradiction where the church teaches one thing, and people...right next to the Blessed Sacrament, contradict all of that teaching.

"Nobody is trying to exclude Jacinta or Geraldine from the church. I'm certainly not doing that. This is about leadership positions within the church."

Parish priest Fr. Frank McEvoy told KFM that he was supportive of the women, has spoken to them personally, and would not be commenting on the issue.

Ireland's Most Senior Archbishop Confirms Maynooth Seminary Boycott Amid Gay Dating App Claims

DUBLIN – The Catholic Archbishop of Dublin has confirmed a boycott of Ireland's main seminary amid allegations trainee priests there are using the gay dating app Grindr.

Diarmuid Martin announced in August he is sending student priests to Rome rather than the centuries-old St. Patrick's College in Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

In an interview with State broadcaster RTE, the church leader said he made the decision some months ago because he was "somewhat unhappy" about "an atmosphere that was growing in Maynooth" exposed through anonymous accusations in letters and online blogs.

"There are allegations on different sides," he said. "One is that there is a homosexual, a gay culture, that students have been using an app called Grindr, which is a gay dating app.

"This would be inappropriate for seminarians, not just because they are trained to be celibate priests but because an app like that is something which would be fostering promiscuous sexuality.

"This would certainly not in any way be the mature vision of sexuality one would expect a priest to understand."

Martin said there were further allegations that whistleblowers trying to bring claimed wrongdoing to the attention of authorities were being dismissed from the seminary.

"I thought a quarrelsome attitude of that kind was not the healthiest place for my students to be and I decided to send them to the Irish (Pontifical) College (in Rome)."

Founded in 1795, Maynooth College was once the largest seminary in the world.

It was built to train 500 trainee Catholic priests every year but numbers have nosedived to about 60 in recent years with a fall-off in vocations. There are currently 55 people studying for the priesthood in Maynooth.

While Martin has decided to send student priests from the Dublin Archdiocese – Ireland's largest – overseas in-

"The Vatican is the gay clergy capital of the world, with a conveyor belt of gay soap opera storylines emerging from the Holy See – and those are just the ones we hear about. Maynooth is the Front Lounge to Rome's Fire Island."

stead, he insisted he was not ordering other Bishops to do likewise.

With the archbishop's decision hitting national headlines, this is not a new situation according to Anthony Murphy from *The Catholic Voice*.

"This is a problem that goes back more than a decade," he told *TheJournal.ie*. "We first started writing about this four or five years ago.

"Even as far back as 2002, a priest from the Raphoe diocese [in Donegal] wrote about it in *The Irish Catholic*. It's almost like history repeating itself."

He also said that he was aware of 30 young men that had travelled internationally to study for the priesthood as a way of avoiding St. Patrick's College.

It has yet to be seen how officials from the national seminary will react to the allegations.

According to a report in *The Irish Independent* the situation looks set to take on a legal dimension.



ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN Diarmuid Martin has announced he is sending student priests to Rome rather than the centuries-old St. Patrick's College in Maynooth.



ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE in Maynooth, Ireland's national seminary in Co. Kildare.

A former trainee priest has told the publication that he was harassed by a member of staff while studying in Maynooth and will meet with gardaí over the issue.

In *The Irish Times*, columnist Una Mullally claims the real scandal at Maynooth is church's hypocrisy.

She writes, "Archbishop Diarmuid Mar-

tin's decision to move trainee priests to Rome instead of Maynooth, as if that would somehow circumnavigate gayness is laughable.

"The Vatican is the gay clergy capital of the world, with a conveyor belt of gay soap opera storylines emerging from the Holy See – and those are just the ones we hear about. Maynooth is the Front Lounge to Rome's Fire Island."

Coverage of Irish Murder-Suicide of Hawe Family Prompts Criticism



ALAN and Clodagh Hawe with their sons Liam (13), Niall (11) and Ryan (6). The family died in a murder-suicide at their home in the village of Castlerahan in Co. Cavan on Sunday, August 28.

DUBLIN – Ireland's National Suicide Research Foundation has criticized media coverage of the murder-suicide of an Irish family, Alan Hawe, his wife Clodagh, and their three sons.

The Irish police say Alan Hawe murdered his family and then died by suicide.

The foundation's research director Ella Arensman said she was "very, very concerned" about some of the media

coverage, *The Irish Times* reported.

"There needs to be a more concerted effort, not only by the media, but by other people working in the community because a lot of those details should not have been in the newspapers at all," she added.

She pointed to the foundation's media briefing on reporting on murder-suicide, which noted there have been "at least 21 murder-suicide cases" in Ireland in the past dozen years.

The briefing calls for "sensitive and factual reporting in order to minimise harm and increase awareness," including not reporting graphic details or sensational information to avoid copycats.

The briefing also recommends journal-

ists include information for how people can get help if needed.

"Portraying these details is in contrast with the media guidelines on reporting of suicide and murder-suicide," said Arensman.

"Reporting detailed information on specific methods involved in murder-suicide and suicide can contribute to copycat suicides and murder-suicides as confirmed by international research evidence."

She also reminded news outlets not to speculate on reasons for murder or suicide.

Separately, the *Guardian* newspaper has reported that women's rights organizations have criticized the media coverage of the Hawe family because they found it too sympathetic, with "some news organizations focused on Hawe's reputation as a pillar of the community" or characterizing him as a victim.

SEATTLE NEWS

By JOHN KEANE

SENIORS LUNCH – The Irish Immigrant Support Group has scheduled another Irish seniors' luncheon at the Wilde Rover Irish Restaurant in Kirkland at noon on Saturday, September 24.

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

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

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

All seniors who attend will receive a free Seattle Mariners Irish Night cap.

SISTER CITIES – The Seattle Galway Sister City Association invites you to attend the annual Sister Cities reception on Thursday, October 6, at Seattle City Hall.

Join Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, master of ceremonies Rick Steves, keynote speaker Jean Enersen, to learn more about Seattle's 21 Sister Cities.

Enjoy wine tasting and entertainment including a world-class pianist and a Hungarian dance troupe.

Great raffle/silent auction items. For more information, call (425) 582-2688.

JOHN WHELAN – The great Irish button accordion player John Whelan will be touring western Washington this fall.

Wednesday September 21, John plays for a ceili dance at Kenyon Hall in West Seattle. Contact Jim Belcher at setdancer@aol.com.

Saturday, September 24, John performs at the Celtic Arts Center in Mount Vernon with the Northwest's own stellar fiddle player, Dale Russ. Tickets at the Celtic Arts Center web site: www.celticarts.org.

Saturday, October 1, John plays a house concert in Seattle – contact Doug Plummer at 2doug@dougplummer.com.

GAELIC MASS – Seattle's annual Mass of Remembrance in the Irish (Gaelic) language will be Friday, October 14, at 7:30 PM, at St. Patrick's Church, 2702 Broadway Avenue E (just off I-5 at Roanoke Street).

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

To submit names to be remembered or for more information, call (425) 582-2688 or e-mail GaelicMass@irishclub.org.

CELTIC HARP CLASSES – The School of Magical Strings is offering beginner and intermediate classes in Celtic Harp this fall in Seattle and

Olalla, with classes starting Monday, October 10 in Seattle, and Tuesday, October 11 in Olalla.

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

For the past 37 years they have built instruments, taught classes, and provided their unique blend of Celtic and original music to audiences throughout the Northwest and on their tours across the nation and abroad.

For more information, call (253) 857-3716 or visit www.magicalstrings.com.

ACIS CONFERENCE – The American Conference for Irish Studies will be hosted by the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana, from October 21 - 22.

The Irish ambassador to the U.S., Anne Anderson, will attend and address the conference, as will the Governor of Montana, Steve Bullock.

The theme of the conference, *Her Exile Children: Ireland and Irish America*, looks at the role the Irish of America played in the struggle for Irish freedom. Contact traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu for details.

BISHOP DALY RIP – Former Bishop of Derry Edward Daly, who spoke at Seattle's annual St. Patrick's Day Mass for Peace in 2002, died in Derry on August 8 aged 82.

More than 25,000 people visited Derry's St. Eugene's Cathedral to pay their respects and a message of condolence was read out at his funeral from Pope Francis.

In 1972, the then 39-year-old Fr. Daly was filmed while waving a blood-stained handkerchief as he tried to assist the mortally wounded Jackie Duddy after British paratroopers had killed 13 unarmed civilians and injured another 13 during a civil rights march in Derry.

Although Daly only spent a week in the Seattle area where his cousin Kathleen May lives, he left many friends and admirers here in 2002 and his passing is deeply mourned.

NEW BOOK – *Rising from Obscurity* is a new book co-authored by Seattleite Kim Burkhart and her cousin Brian Ellis about their great-grandmother, Harriet Susannah Ellis.

The book chronicles Harriet's life from birth in Co. Sligo in 1863 to emigration to the U.S. in 1913 and her death in 1939.

Details about Irish life and genealogical research are woven into the tale. For more information, visit HarrietSusannahEllis.wordpress.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Contact Seattle's Irish Book Club at hudit@comcast.net.

- On October 22, Irish-Canadian author Emma Donoghue reads at Seattle's Elliott Bay Books from her new book *The Wonder*. For details, visit emmadonoghue.com.

- The 2016 Irish Reels Film Festival is October 7-9 at the SIFF (Seattle International Film Festival) Center at the Seattle Center (just west of the Fountain). Details at www.IrishReels.org.



JOHN HARDING and Triona Cullen, natives of Co. Meath who now live in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, were married on September 7 in the mayor's office in Seattle City Hall with the ceremony conducted by Seattle Mayor Ed Murray (L) and witnessed by Seattle Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole (R).



VOLUNTEERS at the admissions tent at the North American GAA Finals (L-R) Shane Galligan, Maura English, Bill Shelby, Kathryn O'Hora, Aly Shelby-Gardner, and Brendan Shriane.



SEATTLE POLICE Pipes and Drums lead the teams from Vancouver and San Francisco in a parade around the pitch before the start of the Men's Senior Football Final which was won by San Francisco.



SOME of the action from the Seattle vs Philadelphia Junior C Hurling Final.



PHOTO: Brendan Shriane

SEATTLE'S Nick Jones gets the ball away when playing against Philadelphia in the North American Junior C Hurling Final in Seattle on September 4.



PHOTO: Brendan Shriane

SOME of the action from the Seattle vs Tacoma Junior D Football quarter-final which was won by Tacoma.



PHOTO: Brendan Shriane

SEATTLE'S Shawn Sprinkle (right) in action against Philadelphia in the North American Junior C Hurling Final in Seattle on September 4.

NORTH AMERICAN GAA FINALS - SEATTLE 2016

THE SEATTLE GAELS GAA, with assistance from the Tacoma Rangers GAA, hosted the North American GAA Championship Finals in Seattle on the Labor Day weekend.

This was the first time ever that the North American Finals in the Irish sports of men's and women's Gaelic football, hurling and camogie have been held in Seattle.

In total 85 teams with over 1,500 players from across the USA, Canada and the Caribbean competed on five fields at Seattle's Magnuson Park over the three days.

The outcome would determine the North American Champions in 17 different Gaelic football, hurling and camogie competitions.

Altogether over the three days, there were 85 games played in championship competitions and another 19 games in shield competitions, a total of 104 games.

Participating teams traveled from Akron (OH), Atlanta (GA), Austin (TX), Baltimore (MA), Boston (MA), Calgary (AB), Cayman Islands, Charlotte (NC), Chicago (IL), Columbus (OH), Concord (NH), Dallas (TX), Washington (DC), Denver (CO), Flagstaff (AZ), Fraser Valley (BC), Hoboken (NJ), Indianapolis (IN), Kansas City (MO), Los Angeles (CA), Minneapolis, (MN), Madison (WI), Milwaukee (WI), Missoula (MT), Philadelphia (PA), Pittsburgh (PA), Portland (OR), San Antonio (TX), San Diego (CA), San Francisco (CA), San Jose (CA), St. Louis (MO), Tacoma (WA), Toronto (ON), Vancouver (BC), in addition to several Seattle teams.

- The Seattle Gaels hurling and camogie teams had tremendous success at the 2016 Finals.

Seattle's hurlers, led by captain Kevin Brown, were competing in the Junior C Championship and on Friday in the quarter-final defeated Flagstaff, the team from Arizona.

The Gaels' toughest game of the weekend was the semi-final game on Saturday against Twin Cities, the team from Minneapolis.

Six points down at half-time, the Seattle team rallied brilliantly to eke out a one point win on a scoreline of two goals nine points (15) to three goals five points (14).



By
**JOHN
KEANE**

In the final on Sunday, the Gaels led all the way and defeated the heavy favorites, the Philadelphia Na Toraide team, by six points on a score of eight goals three points (27) to four goals nine points (21).

Philadelphia actually had more scores than Seattle, but Seattle was scoring goals while Philadelphia was scoring points.

This was Seattle's second time winning a North American Junior Hurling Championship.

- The Seattle Gaels camogie team, led by captain Vanessa Petersen, won the North American Junior Camogie Championship with a comprehensive victory in the final over the heavily favored Liberty Gaels team from Hoboken, New Jersey.

Comprised of players from New York city and New Jersey, Liberty Gaels were expected to cruise in the final but after Seattle scored a goal in the first minute, the Seattle players just gained in confidence and never looked back, winning at the end on a scoreline of two goals six points (12) to one goal two points (5).

Seattle had defeated a team from St. Louis in the semi-final game on Saturday and Sunday's win brought Seattle its first ever North American Camogie Championship title.

- The Seattle Gaels men's football team fell to Denver in their first game in the Junior C quarter-final on Friday, but on Sunday the Gaels ended up winning the Junior Men's Shield competition, which is a competition for teams that have lost in the first round.

The Seattle Gaels ladies football team was defeated in the Ladies Junior Football quarter-final on Friday by a very good team from the Cayman Islands, but Seattle's Lady Gaels rebounded by



SEATTLE'S Caroline Lee and Sinéad Gaffney with the North American Junior Championship Camogie trophy.



SEATTLE Mayor Ed Murray and Seattle Gaels Chair Brian White with the Championship trophy after the Seattle Gaels had won the North American Junior C Hurling Final.

winning the Junior Ladies Shield competition on Sunday.

- The Tacoma Rangers defeated the Seattle Gaels in the Junior D Football Championship semi-final on Saturday but in the final on Sunday were comprehensively defeated by a team from Kansas City.

However, this was the Rangers first time ever competing at the North American Finals and to reach the final in their first year was a great accomplishment.

The entire weekend was a tremendous success from a logistical and any other viewpoint, and the organizing committee, led by Seattle Gaels Chair Brian White and Northwest Division Chair Paul McGarry, deserve great credit for taking on the responsibility of coordinating everything.

For photos and videos from the weekend, visit [facebook.com/OfficialUSGAA](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialUSGAA).



SEATTLE GAELS men's football team which won the Junior Shield Men's Football competition.



SEATTLE GAELS women's football team which won the Junior Shield Ladies Football competition.



VANCOUVER'S JP Ryan's hurling team won the North American Junior A Hurling Final in Seattle on Sunday, September 4.



PHOTO: Rob Mullin

THE VICTORIOUS Seattle Gaels team after defeating Philadelphia in the North American Junior C Hurling Championship final.

Seattle Irish Immigrant Support Group

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P.O. Box 75123, Seattle, WA 98175 www.irishseattle.com

The Fraser Valley Gaels: This new team is talk of the town in GAA football circles

VANCOUVER – Eoin McCloskey helped establish a new Gaelic football club in the Fraser Valley in 2014. He is now manager of the Fraser Valley Gaels men's team and responsible for team development.

He recently spoke to *The Celtic Connection* about the new award winning team and how it came about.

"It all really clicked for us when a number of new players from Ireland came into town. It was a shared vision and unanimous decision by all the players to spread the GAA games further than Vancouver," he said.

In very short order Fraser Valley Gaels have become the team to be reckoned with and the talk of the town in GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association) football circles.

With obvious pride in their achievements, Eoin said, "This year the Fraser Valley Gaels have won the Spring League, Summer League, and the Western Canadian Championship in Regina – the Tom Butler Cup.

"Winning the Tom Butler Cup was very important to our club.

"We are now training hard with our sights set on our next big challenge in Seattle ... the North American Gaelic Games Championship Finals taking place over Labour Day weekend. We're hoping for a win there."

McCloskey hails from Dungiven, County Derry, and he has lived the dream of every Gaelic football player in Ireland....to one day play for the Sam Maguire Cup in an All Ireland Senior Championship Final in Croke Park, Dublin.

That dream became a reality for Eoin McCloskey.

At 19-years-old in the mid-nineties, he was selected to represent his county, and during a period of five years he played football in Croke Park a number of times.

The road to Croke Park is a difficult one, it requires total dedication, single-minded determination and practice, practice and more practice since only the best are selected to represent their county.

"Certainly at that time in the mid-90s and early 2000s, getting selected to play for your county would have been a privilege and a big honour," Eoin said. "You just felt so proud and honoured to have the opportunity to reach that level.

"It takes some unique players to play in those big league games in Croke Park and the Provincial Finals.

"I was also fortunate enough to have a good underage career with my club and further developed into a senior player.

"I grew up surrounded by Gaelic games as all my uncles were heavily involved with our club.

"Uncle Andy, Liam and George were very influential on how I developed a deep passion for Gaelic games. It was a religion with them and they talked about it morning, noon and night."

Speaking about playing in the All Ireland in Croke Park, Eoin said, "I don't think you fully appreciate those things

By CATHOLINE BUTLER



EOIN MCCLOSKEY playing for Derry in the All Ireland Championship at Croke Park in Dublin.



until you're long past and maybe you've stopped playing.

"I think when you're younger you do feel the weight of representing your county.

"I know there are other sports in the world, where the players would feel great pride to be playing for their country, but with Gaelic games you just feel very, very proud and motivated. You're just so excited every single day until you get to play those big games.

"You're aware that the game will be live on television and everybody in the county will be talking about the game and everywhere you go you will be easily recognized.

"Really, it's a great privilege to be selected and have the opportunity to play with some of the best players in Ireland.

"I saw what it meant to my family and relatives and their support and pride was very evident towards me which I greatly respected.

"Looking back on the experience, I have fonder memories now than I did at the time. But, I think time does that for you."

Describing the excitement and tension on All Ireland game days, Eoin said there is absolutely nothing like it.

McCloskey said, "It's absolute exhilaration when you run up the steps and



FRASER VALLEY Gaels after the final of the Western Canadian Championship in Regina.

out of the tunnel at Croke Park. You have extreme butterflies in your stomach and feel very, very excited.

"The noise of thousands and thousands of people shouting and cheering is absolutely deafening, you can't hear or talk to your team mate next to you.

"It's a nervous motivation with the adrenalin flowing so fast that you feel scared of nothing, you just want the game to get started.

"There could be between 70,000 to 80,000 cheering, shouting, clapping fans all pumped with energy fuelled expectations hoping for their county to win the ultimate All Ireland holy grail of football... The Sam McGuire Cup."

It was three and a half years ago when Eoin with his wife Laura (who is from Dungannon) and their three young girls moved to Maple Ridge, British Columbia.

Before moving to Canada, the McCloskey's spent two years in Australia.

Speaking about immigrating to Canada, Eoin said, "I was first brought to Canada by Lark Projects in Surrey.

"After about 18 months, Graham Construction approached me to join their company. I had a good feeling about Graham and when the opportunity came up, I took it."

He is now a senior project manager with Graham Construction.

What Eoin and his wife Laura miss the most about Ireland is their family back home.

Eoin comes from a big family and also misses the closeness of his aunts, uncles and numerous cousins.

"Growing up, we spent so much time together and all lived in the same locality. That was the hardest part having to leave that behind.

"But coming to Canada was a new experience for us.

"It was tough at the start but we met some new and fantastic friends, which made the whole transition a lot easier.

"I met Vinny Crowley, Peter Ryan and Dennis Agnew in the first week I was here. That made life a whole lot easier from a homesickness point of view.

"Vinny, Peter and Dennis were always on hand to help with anything, such as



PAT HARTNETT, captain of the Fraser Valley Gaels, with John O'Flynn of the Canadian Western Division GAA, holding the Tom Butler Cup in Regina after winning the Senior Men's at the Western Canada GAA Championship.

moving furniture or just helping us get settled.

"They also visited us quite frequently, without them it would have been a lot more difficult."

As our conversation drew to a close, I asked McCloskey about the recent Brexit vote in England and how he sees it might impact Northern Ireland.

"I think it will have an impact," he said. "I know from talking to people in Ireland, particularly in the construction industry it will have an impact.

"The border situation is something that hasn't been resolved yet but I think the last thing anyone wants is another physical border between the north and the south of Ireland. Obviously, one side of Ireland would be in the EU and the other part in the U.K.

"I think at the moment the Northern Ireland Government is trying to see if they can be distanced from the Brexit, because Northern Ireland did vote to remain in the E.U., and it was a pretty clear-cut vote.

"I do see an impact there because there

was a lot of funding and grants for Northern Ireland from Europe.

"For Northern Ireland to get isolated could cause big problems and that could really affect people. I would really be concerned about that."

Continuing, McCloskey said, "Before we came to Canada we lived in Newry which is only about two or three miles from the border. So I would always have two currencies going, the euro and the pound sterling and the passports.

"If I have to travel five miles over the border to go for food or work, it's going to bring complications for everybody especially for trading and work purposes.

"I really don't think the peace process will be in danger because the Unionists and Nationalists have a shared agreement from a peace perspective. I don't think there will be any issues there since they are both on the same page."

For more information and news on the Fraser Valley Gaels, check out their Facebook page at: Fraser Valley Gaels Gaelic Football.



IRISH boxer Michael Conlan left his opponent a bloody mess and walked away from the bout unscathed but was somehow declared the loser.

Rio 2016: Michael Conlan offered consolation medal

BELFAST – Belfast boxer Michael Conlan may not have won an Olympic medal after his controversial defeat in Rio but to one young boxing fan, he is still a winner.

A five-year-old County Dublin boy has sent a touching letter to his hero, offering him a consolation prize.

Finn McManus told a devastated Conlan, “I want you to have my school medal because you are a winner.”

Conlon responded on Twitter, describing it as a “very warming message.” He also promised a gift for his young fan.

Finn’s message to the Olympian has been impressing disappointed Irish boxing fans after it was widely shared on Facebook.

“I saw your fight in Rio and you should have won because you are the best boxer in the world”, he wrote to Conlan.

The boy’s mother, Meadhbh McManus, told BBC News NI that she has been “overwhelmed” by both the response of the public and the boxer himself.

Conlan was the Irish boxing team’s last hope for an Olympic medal after a dis-

mal Games in Rio.

The team has been reeling from shock defeats for 2012 lightweight boxing champion Katie Taylor and 2012 bronze medallist Paddy Barnes.

Conlan handed down foul-mouthed guilty verdicts on the judges he blamed for defeat in his second fight in the bantamweight tournament he was a favourite to win.

“They’re f***** cheats,” he raged on live television. “They’re known for being cheats. Amateur boxing stinks from the core right to the top.”

Conlan, the No. 1 seed, was judged the loser by two rounds to one on all three cards. He said, “My dreams are shattered. I will never box again for AIBA [International Boxing Association].”

He also accused the officials of cheating Taylor and Joe Ward, another of his compatriots who was expected to do well in Rio.

There were boos from the contingent of Irish fans in Rio who believed Conlan, their last hope of a medal, had won.

Conlan was convinced he had won it but the judges were unanimous in giving it to his Russian opponent Vladimir Nikitin.

Brazilian prosecutor lays charges against Pat Hickey and Kevin Mallon

DUBLIN – Pat Hickey, former president of the Olympic Council of Ireland, has been formally charged in Brazil over his role in the Olympic ticket touting scandal.

The 71-year-old, who was arrested in Rio de Janeiro will face charges alongside nine others, including fellow Irishman, THG executive Kevin Mallon, 36.

The charges include ticket touting, forming a criminal cartel, illicit marketing, embezzlement, tax evasion, and money laundering, a statement from state prosecutors said, without specifying which individuals will face which charges.

The denouncement, signed by prosecutor Marcos Kac on September 6, was referred to a special Olympic court.

It is the latest stage in Brazil’s criminal process. The pair had already been indicted by police earlier in the investigation.

Earlier that day Hickey was once again quizzed by detectives as part of a new line of enquiry.

During the interview he refused to answer any of the questions put to him, according to detectives.

“He stayed silent,” said detective Aloysio Falcão one of the lead investigators in the case.



IRELAND’S Olympic Council President Patrick Hickey arrives to a police station in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2016. The high-ranking Olympic official is declining to answer police questions related to alleged ticket scalping during last month’s Olympic Games. Hickey must remain in Brazil until the probe is concluded.

He said that Hickey had exercised his constitutional right to remain in silence following further questioning but the fact that Hickey did not respond would not affect the police inquiry, as “we have lots of evidence.”

“He maintained his silence. We put 14 questions to him, but he did not respond.”

Kevin Mallon was questioned the same day and also refused to comment to police.

Mallon, an executive of hospitality firm THG Sports was first arrested on August 5 at a hotel in Rio de Janeiro, with

823 high-end tickets in his possession.

Like Hickey, who was arrested on August 17, he has since been released from the Bangu 10 jail while proceedings continue.

A statement issued by PRO10 Sports Management said it completely refutes the charges put forward by Brazilian police.

A Hickey family statement said, “He [Hickey] will be invoking his constitutional right to silence because the Brazilian police have released documents to the media that Pat’s lawyers have had no access to.”

Thousands welcome O’Donovan brothers home after Olympics

CORK, Ireland – Ireland’s Olympic silver medal winning rowers returned home to a crowd of thousands on August 28.

Green, yellow and blue Brazil flags flew from windows in the town of Skibbereen in Co. Cork and a brass band helped transform the narrow streets into an open air party zone thronged with an influx of visitors who greeted brothers Gary and Paul O’Donovan.

The Rio lightweight double sculls competitors claimed the country’s first Olympic honours in the sport amid predictions they could go on to dominate for years to come.

The pair are from Lisheen, near Skibbereen, in west Cork. They inched through packed streets on an open top double decker bus which said: “Home Are the Heroes.”

They arrived at Cork airport to a hero’s welcome and Gary O’Donovan (23) said, “It was overwhelming.

“People were sending us messages saying you don’t know what you’re in for, there’s going to be huge crowds. Just before we got on the plane in Rotterdam we got a WhatsApp message from the boys in the club saying there were buses coming up from Skibbereen and we were like... ‘this is going to be insane’.”

Paul O’Donovan (22), said, “It’s a complete shock. It’s all good for the sport and for the community down here. It was kind of a reflection of what it’s been like the last couple of years. That’s why we are so happy.”

The brothers learned their skills on the Ilen near Skibbereen under the tutelage of coach Dominic Casey. While Paul always harboured ambitions of an Olympic medal, it was only four years ago that Gary made the decision to take it seriously.

Bus loads of supporters arrived from all over Cork and nearby counties for the hour-long homecoming.



THE VANCOUVER Camogie team which was defeated by the Hoboken Liberty Gaels in the North American Junior Camogie Championship semi-final.

IRISH SPORTING & SOCIAL CLUB

Largest ever ISSC team contingent competed at the USGAA finals

By RONAN DEANE

VANCOUVER – The Vancouver ISSC sent its largest ever panel of players to the North American GAA Championship in Seattle on the weekend of September 2-4.

Eight teams participated at the event, and each team performed admirably.

Two of the three men’s hurling teams, JP Ryan’s, advanced to the finals in their respective competitions, with all three recording wins.

The Junior B’s were defeated in the semi-final on Saturday, after winning on Friday morning.

The Seniors were competitive for much of their final with San Francisco pulling away in the final quarter. However

the Junior A’s won their final on Sunday, September 4, defeating Indianapolis.

The men’s footballers had two competing teams and while the Junior A’s were beaten in their semi-final, the Senior Men’s team made it to the Sunday’s signature final, only to be out-classed by a very strong San Francisco Club Ulster side.

Nigel Daly, on as a substitute goalie, played a fantastic match saving at least five certain goals.

The Ladies contingent was also significant, sending two football teams and one camogie team.

Charlotte narrowly defeated our Senior footballers in their semi, while our Junior A’s won the Shield competition.

Liberty Gaels narrowly beat the JP Ryan ladies to take the Camogie title.



Of Things that Go Bump in the Night...Take My Advice on Halloween Night to Safely Navigate Samhain

By CYNTHIA WALLENTINE

The balanced moments of the Autumnal Equinox at 7:21 AM on Thursday, September 22 quickly give way to the season of Samhain that begins at twilight on October 31. The Celtic New Year follows on November 1.

Sliding open the door between years and seasons, Samhain – or Halloween – is a well-known night of mischief and magic.

For those unversed in the wild ways of the season, we offer these tips:

1. DRESS FOR SUCCESS: Wearing unfamiliar attire is the surest way to throw a goblin off your trail.

Because the veil between the worlds is thin, you do not want to be recognized by the shades and shrieks that occupy that hallowed evening.

If recognized, Irish folklore has it they'll come for you before the year is out. Even face paint will do, give it a try.

2. BE NICE: The wee folk ride on high at Samhain, be sure to watch your manners, be not uncivil, and be careful where you step.

All manner of Irish Otherworldly beings punish the uncivil, the best known among them is the Banshee.

If you are unlucky enough to come upon a grieving lady with a shiny comb and hair to match, keep your tongue, claim you have an appointment on the other side of town and run without turning back.

And yes, the Irish Banshee is still seen from time to time in North America, having arrived with emigrating Irish families.

3. PICK A PUMPKIN: Wanted by neither heaven nor hell, the old Irish villain Jack wanders the earth for eternity, with the stub of a candle in a rotted out turnip shell.

The practice of carving turnip lanterns transformed to pumpkins when Irish arriving in North America found the pumpkin more suitable for carving.

Pick a pumpkin, carve a face, and give a shout out to old Jack as the flickering orange light illuminates the darkness on Halloween night.

4. FIRE IT UP: Fires are big on Samhain. Either in a bonfire, or a candle, the reverie of the flame reflected in your eyes gives divinity a chance to join you in a peaceful moment of darkness and light.

Add a battery powered light and you can help a young one avoid tripping on their costume.

5. GOOD EATS: Although the uninformed consider Samhain as devil worship, the date is actually a festival of great antiquity intended to honor our forbears, hope for good luck, and mark the end of the growing year.

The *Feile Na Marbh*, or, feast of the dead, is prepared on Samhain.

Meant to bless the house and feed and

honor ancestors long passed, the supper can be observed by leaving out a favorite dish, drink, and an empty chair.

As we are, so once were they – be charitable and make space for those who can no longer share our physical form.

6. BE CAREFUL: While the “treat” of the evening rises from the giving of food and charity to those living and passed, the “trick” is the misfortunes that befall those who ignore the rules and bounds of civility.

While firecrackers form the bigger part of the tricks, be aware bad luck follows all year those unwilling to offer kindness and charity when called upon.

7. WATCH FOR BLACK CATS, OWLS, AND CAULDRONS: Felines are long associated as the *familiar*, or companion, of the witch.

Never truly domesticated, cats have personalities that hold them apart, and keen senses that align with nighttime hours.

Owls, which fly quietly, and appear to come and go from this world unto that, are favored for the strength, wisdom, and nocturnal Otherworldly association.

Strong cooking vessels are always valued, and the cauldron is an archaic reminder of the Dagda, the primary chieftain of the Irish *Tuatha De Danann*.

The cauldron of the Dagda was ever-full, feeding those gathered with food and hope for coming seasons.

8. BE GRATEFUL FOR WITCHES: Samhain is the season of the Cailleach, and no form of her is truer than the witch.

A dark goddess, she bides no time with the so-called Devil of Christian myth.

Benevolent and interested in keeping the tides of nature balanced, the witch is a venerable entity in all her forms.

The consort of the Goddess, and the witch, is *Cernunnos*, the hunter and horned god. So wear a cape, or don a pair of horns, and you will be in good company.

9. LOOK UP! IT IS THE MOON: Samhain is a lunar festival, celebrated with the energy and heat of a bonfire in the darkness.

While the equinoxes are solar occasions, the great festivals of the Celtic year, Samhain, Imbolg, Beltaine, and Lughnasadh, are of the earlier lunar age, before the coming of the sun-gods.

Whether full, or new like this year, the moon offers an ancient connection to an old, old friend – in just a glance.

You do not need a holiday to enjoy what the moon has to offer on a nightly basis. *Just look up.*

These are just a few of the enduring symbols associated with the festivals and celebration days of the Celtic year.

So take a tip or two from us and enjoy Samhain – and Happy New Year!

The Langemark Memorial: A fitting tribute to honour the Welsh war dead in Flanders

By EIFION WILLIAMS



None of his frequent visits to Flanders, Peter Carter Jones, a retired

Welsh police officer, came across a restaurant near Langemark dedicated to Welsh war dead.

The restaurant is situated on the Pilkem Ridge, where thousands of Welsh soldiers, including the poet Hedd Wyn, died in a fierce battle on what was the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele.

The owner of the restaurant, Marc Decaestecker, introduced Peter to Erwin Ureel, a member of the Passchendaele Society, a group of local people who have kept alive the memory of the battle.

Erwin told Peter there were individual monuments in the area dedicated to the fallen soldiers of Scotland, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and Canada – but not Wales.

The people of Langemark and the surrounding area have never forgotten the sacrifice of the Welsh troops who passed through their town.

On his return to Wales, Peter decided to campaign for a memorial to the fallen Welsh soldiers.

The campaign would be run jointly by a Welsh committee working closely with the Passchendaele and Langemark societies in Flanders.

Peter formed a committee of prominent Welshmen to organize a Welsh Memorial in Flanders Campaign and appealed to media outlets for support.

One of the working members of the campaign was Ivan Beatty from Cardiff who was a link between the campaign and the British Legion. He was very effective in appealing for donations from legion members.

I met with Ivan Beatty and his wife Sue while they were on a visit to Vancouver in June. Ivan gave me some commemorative items, including a photograph of the Langemark Monument, all of which will be presented to the Welsh Society on his behalf at a general meeting in September.

Ivan Beatty is enthusiastically committed to the cause of ensuring that the 40,000 young Welsh soldiers who died in the First World War will not be forgotten.

Welsh Society member Mary Slaney was fortunate to be present at the Langemark dedication ceremony and maintains it was one of the most emotional events she has ever experienced.

Mary is still amazed at how the people of Langemark and the surrounding area have kept alive the memory of those young Welsh soldiers who a century ago marched through their town and fought and died for their freedom.

The monument was dedicated on August 14, 2014, with addresses by Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones and the Minister President of the Flemish Government Geert Bourgeois.



IVAN BEATTY presented the official Langemark Memorial photo to Eifion Williams of the Welsh Society of Vancouver.

It consists of a cromlech made of four Welsh Blue Pennant stones from a quarry near Pontypridd, surmounted by a bronze red dragon designed by artist Lee Odishaw.

Ivan Beatty has since informed me that seven six-foot stones will be placed at the rear of the cromlech with slate badges of the five Welsh Regiments and two divisions who fought in the First World War.

Next year, all those nations, including Canada, whose soldiers fought in the Battle of Passchendaele, will remember their fallen in what history regards as one of the worst battles of the First World War.



THE Langemark Memorial in Flanders was dedicated on August 14, 2014, with addresses by Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones and the Minister President of the Flemish Government Geert Bourgeois.

Aberfan disaster survivors speak publicly

CARDIFF – Survivors, rescuers and journalists involved in the Aberfan disaster have spoken of their experiences publicly, many for the first time in 50 years, at a conference in Cardiff.

The event, Remembering, Forgetting and Moving On, was organised by Cardiff University's School of Journalism.

It was held as the community prepares to mark the 50th anniversary of a coal waste tip sliding on to the village school and 18 homes on 21 October 1966.

It killed 116 children and 28 adults.

People in the audience felt moved to stand up and tell their own stories after hearing from the speakers.

Yvonne Price from Merthyr Tydfil, who was one of the first four police officers at the scene, stood up and revealed she was being treated for post-traumatic stress disorder.

She said on the day of the disaster she had to climb through a window into the school as she was the only person there small enough to do so.

She said she had to clear the way for the others and spent that first day helping pass victims through the windows.

The following morning she was back at the scene, she said, and was appointed as the mortician's assistant after being asked to identify the colour of a child's eyes at the mortuary.

She recalled being given brandy all day long. She said she had kept it to herself



ON OCTOBER 21, 1966, 144 people died when a coal waste tip slid down a mountain and engulfed a school and surrounding houses in Aberfan, Wales.

for 45 years before she finally “had to get it out of my system.”

Veteran broadcaster Vincent Kane, who reported on the disaster and its aftermath, said he felt the community were betrayed by the media.

“Somehow or other after the disaster, as controversy followed controversy, a general climate of opinion developed that the surviving community appeared to be a problem, awkward, greedy and grasping troublemakers,” he said.

He said the media failed to expose the lies and say what the real problems were.

“The Aberfan community were the victims not the problem.

“The press, the media, has an abiding responsibility to probe and penetrate, in Aberfan, perhaps Wales' darkest hour in the 20th Century, we should have been passionate in pursuit of the truth. Instead, we were pedestrian.”