

Six Decades on, Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones Continue to Entertain Audiences & Commemorate Irish Patriotism




Cover Story by
Emmett Fitzpatrick Page 6

Rest in Peace Sinead O'Connor

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Do Not Adjust the Set: Adjust the Broadcaster

On April 9th, the Sunday Business Post printed a leak from the board of our national broadcaster, RTÉ, about a controversy over the appointment of the next Director General that divided the board of directors. It was far from the first time that members of the board betrayed their confidentiality obligations. But it was dramatic given the collapse of authority that characterised RTÉ's former DG's tenure and the ongoing financial crises that dog the broadcaster. Chair of the board, Siún Ní Raghallaigh, had to appear before a governmental hearing to answer for the way in which the appointment had been botched and leaked. In response, she gathered the board and had a lawyer lecture them on their obligation not to

leak. Yet she woke up to unfortunate news on Sunday, May 20th, again in the Sunday Business Post. Her stiff warning to her colleagues not to leak had been duly leaked.

If that seemed like a glimpse of how dysfunctional the national broadcaster has become, it was dwarfed by what followed in June. An audit revealed that RTÉ had considerably under-declared its payments to its highest paid presenter, the outgoing presenter of the Late Late Show, Ryan Tubridy, paying him (but not declaring) €345,000 (\$375,000) over five consecutive years, 2017-2022. These secret payments and dishonest declarations occurred in the backdrop of RTÉ imposing pay cuts on its staff. The station lied about Tubridy's salary and Tubridy said nothing in five years to correct the record. To cover the extra

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



relentless opposition will come from the staff who have been tarnished by the hypocrisy, incompetence of the management and the grotesque unfairness of RTÉ's financial policies.

One disaster has engendered another. The betrayal of public trust has made it impossible for the government to increase its funding for RTÉ or to reform the ineffective way in which RTÉ collects its television licence fees from the public. The public will vent its rage through non-payment of the television licence fees on a scale not seen since the (successful) mass protest against water charges in 2014-2017. Commercial revenue will also drain away from RTÉ due to the reputational damage. The resentment of the RTÉ executive among its staff, who must face an unsympathetic public, will deepen, making the organisation almost impossible to run.

So, what can be done? The Irish public and government do not need to imagine a national broadcaster dedicated to public service programming: we have one already in the form of TG4, the Irish language channel. Similarly, we need a public broadcaster in the English language that asks searching questions of Irish society and serves the public, not itself. So, here is a proposal for the government: dissolve the travesty that is our national broadcaster. RTÉ's grounds in Dublin 4 would sell for a fortune. That money could be used to establish a new campus, located on the outskirts of Dublin. The new broadcaster would prioritise training young people and provide them with affordable living accommodation on campus while they train. It would have a new media department to interrogate the role of public service media in the 21st century and yet another department to imagine and implement an all-Ireland media service. It would curate and digitise the archive that RTÉ neglected (or worse) over the past decades, which would be made available to the public for non-commercial use for free. Furthermore, the government would mandate the revenue commission to collect the licence fee to ensure an approximate annual budget on the condition that the broadcaster would have to run itself on that budget and without recourse to advertisement revenue. Staff, including senior management, could apply for jobs at the new national broadcaster to be remunerated on a strict civil service pay scale and pay cap. Those unhappy with such terms need not apply. Then we might just have a national broadcaster that is worthy of the name. Is it not notable that no political party, including the 'party of change', are proposing such radical measures?

The Tubridy scandal led to further governmental hearings (held by Oireachtas committees) that interrogated the RTÉ executive over three successive weeks in June and July. Nothing in RTÉ's 97-year history was as damaging as what emerged from those hearings. They unlocked a sea of corruption in the broadcaster. Bungs, baubles and perks have been passed around between the executive and its elite presenters for decades; the scale of the disclosure and the underhand methods (involving offshore 'barter' accounts) has destroyed public trust in RTÉ.

Chair of the powerful governmental Public Accounts Committee, Brian Stanley, responded: 'who set up this dodgy accountancy practices? Who set it off? Who signed off on it? And who knew about it and why?' The chair of the Media committee, Niamh Smyth TD, expressed anger at the members of her committee being 'conned and misled'. To address this geyser of scandals, seven investigations have now been established. The reports will take up to eight months to be complete and will ensure that a series of revelations about the mismanagement of RTÉ will continue throughout the rest of the year and into 2024.

On July 12th, at a governmental (Oireachtas) committee hearing, the agent for 'top talent', Noel Kelly, repeatedly blamed RTÉ for all oversight, maintaining that he was only following instructions to create invoices without any name on them and process payments through an account in London. Catherine Murphy TD retorted: 'This following instructions. It's called the Nuremberg defence'. As if their removal from reality needed to be further demonstrated, an RTÉ's 'talent', Dave Fanning, who is also represented by Noel Kelly, bemoaned on his show that evening the 'nonsensical Oireachtas Nuremberg trial'.

The new Director General, Kevin Bakhurst, took over the role on July 10th. Already Bakhurst was facing a storm of financial problems and a government that had run out of patience with RTÉ's inability to run itself. Now he faces a catastrophe on every front. The most

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incorrect, offensive to the reader or dead wrong. Phones ringing in a News Room are a regular occurrence often shattering the din from reader complaints and the daily blasting from bow and arrows journalists endure. However to set the record straight reporters do not write news headlines. This is the



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exclusive responsibility of editorial board tycoons who also spell check complaining out loud since that role is the reporter's job as well as maintaining the accuracy of their news copy.

As an award winning journalist I developed over the years a commitment when showcasing the Emerald Isle where I was born, reared, educated and harbor enormous respect for the writers, poets, artists who work and reside "at home" in the Republic.

My hat's off to those who have remained in the country preserving and expanding the nation's cultural edge. Of late my self appointed commitment is keen to keep alive on this page the ills and scandals that have plagued the Republic of Ireland for decades, aided and abetted by the Catholic Church and total silence from the Irish government.

Every so often a storm of atrocity sweeps the land, the Dial jumps into session, radio, television, and newspapers report the sordid issues and in time a group of activists and do-gooders assemble to highlight the atrocity and it's talked about on radio programs, given space on page one of newspapers and then it fizzles and life goes on.

Irish women especially have suffered for decades behind the closed doors of homes for "wayward" girls, whose family discover their unmarried daughter is pregnant and immediately rush to confine her in one of these homes. Makes sense you think, in essence her punishment, although the male responsible goes free. And, a daughter's absence eliminates or tames parental embarrassment from friends and neighbors.

An issue has recently risen exposing the Donnybrook Magdalene Laundry in Dublin. It's currently facing the limelight focusing, not for the first time and certainly won't be the last knell bell for this Magdalene Laundry operated by the religious Sisters of Charity. These nuns govern laundries utilizing the women who are locked up for their alleged sins and work long hours without compensation and often without food.

A new book on the Magdalene's has recently been published which I purchased. A tough read riddled with a nightmare litany of cruelty and abuse dumped on the inmates. None the less it must be aired in the open for a full valuation and let the rotten cascading bricks fall where they may.

To accomplish this I plunder the work of our departed brilliant poet Seamus Heaney, and borrow a stanza from his poem entitled Digging. Heaney offers a hint of apology because unlike his grandfather who could cut



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more turf from the bog than any other digger, Heaney was unable, but what he could do was write poetry digging into the hearts and souls of God and country, the spade lodged between his finger and thumb prompting his pen to do his digging. That is what I'm doing in this piece of writing, exposing the lives of women as slaves in the Irish laundries.

These incarcerated women were the power behind laundries that operated behind high walls and serviced hotels, restaurants, hospitals, elite sport shops, including the prestigious Fitzwilliam Lawn and Tennis Club in the early eighties. All these prestigious institutions benefited from the unpaid labor of the young and old women locked up in the charity-run Donnybrook institution.

The laundry was sold to a private company by the Religious Sisters in 1992 running an average annual surplus of \$826,000 in today's money market! Hence, I pledge to continue my digging. Estelle Shanley estelleshanley@aol.com

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Stolen: A Past That Will Not Stay Buried

"What I grew up with, and what I thought I believed, is chipped away a little and a little, a fragment then a piece and then a piece more. With every month that passes, the corners are knocked off the certainties of this world and the next world too. Show me where it says, in the Bible, 'Purgatory'. Show me where it says relics, monks, nuns. Show me where it says 'Pope'."

Hilary Mantel, Wolf Hall I've been browsing through old passports, wishing I had kept a better record, had asked for them to be stamped everywhere I went; but it didn't seem to be all that important then. Just being where I was, just experiencing where I was, just living in that moment where I was...that was important.

I've got an earlyish stamp from June 26th, 1977, welcoming me to Gibraltar. It's rather nice: a stylised GIB with the hint of a sun peeping out from behind the G. And that helps me to date when I stepped off the ferry from Stranraer in Scotland to Larne in Northern Ireland, because around two years would have passed. Which would make me twenty in the summer of 1979.

With a hitchhiking wanderlust by now well and truly settled in me, it never occurred that this would be my home for the rest of my life: working first in Limerick, then for many years in Dublin before heading West and settling in Co. Galway around 2001.

I loved Ireland from the first. Loved the fact that it had such a rich history and such a feeling for theatre and literature and cinema - all the things that were of interest to me. And it seemed to be a country that was on the verge of discovering a freedom and outward looking view. I didn't know then that it had only emerged from under the dictatorship of Archbishop John Charles McQuaid a mere six years earlier. And back then I loved the drinking and the women and the spirited arguing over books and films until long into the wee small hours. It was great.

It was only later, when I began to write about the country or read excellent memoirs such as transplanted-to-Oz Corkman Mike Bowen's 'A Time of Secrets' that I became aware of that dark undercurrent that was always there.

We're a few days into the Galway Film Fleadh as I write this, but already I feel that one of the most important films of the Festival must surely be the documentary 'Stolen', directed by Margo Harkin and produced by Martha O'Neill.

How could I not relate to Harkin's opening voiceover, where she talks of her love for this country whilst decrying the rotten, putrid secrets it has kept and still attempts to keep? She mirrors exactly the torn feelings I have myself -- on the one hand utterly happy with where I spent my life and on the other disgusted to the core by an unbending, inhumane Church and governments after governments that pandered to them, too craven and mealy mouthed to take a stand and - let's be honest here - making a slimy few pounds out of it as well.

We go on these days about the horror of human trafficking; well, what was this howling screaming outrage but baby trafficking? Making money from selling the children of women unfortunate enough to have become pregnant and left to the unfeeling contempt, cold hatred and even worse, indifference of those whose moral duty it was to help them.

Harkin and O'Neill give us the facts concisely and expertly, mixing archive footage in with interviews with many of the incredibly tough and articulate survivors of these mother and baby institutions. And out of it the most mind-numbingly wicked statistics emerge.

Thanks to that extraordinary historian Catherine Corliss we now know that 796 children died at Tuam, where the Bon Secours Home carried on its charitable works between 1925 and 1961.

9,000 babies are believed to have died countrywide in religious orders between 1922 and 1998.

Just two of the horrors thrown out. But what a bounty these poor women's children proved to be for evil people, once torn from their mother's arms -- mothers who would continue to work as skivvies to these 'nuns of little charity' for the rest of their days. For the big corporations and the pharmaceutical companies were apparently watching, ready to use these infants as guinea pigs for the testing of vaccines.

At a Q & A afterwards, Margo Harkin spoke of the stress she was under during the making of her fine film and of how she almost gave up. We owe her a supreme debt of thanks that she didn't. Because even now - with their latest disgraceful whitewash of a report -- every one of them involved continues to stonewall. And the Church will continue to pay out as little as it possibly can, of that you can be sure. Indeed, the report all but calls these astonishingly resilient survivors liars. To which one man in the audience told us that that he was born in Sean Ross Abbey and that his

mother was still on her knees scrubbing the floors two days before she gave birth.

Margo Harkin worried that she hadn't gotten across her feelings on the fathers. She needn't. I thought they came across well. Indeed, I thought of my own words in these pages back in 2014:

"There aren't going to be any happy endings here. No one is going to come out of this looking very good. What were the fathers of these children doing? Did they just watch and breathe a sigh of relief as their pregnant lover was dragged off to a life of misery and their child was farmed off to whoever would have it? Were the fathers' families equally relieved? Many must be alive now, having gone onto raise families of their own. Do they sometimes lie there staring into the darkness at three o'clock in the morning? Or did they buy into the Church's wicked teachings hook, line and sinker (as much for convenience as anything else) that the Wanton Woman was to blame for her tempting ways and as the descendent of Eve? Were these children and the unmarried mothers just embarrassments to be locked

away lest they 'shamed' a country that considered itself to be the land of saints and scholars?"

And looking over my notes for that period, I am reminded that Father Fintan Monaghan, secretary of the Tuam Archdiocese said then:

"I suppose we can't really judge the past from our point of view, from our lens. All we can do is mark it appropriately and make sure there is a suitable place here where people can come and remember the babies that died."

That's how warped their thinking has become. They can't or won't even recognise mass murder anymore; they can't or won't even recognise Evil.

I prefer the close to final angry words of 'Stolen', from the

actress Noelle Brown, herself born in Bessborough Mother and Baby Home in 1965 and adopted at eight weeks. In a blistering statement she said that she considered everyone involved in this, including successive governments, to be nothing other than criminals.

So do I. And I'll say again what I said almost a decade ago:

I can't recall where I first heard the expression that amounts to wishing that people would turn away from the Church and back to God; I think that it may have been from Irish playwright Hugh Leonard. But I do know this: If the Christ came back in the morning, He would look in despair at what twisted minds have caused to take place in His name.

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Six Decades On, Derek Warfield Continues to Entertain Audiences and Commemorate Irish Patriotism

Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones Set to Perform at Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival and Milwaukee Irish Fest

By Emmett Fitzpatrick
Derek Warfield has spent more than sixty years entertaining audiences with Irish music, releasing 13 best-selling albums, like Barack Obama, Joe Biden, and Enda Kenny. He was featured in the centenary commemorations of the 1916 Easter Rising at the General Post Office in O'Connell Street Dublin, at the exact time that Pádraig Pearse delivered the Irish proclamation one hundred years prior. He has been honored as the New York Society Dublin Man of The Year and the Ancient Order of Hibernians Spirit of Freedom Award winner, and he has been presented with the keys



reception.”
In 2001, Warfield left the Wolfe Tones and eventually started Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones, with a mission to “bring the old tradition of Irish balladry into a new age.” The band has released a number of albums, including last year’s “Let the Free Birds Fly,” and gained additional recognition through the aforementioned appearances in Washington, DC for the 2015 Friends of Ireland Speaker John Boehner St Patrick’s Day Luncheon and in Dublin for the 2016 centenary commemorations. They have toured Ireland extensively, including a busy summer tour this year, and continued Warfield’s globetrotting, highlighted by appearances at Irish festivals in North America and sold-out engagements in Australia.

About the Band

In explaining the success of the Young Wolfe Tones, Warfield is quick to praise the talent and dedication of his band members, and he relishes his role of bringing in their talents to create the unique sound of their music. He calls Damaris Woods, who plays banjo, the “best banjo player and artistic banjo player in the world today.” A resident of County Meath, Woods has gained critical acclaim wherever she has played and released a solo album of her own - “With A Banjo On My Knee” - which featured collaborations with Warfield and several other musicians. She also passes on her talents as a music teacher and organizer of the popular Ag Seinn Traditional Arts Camp, held annually in County Cavan.

Andreas Durkin hails from County Cavan and serves as keyboardist and vocalist for the band. He has performed as a soloist and alongside his mother, Irish country singer Kathy Durkin, and as part of his own band Cheap Whiskey. He has recorded two albums and is well known for his hit song “The Cowboy Rides Away.”

Vocalist Cormac McGuinness, from Tallaht in County Dublin, developed a love of music from his grandfather Paddy Doyle, and has toured the world as a solo artist and with the band. Warfield calls him the “festivus” of the band and credits McGuinness’s sense of humor as bringing a sprit of laughter to the group and anyone who meets him.

The youngest member of the band is Eddie Kane from County Kildare, another vocalist who also plays guitar. Kane’s mother played in a traditional Irish music band with her siblings, and he has performed with a number of other Irish singers who he had counted as influences of his musical passions.

Next Steps: Cleveland and Milwaukee

This summer, Warfield is excited to return to the Midwest to perform with the band at the Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival, which is taking place in July after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Milwaukee Irish Fest, billed as the world’s largest celebration of Celtic music and culture, in August.

“Travel is the difficult part,” Warfield acknowledged, “but the performance is the fun part. It’s hard work, but it doesn’t feel like work. I’ve been fortunate to be able to do it for a long time, and I’m always excited to perform in front of Irish communities across America and the rest of the world.”

Audiences will recognize many of the classic Irish revolutionary songs on the set lists of these performances, but as Warfield noted, “Many in the crowds do not know the reason why these songs became popular. I try to explain that in the show and communicate directly with the audience.”

This is what makes Warfield such an exceptional artist. His music not only entertains, but commemorates Irish patriotism through song.

“Other nations could express their patriotism through great institutions or memorials,” Warfield explained. “We could never do that. Our monuments are in our music, in our songs. That reveals the power of our music. I have a wonderful band and we are able to bring the music and song to their highest perfection.”

Honoring the Past, Teaching the Next Generation

Looking back on his illustrious career, Warfield takes pride that he has been able to carry on the tradition of bringing Irish music to communities around the globe, acknowledging that he has followed in the footsteps of legendary musicians like John McCormack and the Clancy Brothers, among others, who had helped to create the audiences that have welcomed Warfield for so many years.

Through the medium of song, Warfield has merged this commemoration of Irish patriotism and history with the opportunity to share this tradition with younger generations.

Warfield summed up his view of his legacy most clearly by quoting Thomas Davis, the noted Irish writer who penned the song “A Nation Once Again” before his untimely death at the age of 30 in 1845. Davis wrote:

“There’s no part of our heritage that can boast of higher claims or greater influencers than our songs and music.”



(l to r: top to bottom): Cormac McGuinness, Eddie Kane, Damaris Woods, Derek Warfield, Andreas Durkin

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Paul Dowling, (L) and Hernan Prieto (R) of Irish Community Services wishing Vice-Consul General Sarah Keating “bon voyage” as she heads back to Ireland after her successful Chicago assignment where she also served as Consul General for a lengthy period. Best of luck Sarah on your new assignment on the Old Sod!

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Saying goodbye and good luck to Irish Vice-Consul Sarah Keating at the party held in her honor at the house of Consul General of Ireland, Kevin Byrne. Pictured left to right: Sandra Hamilton, Kevin Byrne Sarah Keating, Megan Grealy, Christina Lisigakis, and Marie Leonard.

North American Festival of Wales 8-30 Thru 9-3

Registration is now open for the 2023 North American Festival of Wales in Lincoln, Nebraska, August 30 through September 3, 2023. Register through: www.nafow.org The festival hotel is the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, located at 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

We have added an Open-Air Welsh Fair outside the hotel on Wednesday evening with food, drinks and entertainment, so plan to check in early for this. If you sign up for the Thursday tour to the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center, you will return in time to walk to the Nebraska State Capitol Building for the Opening Ceremony and Flag Raising. Then it's back to the Cornhusker Marriott in time for dinner, and then a quick walk across the street to Saint Paul United Methodist Church for the Opening Concert featuring Dylan Morris and Urdd Eisteddfod winners.

Friday and Saturday during the day you will certainly find many interesting seminars and Cinema Wales offerings. And we are excited that the Welsh Folk Dancing workshop is returning to NAFOW this year. Our Theater production is a brand-new, one-man show, Carwyn, by Owen Thomas and Director Gareth Bale.

The WNAA and the North America Wales Foundation joint Heritage Award Banquet on Friday evening is for everyone, and we hope you will attend to help us honor the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center. Soloist Lisa Dafydd will entertain.

There will be Informal Singing each night, the popular Silent Auction, Marketplace, and Eisteddfod Competitions.

The Grand Concert will definitely be grand this year with a line-up of talent from Wales under the musical direction of Robat Arwyn.

On Sunday there will be two Gymanfa



sessions, with a complementary Afternoon Tea in between.

The hotel accommodations are sure to sell out, so check www.nafow.org and reserve now for this year's festival. Now is a great time to visit Nebraska if you have never been. We've done all the planning for you! Diolch yn fawr iawn!

Thank you very much! Jeanne Jones Jindra President, Welsh North American Association WNAA President Jeanne Jones Jindra

Festival rates: Rooms: \$114-\$134+ tax per night Parking: \$11.25 per day Call now to book your room: 1-888-236-2427 Group name: North American Festival of Wales. The festival hotel is ten minutes from Lincoln Airport; there is a hotel shuttle to the airport. Taxi transportation from Lincoln Airport to the hotel is about \$15-\$19. The hotel is 40 minutes from Omaha. The Lincoln Amtrak station (also known as Haymarket Station) is a short cab ride away.



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AUGUST 17 – 20, 2023
IRISHFEST.COM



Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. The articles will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products, and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us.

Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon is a law firm comprised of seven trial attorneys and four "Of Counsel" attorneys, one of whom is a solicitor from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 W. Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100) (overlooking Daley Center Courthouse). www.HealyScanlon.com. The firm concentrates on the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

Electric Vehicles and Road Trips: What You Need to Know Electric vehicles ("EVs") have risen in popularity

over the last 15 years. While only about 3% of vehicles purchased in 2021 were EVs, studies suggest that by 2050, at least 50% of vehicles purchased will be EVs. Though consumer preferences may be changing, one thing has stayed the same: road trips! If you own an EV, or if you're contemplating purchasing one, you may be wondering whether EVs have the capability to safely take you and your family to destinations all around the country. The short answer is "yes," but you should keep the following tips in mind.

Plan Accordingly Even before pulling out of your driveway, you should have already carefully planned your route because EVs' driving ranges can vary substantially. For example, the 2022 Nissan Leaf has a driving range of about 215 miles, while the 2022 Tesla Model 3 has a driving range of about 300 miles.

Based on your EV's driving range, you should map out your route, specifically pinpointing charging stations where you can refuel. Regardless of your EV's driving range, you should stick to frequently travelled interstate highways just to be safe. Even though you might want to take the scenic route, you risk running out of charge in areas where the nearest charging station might be hundreds of miles away. To help with your planning, the U.S. Department of Energy's website provides an interactive map that pinpoints all EV charging stations in the United States.

The most important tip to keep in mind, though, is to have a backup plan. Plan to encounter a charger that is broken. Plan to encounter a charger that recharges your EV more slowly than you expected. Plan to encounter a charging station that isn't compatible with your EV. This means that thoroughly mapping out only one route to your destination isn't enough. Map out two, or even three, routes to your destination: who knows, maybe your third option will be the most memorable!

Be Skeptical of Range Estimates While it's important to be aware of your EV's driving range when mapping out your road trip, your EV's actual mileage may vary.

For example, your EV may indicate that it has a range of 300 miles when beginning your road trip, but after driving 50 miles, it now indicates that it has a range of only 200 miles. This discrepancy could be due to a variety of factors. You could be driving into the wind, you could be driving through a rainstorm,

or you could be blasting your air conditioner to beat the summer heat.

For these reasons, it is crucially important to give yourself options by mapping out alternative routes. Perhaps you had planned to recharge 200 miles into your journey at a particular charging station in rural Illinois. But what happens when you encounter weather or other conditions that cause your EV to lose charge more quickly than you anticipated? If you have a few alternative routes in your back pocket, you might not be phased, but if you don't, you might be left scrambling.

Be Aware of Charging Time and Cost Unfortunately for EV owners, a significant portion of the road trip will be spent at charging stations. Before beginning your journey, you should be aware of how long your EV will take to recharge considering which type of charger you are using.

Currently, there are three levels of EV chargers. Level 1 chargers can take up to 24 hours to fully charge your EV. Level 2 chargers deliver a charge of up to 28 miles per hour and can cost anywhere from \$1 to \$5 per hour. Level 3 chargers, also known as "fast chargers," can fully recharge your EV in about 1 hour and can cost anywhere from \$10 to \$30 per charge. However, costs can vary drastically based on location and charger quality.

Make the Most of Charging Delays The thought of delaying your road trip to spend an hour recharging your EV may be frustrating and annoying. However, you can alleviate your frustration by using that time to experience the world around you.

Maybe you find a charging station in a state park where you can spend an hour hiking or throwing around a frisbee with your family. Maybe you find a charging station across from a farmers' market where you can sample local produce and take in local culture. Maybe you find a charging station across from the world's largest bale of hay that could easily lead to memorable photos that will make your family laugh for years to come.

Regardless of how you choose to spend the time that it takes your EV to recharge, you should use it to your advantage. Consider each recharging point on your map as another opportunity to relax, explore, and make memories.

Conclusion Staying safe on your EV road trip should be your top priority. This means that you should carefully plan your trip, that you should prepare alternative routes, and that you should expect the unexpected when it comes to your EV's driving range, weather conditions, and potential charging station issues.

If you are injured as a result of a car accident, malfunction, or for any other reason, feel free to contact Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon where we will work tirelessly to provide you with the compensation you deserve.

By: Timothy J. Ganshirt Timothy is a law clerk at Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon and is a second-year law student at DePaul College of Law. There, he is a staffer for the DePaul Law Review and is on the Dean's List.



Fitzgeralds to Perform in Rockford August 25

The Irish Marching Society is pleased to bring you "The Fitzgeralds" on August 25th from 7pm to 9pm at the RPL Nordlof Center, 118 N Main St., Rockford, IL 61101 as part of our ongoing Celtic Concert Series.

Canada's favorite live performance show consists of fiddling and step dancing siblings - Tom and Kerry Fitzgerald with Alanna Jenish and Graeme McGillivray.

Featuring 3-time Canadian Grandmaster Fiddle Champions and Ontario Open Step Dance Champions, this unique act features high-energy fiddling and mind-blowing step dancing. It is the rare combination of exceptional musicianship, incomparable step dancing, audience interaction, evident love of performing, and genuine sibling connection that resonates with audiences of all ages and sets this group apart.

Tickets \$25 available now at our website www.irishmarchingsociety.com or at the door. Seating limited. THIS IS A GREAT SHOW.



The Fitzgeralds to Perform in Rockford August 25

THE WOLF HOUND BAR AND KITCHEN. THE FULL IRISH... EVOKES PURE JOY... THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE. Happy Hour from 4-6! Tuesday 1/2 Price Pizza & Classes of Wine. Wednesday \$4 Sliders / 3 for \$10 \$2 Off Domestic Drafts. Thursday 1/2 Price All Appetizers \$1 Off Cans and Bottles \$4 Mimosas. Friday \$5 20oz Guinness \$5 Freshie Seltzer. 3188 N Elston Ave. www.wolfhoundchicago.com

Join the West Suburban Irish Next General Membership Meeting will be at Quigley's Irish Pub, 43 E Jefferson Ave, Naperville, IL 60540 on Monday, 8/21, 2023, 6:30pm until 7:30pm. We could use some help with Quiz Night - reach out to Matt.Jones@westsubirish@gmail.com

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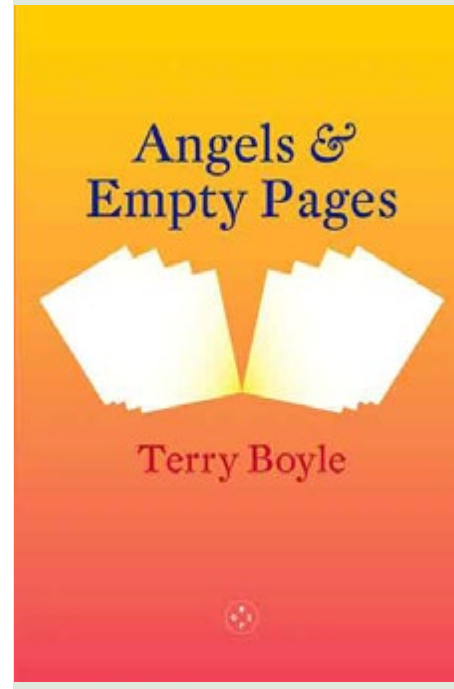
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BOOKS by Irish Authors or About Irish Subjects!

Angels & Empty Pages

By Terry Boyle
Paperback - Poetry £11.99
In times of uncertainty we desperately crave something to bring comfort to our troubled hearts.



poem, we seek to find a temporary place of refuge against the turmoil of the times. This collection of poetry is not a panacea for the ills of modern society.

It's my hope that those who read the myriad of emotional shades and colours of my own personal experiences will find comfort in knowing that we're not alone.

About the Author
Originally from Derry, Northern Ireland, Terry Boyle now resides in Coachella Valley in California.

Since 2011, Boyle has had plays produced in Chicago, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. In 2021, his poem, 'A New Economy', was selected to be included in the compilation of The Best New British and Irish Poets 2019-2021 (Eyewear Publishing).

His first collection of poetry, This Will Be, was published in 2022 by WIPF and Stock Publishers.

Boyle is also a regular columnist for the Irish American News in Chicago and Irish in Ohio.

The Day We Finally Came Back From Vietnam



This book tells the story of how the Chicago Vietnam Veterans Parade started in 1985, the planning of it and why and how it was started.

It was to WELCOME HOME Vietnam Veterans from our area both in Chicago and the Burbs, but we ended up having Vietnam Veterans, 176,000 of them, come to Chicago and march in the parade!

Written by Harry Beyne (right above) III and Roger A. McGill, (left above) this is the Untold Story of Chicago's WELCOME HOME Vietnam Veterans Parade - that took place on Friday June 13th, 1986 in downtown Chicago.

Roger was the Program Chairman for the Parade and Harry was on his committee. Harry came to Roger about 2 1/2 years ago and said that they should write a book about the Chicago Vietnam Veterans WELCOME HOME Parade and so they did.

The very best of Irish Story Telling



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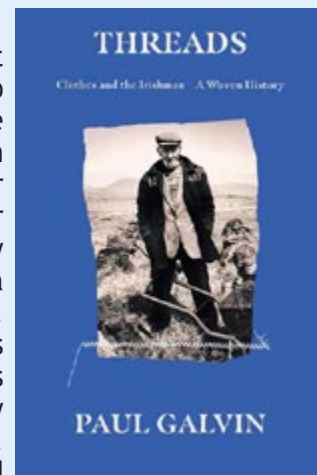
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A portion of all royalties for the books will be donated to an Irish Charity

Footballer Paul Galvin and Threads

By Mattie Lennon. "The apparel of proclaims the man." So said the Bard. And of course there is some validity in the line. What we wear tells a lot about us.



Paul Galvin was born on November 02nd 1979, in Lixnaw, County Kerry. He played Gaelic football with his local club Finuge, his divisional side Feale Rangers and for the Kerry county team between 2003 and 2014.

He also represented Ireland in the 2004 International Rules Series. As a teacher he moulded the minds of the young in his native Kerry for years. Then as a thirty year old he embarked on a new career, as a clothes designer.

Threads is a well-researched collection of the stories of Irish men who were an integral part of the culture and fashions of their time. The information he collected is assimilated and written as only a north Kerryman could do it.

brought Indian ink back from England and I stupidly, tattooed blue spots on my fingers. Why am I telling you about my defaced digits? Because until now I didn't know that Samuel F. O' Reilly, born in 1854 in Waterbury, Connecticut invented the tattoo gun.

Paul's research led him down many interesting alleyways and resulted in him going on tangents which are gems in their own right. He Tells us that Born Mad the story of Samuel Beckett, "... was born and would be told through clothing. The interesting visuals brought me to research his work and life story.

Harry's Great Grandmother was Rose A. Clancy from Kinlough City, Leitrim, who married his Great Grandfather William A Carrier. They had a Daughter Marion Carrier who married Harold F. Beyne Sr., Harry's Grandparents and they lived in Boston, MA.

The chapter Push is not just about clothes. We are given insight into the lives of the Walker brothers who cycled through a storm for Ireland at the Stockholm Games in 1912 and survived hails of bullets in 1916 and the War of Independence when fighting for Ireland's freedom.

Of his Bogman collection Paul says, "You don't hear many designers talk about bog-holes inspiring a collection... the bog is not a place for most people's creative inspiration." But Paul Galvin is not most people. He knows about the beauty of the bog. I'll bet he would agree with his near neighbour, "Sean McCarthy, who said. "The bog is not a place. The bog is a feeling. You don't grow up in the bog. You grow up with the bog."

The minute I finish this piece I promise I am going straight to Dunne's to buy something from the BOGMAN COLLECTION.

And in the meantime I'm sure Paul Galvin/Dunne's Stores will be justified in quoting the French actress, Simone Signoret, who said, "Chains do not hold a marriage together it is Threads" Don't miss this 330 pages of pure delight.



The Day We Finally Came Back From Vietnam is 73 pages in length with pictures included with the stories and what they did. The book has been published and has a copyright of 2023

Both men have an Irish connection. Roger's Mother, Margaret McHale/McGill was born in Greenaun, just North of Castlebar in Ireland. his father was born in Rosshail East, Kilmeena, Westport, both from Mayo, Ireland.

Harry's Great Grandmother was Rose A. Clancy from Kinlough City, Leitrim, who married his Great Grandfather William A Carrier. They had a Daughter Marion Carrier who married Harold F. Beyne Sr., Harry's Grandparents and they lived in Boston, MA.

We are both Vietnam Veterans. Harry served with the 101st Airborne Division in the Central Highlands of Vietnam - 1969 - 1970. I served in the 25th Infantry Division with the 3RD Squadron, 4TH Cavalry at Cu Chi, Vietnam in 1965 - 1966.

The book is available at https://store.bookbaby.com/book/the-day-we-finally-came-back-from-vietnam and Amazon.com.

Both are actively involved in VVA Chapter 242 which meets every Tuesday morning drawing in an average of 90 Vietnam Veterans per meeting."

BOOKS by Irish Authors or About Irish Subjects!

Printer's Row Lit Fest Sep., 9-10

The nonprofit Near South Planning Board announces that Chicago's Printers Row Lit Fest will present its annual two-day event 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9 and Sept. 10 at Chicago's historic Printers Row neighborhood.

The festival, the largest free outdoor literary showcase in the Midwest since 1984, showcases writers of poetry, literature, children's books and booksellers to celebrate the sharing of information and cultures.

The renowned and beloved festival is the largest gathering of book lovers between the coasts dedicated to providing a wide array of free literary programs for readers of all ages and backgrounds. The event will showcase writers of poetry, literature, children's books and booksellers to celebrate the sharing of information and cultures.

The festival stretches across five city blocks, along South Dearborn Street from Ida B. Wells Drive to

Polk Street and on Polk Street from State to Clark, and annually attracts more than 100,000 people to Printers Row, the charming and historic South Loop neighborhood that was once the printing hub of the Midwest.

Last year's event featured over 200 presenters, 70 programs (including programming for children), and 100 booksellers and exhibitors. Visitors will have front-row access to critically-acclaimed and award-winning and debut novelists, hot local fiction writers, notable nonfiction authors, and outstanding poets in addition to other literary guests.

Headliners for the 2023 festival will be 2023 Pulitzer Prize Nonfiction category winners Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa who will speak about their work "His Name Is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice." Other well-known national and local authors include New York Times Best Selling Author Chicago's Jonathan Eig, 2009 Harold Washington Literary Award recipient Dave Eggers, National Indie Bestseller

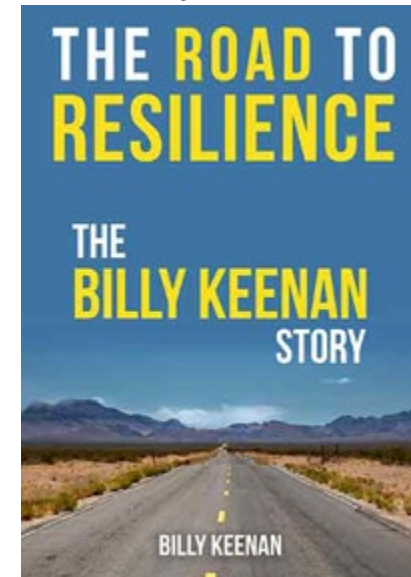


The Road To Resilience: The Billy Keenan Story

Irish American Veteran and Musician tells his story - a remarkable individual who has faced tremendous adversity and found a way forward - this book will touch and transform you

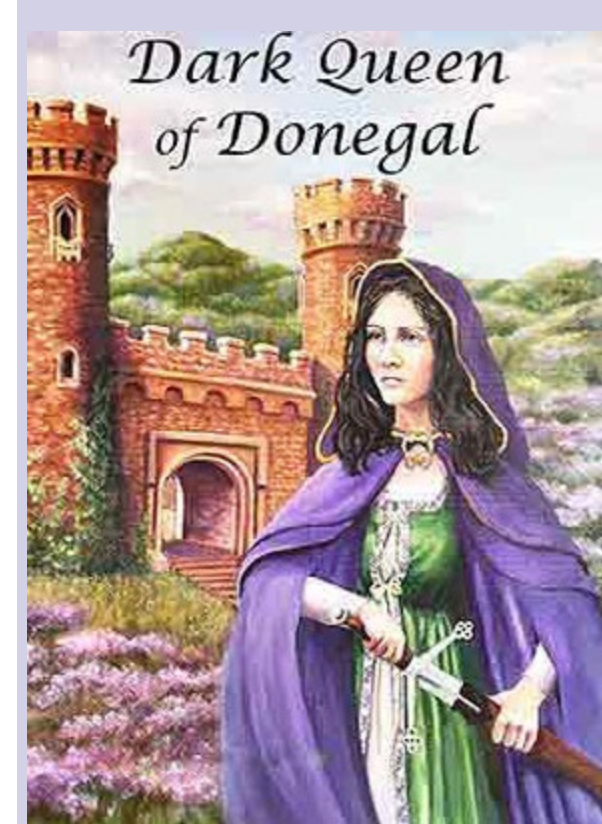
Imagine waking up from a deep sleep to the reality of a horrific situation, a reality that is your worst nightmare. Trapped in his own body and unable to move or speak, Billy Keenan learns from his hospital bed that his last memory of riding the perfect wave would be the last moment of a life he had once lived.

And, Billy Keenan had a perfect life. He was a successful teacher, Veteran, Triathlete, Musician and band leader, husband and father. A tragic accident robbed him of all of that - sadly the accident was just the beginning. In the coming years he would face betrayal, abandonment, theft and hardships that would break any man.



Get a copy of 'Road to Resilience: The Billy Keenan Story' at: https://www.amazon.com/Road-to-Resilience. In 'The Road To Resilience: The Billy Keenan

Pen Women Press Presents DARK QUEEN OF DONEGAL by Mary Pat Ferron Canes with JR Foley



"Mary Pat Ferron Canes with JR Foley brings Ineen Dubh to thrilling life, showing how a mother's love for her son shapes and transcends history.

By delving into the inner life of this Scottish Princess and Irish Queen, Canes and Foley make a legendary woman real and do their ancestors proud."

- Mary Pat Kelly, bestselling author of Galway Bay

Available on Amazon.com Barnes & Noble and Pen Women Press

DarkQueenOfDonegal.com

Radio Chicago 1490 AM advertisement with photo of Margaret O'Connor, Breege Looney and Siobhainn O'Connor

Lizzie McNeill's Irish Pub advertisement with photo of the pub interior

Fiddler's Hearth Family-Friendly Public House advertisement with map and contact info

Gaelic Imports advertisement for fresh baked soda bread, scones, meat pies, sausage rolls

Cork Author Cónal Creedan Receives USA's IP Book Award for European Non-Fiction 2023

Cónal Creedan joins an illustrious list of previous IP Literary Award winners including, Margaret Atwood (for Negotiating with the Dead: A Writer on Writing), Jaun Felipe Herrera - United States Poet Laureate, and Professor Randal Graham; University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law (for Beforelife). The Independent Publisher Book Awards is a program established in the U.S. to honor exemplary books. Selected from over 5k titles from independent publishers, including, Oxford University Press, Yale University Press, University of Washington Press, Princeton University Press, Stanford University Press, the White House Historical Assn. Cónal is an award winning novelist, playwright and a documentary filmmaker.



Cónal Creedan

Award USA 2020; Finalist in the Montaigne [Most Thought-Provoking Book] Award USA 2020. Finalist The IAN Book of the Year Award 2022, Nominated for the Dublin International Book Award 2020; Book of the Year Irish Examiner; Top Books of the Year - Liveline RTÉ Irish National Radio.

Other books by Cónal Creedan include, Cornerstone (2017), The Immortal Deed of Michael O'Leary (2015), Second City Trilogy (2007), Passion Play (1999) cited as Book of the Year BBC Radio 4, and beat off stiff competition to be the most popular book at UCC Library Winner in 2021, Pancho & Lefty Ride Out (1995), Pancho & Lefty Ride Again (2021).

Cónal's stage plays include; The Trial of Jesus (2000), which featured as part of the Irish National Millennium celebrations, received two Business to Arts Awards by President of Ireland Mary McAleese and was nominated for an Irish Times Special Judges Theatre Award 2000. Glory Be to the Father (2001), produced by Red Kettle Theatre Company, Waterford. Cónal's Second City Trilogy of stage plays achieved high acclaim from theatre critics in Shanghai, New York and Ireland. The Second City Trilogy picked up a number of awards at the 1st Irish Theatre Awards New York, including Best Actor, Best Director and was nominated Best Playwright. When I Was God, a production from the Second City Trilogy was also awarded Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor at ICA Federation Awards 2014. In 2021 it was awarded Best Production, Best Actor and

Best Director at the Irish National Play Awards.

Cónal's film documentaries achieved high critical acclaim, including shortlisted for the Focal International Documentary Awards UK and numerous broadcasts by RTÉ [Irish National Television] with international screening at New York University NYU, Féile an Phobail West Belfast Festival, World Expo Shanghai, China, Origin Theatre Festival New York, USA and the Irish National Centenary Commemorations.

Cónal has written and produced more than 60 hours of original radio drama broadcast by RTÉ, BBC, CBC, ABC. Cited as Best Radio by Irish Times radio critics 1996 and 1998.

His award winning fiction has translated into German, Bulgarian, Italian and Chinese.

In Recognition of his contribution to the Arts Cónal has received several accolades in his home city, Cork Ireland.

- Appointed Writer in Residence University College Cork (UCC) 2016.

- Appointed Adjunct Professor Creative Writing UCC 2017

- Appointed Cultural ambassador of Cork 2020

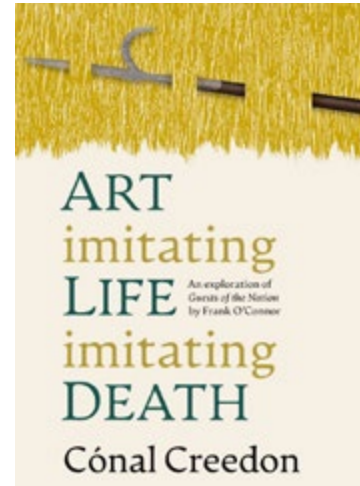
- Received the Lord Mayor's Cultural Award 2021

- His most recent collection of Short stories was honoured as One City One Book 2022 - and was the most popular book borrowed from Cork City Libraries 2022.

About The Book Art Imitating Life Imitating Death - personal exploration of Guests of the

Nation by Frank O'Connor. In 2003, Cónal Creedan was commissioned by RTÉ to adapt Guests of the Nation for radio as part of the Frank O'Connor Centenary Celebrations.

"Seduced by a narrative so deeply rooted in a culture, history and landscape so familiar to me, I was captivated by this wartime parable."



So began his personal journey to the soul of O'Connor's story - A voyage of discovery that led him on a circuitous route to the death of Major Compton-Smith during the War of Independence.

In 2012, Creedan was invited by descendants of the Donoughmore IRA to visit a series of safe-houses where Major Compton-Smith had been held. It occurred to him

that Compton-Smith's final days may have been the inspiration for O'Connor's fiction. Creedan has published his poignant recollections of that day in several articles - periodicals, newspapers and magazines.

"It was a day where painful memories of generations past were laid bare and in some cases laid to rest."

In 2020, Cónal Creedan presented his lecture, Art Imitating Life Imitating Death - An Exploration of Guests Of The Nation by Frank O'Connor at the Irish Revolutionary Period Symposium organised by the Swiss Centre of Irish Studies, Univ. of Zurich and the Zurich James Joyce Foundation. The lecture was published by Studi irlandesi. A Journal of Irish Studies, by Firenze Univ. Press (FUP) at the University of Florence, Italy.

The Rachel Incident

Meet Rachel Murray: a twenty-something living in Cork, paying for a college degree she can't use, filled with secrets she can't keep, getting swept up in relationships she nearly sabotages, and dreaming of a life she isn't sure she can have—a future that seems both frustratingly out of reach and thrillingly without limits. It all starts in a bookstore. That's where Rachel meets James Devlin, who—desperately seeking a roommate—soon after their first encounter asks Rachel to move into his flat. They get on like a house on fire. Dancing until the wee hours, stealing half-empty pints abandoned on bar tops, stealing kisses with men in alleys and cloakrooms, always ending the night together in James' bed, eating chips, often watching Will & Grace until the sun comes up. But when Rachel sets her sights on her married college professor, Fred, things get complicated: James seduces him instead. And so begins a series of secrets and compromises, of lies and half-truths, that intertwine the lives of Rachel, James, Fred, and everyone they love and want to be loved by.

Times & The Guardian, and is the host of an award-winning podcast, Sentimental Garbage. She was born in Ireland and lives in London. The Rachel Incident is her first adult novel to be published in the US.

"If you've ever had a literary internship that didn't really pay you; if you've ever contemplated



writing a screenplay with a friend; if you've ever been unsure what to do with your degree in English; if you've ever wondered when the rug-buying part of your life will start; if you've ever avoided going home or run out of things to say to your parents; if you've ever built your life and your personality around a friend; if you've ever loved the wrong person, or the right person at the wrong time... In short, if you've ever been young, you will love The Rachel Incident

like I did." - Gabrielle Zevin, New York Times best-selling author of Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow "Caroline O'Donoghue, where have you been all my life? The Rachel Incident is a transportive joy, a superhighway to young friendship. Big-hearted, witty and expertly crafted — I want to live inside this book." -Sloane Crosley, New York Times bestselling author of I Was Told There'd Be Cake and Cult Classic "By turns hilarious and heartfelt, breezy and bittersweet, The Rachel Incident is a full-throated, big-hearted romp through early adulthood." -Christina Baker Kline, #1 New York Times best-selling author of Orphan Train "Two 20-something roommates become enmeshed with an older married couple in this smart and colorful outing from O'Donoghue...In addition to the interpersonal drama, O'Donoghue pulls no punches in her depiction of the abortion crisis in Ireland during the period, showing how women either traveled abroad or resorted to illegal and potentially dangerous methods to terminate pregnancies. Key to it all is O'Donoghue's spot-on portrayal of Rachel's youthful yearning...In O'Donoghue's world, there's plenty to fall in love with." -Publishers Weekly "Delightful...This is a

like I did." - Gabrielle Zevin, New York Times best-selling author of Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow

"Caroline O'Donoghue, where have you been all my life? The Rachel Incident is a transportive joy, a superhighway to young friendship. Big-hearted, witty and expertly crafted — I want to live inside this book."

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-Publishers Weekly "Delightful...This is a

sneakily philosophical book about growing up that offers its insights with charming, effervescent ease...O'Donoghue is a unique and exciting talent, allowing her characters to puncture their solipsistic preoccupations with humor and self awareness...I galloped through this book, enchanted by its characters and its full-hearted vision of friendship. This is a book full of love, and it is extremely easy to love reading it."

-Chloe Schama, Vogue Book available at penguinrandomhouse.com

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Why it's Important to Embrace the Stories That Don't Have Tidy Outcomes

By Sally Blount, President & CEO, Catholic Charities

At Catholic Charities, we love sharing stories of our success... the young single mother who secures safe housing for herself and her three small children; the lonely senior who finds not just a new apartment, but new friends and a supportive community; the mourning family, with no savings and a lot of debt, who is able to bury their beloved grandmother with dignity. These stories of good news fuel us all because they are wonderful testaments to what can happen when we join in witness to our faith. It is equally important to remember, though, that we also see countless stories every day that are not so easily told: the woman experiencing domestic violence who isn't ready to leave; the veteran who stops by our employment services booth but never answers our follow-up calls; the migrant family who continues their journey, not yet trustful of their safety. Just as much as we

celebrate the happy stories, it's also important that we recognize and tell the stories that are not so tidy. Because it is in these stories that we truly witness the courage and perseverance that the calling of compassion requires.



Courageous compassion demands that we welcome and serve all with open hearts and empathetic ears, with the understanding that even after our hard work (and your donations), we may not make a tangible difference. People's circumstances may not be improved.

Dorothy Day wrote "the Gospel takes away our right forever to discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving poor." It also takes away our right

to demand the results from serving that we want for them.

This is not to say that our services are delivered without the highest quality care, nor without the fact-based expertise and faith-fueled hope that we will have an impact. Quite the opposite: daily, we minister to people with the care of our best counselors and therapists, we fill grocery carts with healthy food, we make sure new mothers have the parenting support they need. And still, despite our prayers, our hard-won experience and wisdom, and the dozens of hours and hundreds of dollars spent, there are no promises that we will get the outcome that we want, or that you want, for each of the people we serve.

In serving others, we must have the humility to remember that the ultimate outcomes are in Christ's

hands, not ours. Courageous compassion in answering His call means we serve without the expectation of a praiseworthy result or a feel-good story. We serve simply to witness—to witness our love for Christ and our neighbor.

At the Mother House for the Missionaries of Charity, there is a poster that says: Remember that it is Christ who works through us—we are merely instruments for service. It is not how much we do, but how much love we put into the doing.

As we serve and accompany those in need, it is important to remember: it is not about how much we do, nor how many good stories we get to tell because of our good works. It is about having the courage to show up each day, ready and willing to love and to serve, even when things don't go our way; even when we're tired and disappointed, and the stories aren't tidy.

That is courageous compassion and that is our calling at Catholic Charities. We are the arm of the Church that opens our doors each morning with only one agenda: to accompany and serve the vulnerable, the hungry, and the lonely.

We welcome you to join us—we welcome you into the messiness of service and love.

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Game On!
By Chris Wheaton

The beginning of July was very exciting in the world of GAA as well as my personal life. Two fantastic senior hurling semi-finals showed that as much as things change, they always remain the same. The Green Giant, Limerick, will be shooting for their 4th consecutive All-Ireland title as they dismantled a strong Galway panel who started quickly but at the end were no match to the green powerhouse, falling 2-24 to 1-18. The other semi-final matchup was one for the ages and neither Kilkenny nor Clare was going to lay down. The back-and-forth match was a war of attrition but in the end, Kilkenny prevailed over a Clare panel that just can't seem to get over the hump. Like last year's semi-final, Kilkenny came out on top 1-25 to Clare's 1-22.

Football is also heating up on the road to the All-Ireland Championship and the semi-finals will pit Dublin vs. Monaghan and Kerry vs. Derry. Those games scheduled for July 15 and 16 will be in the book by the time you are reading this but if I had to predict an outcome, I would say that we are headed for a Kerry vs. Dublin final with the heavily favored Dublin winning their 7th championship in the past 10 years. I will be cheering for Kerry but I'm afraid that the Dubs are too strong.

Locally, the USGAA decided that the Heartland Division had to have a "play-in" hurling tournament to decide who will be representing the division at the North American Championships in August. A round robin was held at Gaelic Park on July 8 and Milwaukee and Indianapolis advanced to Colorado for the tournament with Naperville and St. Louis having to wait until next year.

Sport is a great diversion from "life" sometimes and the comradery of the GAA community is alive and strong in the Chicago area. The Limerick youth have had big numbers coming to their training sessions and the action at Gaelic

Park every weekend with the Chicago GAA matches is very exciting. You all should try and take an afternoon and head out there to see some high-quality football being played.

My diversions lately have been both exciting and a bit scary. My oldest and middle daughters, Phoebe and Olivia both got engaged within a span of two weeks and we couldn't be happier with the paths their lives are taking. It will be harder to find time to play hurling as wedding plans heat up, but it is well worth the sacrifice. Remember, we all need to focus on what is truly important in our lives and I hope all of you feel the same way about family as I do. Our Naperville GAA "family" is alive and well, but sport can never be a substitute for flesh and blood.

I make these comments about keeping sports in perspective because as upset as I am sure the Clare and Galway faithful were, it is still only a game. The sun rose brightly in both of those counties the day after their defeats and within a few days, life will go on as usual with hope for a better hurling future. I take this "realist tone" because a member of the Naperville Hurling Club, is being deployed on what the United States Army calls a nine-month mission. Lt. Jack Hamman is a handy hurler who helped our club with his strength, fitness, and desire to always improve his skills. He was an integral part of our club until he was transferred to Fort Cavazos (formerly Fort Hood). Jack, who happens to be my future son in law ships out tomorrow to a location I am not allowed to mention but it would not be on anyone's ideal vacation lists. God Speed to Lieutenant Hamman and know that we will be praying for you and your safe return.

I promised my friend Terry O'Dowd and all the West Suburban Irish that I would remind everyone that Naperville Irish Fest is fast approaching. Mark your calendars for September 22 and 23 for a fun filled, Irish weekend at Naperville's Central Park.

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Limerick Raise the Liam McCarthy Cup and Rise Once More to the Top

By David McDonnell I'll start off with an admission.



For my money, this Limerick hurling team is the greatest side to grace the game of hurling. And after what has been a most entertaining championship, for the fourth year in succession it is again the men in green, who were raising the Liam McCarthy Cup under the Hogan Stand.

They say you never meet a poor bookie and even when Kilkenny led by six points early in the second half of the All-Ireland final, Limerick were still favourites to win. I know because I checked as they champions then proceeded to blow the doors off in a scintillating display where they scored 21 second half points.

With 10 minutes to go, the game was over as a contest and it had that eerily familiar feel as they had also whipped up a second half hurricane against Galway in the semis.

This Limerick side have now become the third hurling team in history to win four titles in a row. This year they had to do it the hard way as all year the other contenders played their best games of the year against the champions. Cork were short by a point, Tipperary earned a draw and Clare overcame them by a point in the Munster round robin before Clare tipped them by a point in the Munster final.

In every one of those games, they trailed at half time before tipping the scales in their favour in the second half. Limerick are a side with incredible hurling ability coupled with a boatload of experience in getting over the line in tight games. Back in 2018, when Limerick won their first All-Ireland title since 1973, very few people would have predicted just how dominant they would become across the hurling landscape.

Of the 15 players that ended the famine in 2018, 12 were on the field in the 2023 decider with the other three Declan Hannon, Brian Finn and Ritchie English all missing out through injury.

Still the team has a youthful streak running through the side with Kyle Hayes and Seamus Flanagan both 25 and man of the match in the final Peter Casey, at 26, still with their best years ahead of them. Underage phenom Cathal O'Neill was the best young hurler in the championship this season is under 21 and with the talents of Adam English and Shane O'Brien primed to be the next two off the production line, this Limerick side isn't going away any time soon.

So what makes this Limerick side great? Number one for me is their high skill levels and one of the ways this team stands out from the rest is their ability to play the ball from defence through the lines of the field as their primary pattern of attack. Limerick are almost like a football team in how they can move the ball up the field.

Most of the teams in the country do not have this ability or are willing to risk getting turned over in their own half.

Secondly it is their decision making. There is no better side getting the ball accurately in front of their full forward line to create one-v-one matchups that are a nightmare to defend. This comes from brilliant coaching and they have the inside forwards to do the damage.

Thirdly is their size and physicality. They have huge

men all over the field who can hurt and their half back line for the final two matches comprised of Diarmuid Byrnes, William O'Donoghue and Kyle Hayes. Both in the final and semi final they larded the opposition's puckout in the second half of both games, which gave their team a platform to dominate.

Fourth is their half forward line of Gearoid Hegarty, Cian Lynch and Tom Morrissey. Earlier in the championship it was Morrissey who scored four or five points every game allied with a huge workload around the field. In the final, it was Lynch who conducted the Limerick attack when the need was greatest. It was the winning of the game as Kilkenny needed to be further ahead at the turn after playing with a strong wind advantage in the first half.

And I haven't even mentioned Aaron Gillane, who is likely to take the Hurler of the Year honours later in the year.

They say you can't win anything with a team of choirboys and there aren't too many choirboys in this team. In the league this year, it seemed every week a Limerick player was out due to suspension but as the stakes got raised during the season their levels of discipline improved dramatically.

They are worthy champions and their brand of hurling is magnificent to watch. Right now, it is difficult which team can make up the ground to unseat them from their throne.

There is not much difference between the next five or six contenders with Clare arguably best placed to do so.

They were the only side to win against Limerick in what was an epic Munster Championship, where record crowds filled stadiums across the province and it seemed every game went down to the wire.

Shane O'Donnell was in majestic form throughout the year and they have put Limerick to the pin of their collar a number of times in recent seasons. They would have made the final this season only for a ridiculous save from Kilkenny's Eoin Murphy at the death in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Tipperary improved significantly after a disastrous 2022 campaign. Liam Cahill had them motoring well throughout the Munster Championship and new finds Alan Tynan and Gearoid O'Connor added pace and physicality in their forwards. Their best performances of the campaign saw them draw with both Cork and Limerick in titanic contests. Still, they are short and it is hard to explain their poor showing against Galway against Henry Shefflin's Galway side in the quarters. Still they look a side going places and if Liam Cahill can get a few players like Ciaran Connolly and Ger Browne off the injured list and introduce a young talent of Sean Keneally from the Under-20 side, Tipp could surprise a few teams next year.

It was a decent campaign for Galway who lost the Leinster final when Cillian Buckley scored a last gasp goal for Kilkenny. They went to beat Tipp more convincingly than the scoreline suggested and outthured Limerick for 25 minutes in the semis. However, when Limerick raised the temperature in the second half, Galway couldn't live with the champions.

Kilkenny remain seriously competitive and Eoin Cody is now their most dangerous forward. They still rely too much on the prowess of TJ Reid who will be 36 next summer. They have had a successful season making both the League and All-Ireland finals but Derek Lyng will need to unearth some new players in the club season to bridge the gap to Limerick.

Cork were very competitive all year and had they scored one extra point against Tipp, Clare or Limerick in the Championship this season, then they would have got out of Munster. Their best performance of the summer was against Limerick, where they finished a point adrift at the final whistle.

Dublin, Waterford and Wexford all had seasons to forget and are better than what they showed in this year's championship.

For my Team of the Season, I went with: Eoin Murphy (Kilkenny); Padraic Mannion (Galway), Huw Lawlor (Kilkenny), Barry Nash (Limerick); Diarmuid Byrnes (Limerick), Daithi Burke (Galway), Kyle Hayes (Limerick); William O'Donoghue (Limerick), Darragh O'Donovan (Limerick); Shane O'Donnell (Clare) TJ Reid (Kilkenny), Tom Morrissey (Limerick); Aaron Gillane (Limerick), Conor Whelan (Galway), Eoin Cody (Kilkenny).

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This month I'd like to highlight the love story of one of the 1916 Easter Rising Leader's Joseph Plunkett and his bride Grace Gifford-Plunkett. Plunkett was a nationalist from Dublin and a poet. He studied Irish, Arabic and the Esperanto language. Esperanto was intended to be a universal second international

language. Brazil has the most speakers of the Esperanto language. Grace Gifford was from Dublin, one of twelve children. She was raised protestant but after meeting Plunkett in school she converted to Catholicism. I'm sure you have heard of other famous love stories such as



GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

By **TINA BUTLER**



Prince Rainier of Monaco & Grace Kelly. Grace was a Hollywood actress who left the movies to marry her Prince. Monaco is a principality near Italy and France. They speak French in Monaco. It's a small place, roughly 40,000 people, it's smaller than Central Park in New York. As I write, NASCAR is about to have auto racing on the streets of Chicago. And Monaco is famous for its Annual Grand Prix Formula 1 Motor Race.

Shah Jahan (Pakistan) and Mumtaz Mahal (India-Persian parents) This was in the 16c, Shah Jahan was the emperor's son and he wanted to marry Mumtaz Mahal who was from a noble Persian family. They married and while she was giving birth to their fourteenth child, she tragically died in childbirth. Jahan had the Taj mahal built in her honor. It took 20 years to build the mausoleum. The marble is exquisite, it changes colors throughout the day. It's one of the seven wonders of the world.

Getting back to Joseph and

Grace include the Dubliners and Rod Stewart. Most love stories are not so tragic, but all love stories, good relationships, have their ups and downs, but real love conquers all. "Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth." Corinthians

There is a series on Netflix called, Rebellion, it's about the 1916 Easter Rising.

I'd like to add, A big warm thank you, to anyone who said a prayer for my health, prayer works...

Smidin Gaelige
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True- fior,
Loss- caillteanas
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"True love stories never have endings." Richard Bach

"We have to learn that freedom imposes responsibilities" Michael Collins

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St. Johns, Antigua & Barbuda	17 JAN 24	WED	Arrive 8am Depart 5pm
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Fort Lauderdale Florida	24 JAN 24	WED	Arrive 7am

Folk-Rock Duo the Kennedys to Release New CD, Headwinds 8/25

"If you get a charge from a rich folk rock vibe, love a super sharp guitar lick, or appreciate a moving story song, you will find all of that on The Kennedy's Headwinds. Pete Kennedy's astonishing range on any guitar he touches deftly underpins every mood of Maura Kennedy's warm, lyrical voice. You'll get no resistance from these Headwinds, only pleasure." - Marilyn Rea Beyer, Host, WFMT's The Midnight Special & Folkstage

mastered the tracks himself. For the songwriting pair, it's a strong return to the studio and stage after three years of weekly live-streamed, lockdown-era concerts. They took the opportunity to explore classic songwriting in depth, performing over a thousand songs during the pandemic. That vast overview strengthened and refined their own writing and laid the foundation for this new collection of original, socially conscious songs. "After such a deep dive into American roots music, we felt like we had a new set of writing tools," says Maura. "We were ready to create this body of work, and there's just so much to write about. During our five-year hiatus



from writing and recording, America changed in massive ways, divisive ways that have shaken our whole foundation.

and manta rays cruised in the crystalline water. The strong tailwind propelled them to their destination, a tiny island called Pigeon Key. Relaxing on the sand, they shared lunch and talked about the difficulty of emerging from the twin crises of the pandemic and political chaos: their own personal emergence and the nation's emergence, as well. Both situations, they agreed, were a sort of difficult, even hazardous, journey toward a place of comfort, security, and refuge. After lunch, they biked back toward Marathon Key, and Maura noticed that, due to headwinds, she was pedaling twice as hard as she did on the way out. That was the moment when her songwriting instinct kicked in. "Our love of the great things about this country, things that are under threat, is the reason we decided to

That has to be addressed by creative artists, those of us who have a voice to speak for others."

In addition to singing and writing, Pete and Maura are multi-instrumentalists. The 13 songs are cast in a soundscape that draws from the classic canon of American roots, in keeping with the theme of getting back "home" as a nation. Acoustic and electric guitars, a vintage steel guitar, a gospel-inflected piano/organ mix, and even a slide ukulele all add colors to a songbag of sounds that have drawn us together during hard times. Pete and Maura believe that those sounds still have the power to pull us through again.

The first single, the title track "Headwinds," will be released on July 21st, with the song and its accompanying video premiering earlier that week at Americana UK. The song, and the album's title, were born on a clear day, with blustery winds blowing from the east, when Maura and Pete were riding bicycles on a rail trail in the Florida Keys. The old, overseas trestle had been partially destroyed in the hurricane of 1935, but on this sunny day the two cyclists could ride out on the remaining section, with the turquoise glisten of the Gulf of Mexico on their right, and the darker Atlantic on their left. Underneath the trestle, sharks

make "Headwinds" the title track of the album," says Maura. "Political and social headwinds are making it hard to get back 'home' to our greatness as a nation. We want to push back in a positive way against those winds. The title refers to the re-emergence, on both a personal and a cultural level, of our generation from the twin crises of the pandemic and political turmoil, and our collective challenges in the realm of ecological sustainability." The Kennedys are always direct without being preachy, opting instead to paint a picture or tell a story and allow the listener to come to their own conclusions.

Maura grew up in Syracuse, NY, while Pete grew up in Arlington, VA. The pair met in Austin, TX, where Maura was based in the early '90s, and they were subsequently based in the DC area as well as the East Village in New York City for many years, before settling in the Hudson Valley. The Kennedys began their writing and touring life three decades ago as members of Nanci Griffith's Blue Moon Orchestra, developing their own sound as a frequent support act on Griffith's tours across America, Ireland, Scotland, and England. "We were both writing independently before we met in the early '90s, and we found that we had great, effortless chemistry when writing together," remembered Maura. Collaborations with Griffith continued, both on-stage and co-writing songs, culminating in Pete and Maura producing her final album, Intersections. Along the way, they hosted a nationwide radio program, "The Dharma Cafe," on SiriusXM, wrote and released 16 albums of original music, and have been core artists on folk radio, expanding their audience further with the inception of the AAA and Americana formats.

Their album, River of Fallen Stars (1993) was named Best Adult Contemporary Album by the National Association of Independent Record Distributors. They were bestowed dozens of Wammie Awards during their time based in Washington, DC, including Artist of the Year, Musician of the Year, and Song of the Year. The couple was also proud to serve as Artists in Residence at the Kennedy Center.

The Kennedys tour this summer in advance of and in support of Headwinds <https://www.kennedysmusic.com>.

They are taping segments for or appearing on SiriusXM's The Village, Acoustic Cafe, WFUV's Sunday Supper, WFMT's Folk Stage, WLRN, and WPKN, among others.

High Kings New Album, 'The Road Not Taken'

The High Kings, Finbarr Clancy (Tipperary), Darren Holden (Kilkenny), Paul O' Brien (Laois) and Brian Dunphy (Dublin) known collectively as Ireland's

Script, Kodaline, Picture This, Sharon Corr, Wild Youth, JC Stewart and Ryan Sheridan. The album also includes guest appearances from international artists

world. It's been a few years in the making and we are truly honored to have worked on it with some of the best musicians in the business. Folk Music is such a huge part of Irish heritage and to create new stories and songs for future generations has been such a pleasure. We can't wait

to hear our fans singing them back to us". "The album represents an important milestone in the landscape of Irish folk music. Their unique sound, shaped through this collaborative effort, is set to appeal to longtime devotees and newcomers alike. www.thehighkings.com



most successful modern-era folk act, are thrilled to announce their latest album 'The Road Not Taken.'

The High Kings, renowned for their captivating harmonies and timeless melodies, return with their eighth studio album, with a collection of original songs that breathe new life into traditional folk music, blending the old with the new.

'The Road Not Taken' is a groundbreaking collaborative effort, co-written and produced with some of Ireland's most respected and popular artists. This includes household names such as The

such as legendary 'Journey' frontman Steve Perry, making it a genuine feast of global music collaborations.

The album features their recent hit songs 'Chasing Rainbows' and 'Streets Of Kinsale,' marking the band's first full original album. This compilation reflects the strength and diversity of Irish music, bringing together for the first time its most influential artists in an unprecedented celebration of Irish folk music.

Speaking about their new album, The High Kings said "We are so excited to release this original album of songs to the



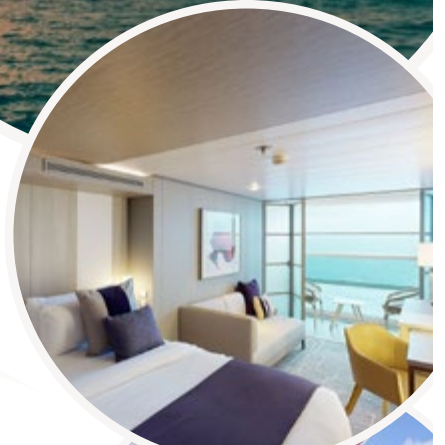
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CHICAGO GAELIC PARK IRISH FEST 2023



Friday, August 25 - Sunday, August 27

Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Fest Is Back for the First Time since 2019!

We will host continuous music on 3 stages all 3 days. We're very excited to welcome visiting Irish bands (Boxing Banjo, Lisa Canny, The Chancers, and Gaelic Brew) for the first time. We will be introducing The Wild Colonial Bhoys from Minnesota and welcoming back the great Canadian singing and dancing family, The Fitzgeralds, along with fest favorite, JigJam. We like to cater to all the varied musical tastes of our community, and we know Country Western fance will love local favorite, Myles McVeigh & The Hoyle Brothers and upcoming Nashville star, Clayton Shay. Dancing Queen: An ABBA Salute and 4CAST will cover all of your favorite songs! The full schedule can be found here and on the Irish Fest website.

We continue the tradition of free parking with a preferred parking option available for \$10 each day. We love to see different generations of families enjoying a day at Gaelic Park. Those with wee ones can visit our Children's Tent where we will have DJs for dancing, bubbles, "fun directors", and a selfie booth. We'll have another tent with magic shows and face painters as well! Vendors will be present to offer their products for shoppers, and the Performing Arts Stage will host different shows on Saturday and Sunday in the Celtic Room. The best place to purchase tickets is online, but admission at the gate be \$20 each day with free admission for those 12 and under.

We look forward to starting a new tradition and creating new memories for our great supporters, and we would love to see you there!

John Devitt, Fest Chairperson

You'll Be Hearing the Sounds of...

Seven-time All-Ireland champion on harp and banjo, Mayo-born and bred **Lisa Canny** began her career touring the U.S., Canada, Russia and Europe extensively as lead singer with groups Celtic Crossroads and The Young Irishlanders, playing to live crowds of over 50k and appearing on two PBS specials.

As she began to write her own material, Lisa found that she was inspired as much by contemporary music genres like pop and electronica as she was the Irish traditional and folk music she was brought up on. Combining these elements, Lisa's original music is unlike anything else.



Lisa Canny

Hailing from the picturesque west coast of Ireland, **Boxing Banjo** has quickly become one of the hottest musical properties around. Comprised of four of the most accomplished Irish musicians, brothers Darragh and Mícheál Healy along with Joseph McNulty and Sean O'Meara have amassed in excess of 20 Irish Championship titles on various instruments in traditional Irish music and singing along with four World bodhrán titles.

Having made their debut in the U.S. in 2019, the band has acquired a legion of devoted followers who have been spellbound by their energy, charisma and musicianship. Described by the Irish Echo as "complete naturals on stage", their live shows exude a feel-good factor which persuades the inner dancer and vocalist in every audience member.



Boxing Banjo

Wild Colonial Bhoys—The Irish-American band from Minnesota (of all places!) has a sound that is a blends of old Irish traditions handed down through the generations, with modern American rock that inspired them to make music from the time they were just wee lads.

In recent years, the Bhoys have performed everywhere from their native state to New York to Las Vegas to Ireland and Scotland, Jordan, Kuwait and Qatar.

Their shows are a rollicking good time, the music is tight and the banter is lively. They've honed their craft over their 15-year career, and their 10 albums give them plenty of material to draw on!



Wild Colonial Bhoys

When virtuoso Irish playing jumps the pond running naked through the wide open fields of bluegrass/Americana **JigJam** is born. Bluegrass and American Folk music originated from their homes, and now JigJam is here to take it back! This Offaly and Tipperary born band have started The first wave of attack in the new Irish invasion of Americana!

They made their US debut at Irish Fest 2017 and have visited us many times since! We're counting down the days until we see them next.



JigJam

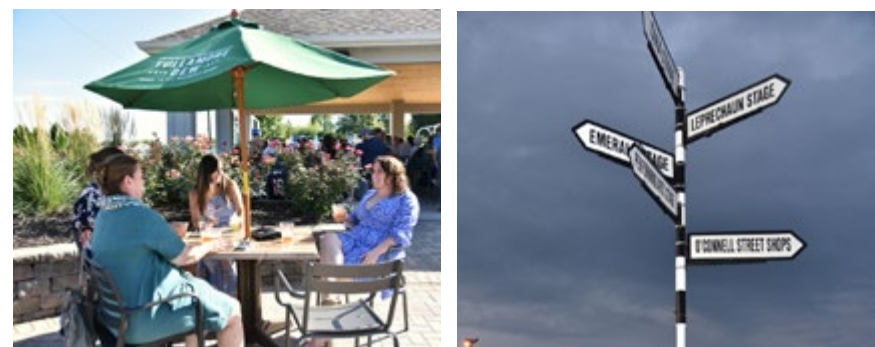
The Fitzgeralds ARE BACK! They're a family group consisting of 3-time Canadian Grandmaster Fiddle and Step Dance champions - Tom, Kerry & Julie. The band has evolved to include a wide variety of material in their performances, including Celtic fiddle pieces, high-energy step dancing, and a strong focus on original compositions and arrangements. It is the rare combination of musicianship, mind-blowing step dancing, audience interaction, and genuine sibling connection that sets this group apart.



The Fitzgeralds



Website & Tickets



Clayton Shay

Liam Durkin

SCHEDULE

Friday 4-11pm ● Saturday 3-11pm ● Sunday 3-11pm

FRIDAY

CELTIC STAGE

Clayton Shay.....5:00
Lisa Canny.....7:00
Boxing Banjo.....9:00

CROSSROADS STAGE

Liam Durkin.....4:00
Lisa Canny.....5:15
Cross Keys Irish Dance.....6:30
Sullivan Irish Dance.....7:15
Clayton Shay.....8:30
Gaelic Brew.....9:45

PATIO STAGE

Gerry Haughey.....4:00
Gaelic Brew.....5:15
Liam Durkin.....7:15
Larkin & Moran Brothers.....9:15

PERFORMING ARTS STAGE

Gaelic Park Players.....3:30
Wildflower.....4:00
Irish Temple Players.....5:00
"The Confirmation Suit".....6:00
"First Confession".....6:30
"The Irish Storyteller".....7:00
Gaelic Park Players Imprpov.... 8:00

SATURDAY

CELTIC STAGE

Lisa Canny.....3:00
The Fitzgeralds.....5:00
Dancing Queen.....7:00
An ABBA Salute
4CAST.....9:00

CROSSROADS STAGE

The Dirty Wellies.....3:15
Wild Colonial Bhoys.....4:30
Lisa Canny.....5:45
Gaelic Brew.....7:00
The Fitzgeralds.....8:15

PATIO STAGE

Blackbird Irish Dance.....3:00
The Chancers.....3:45
The Dirty Wellies.....5:45
Wild Colonial Bhoys.....7:45
Gaelic Brew.....9:30

PERFORMING ARTS STAGE

Gaelic Park Players.....3:30
Wildflower.....4:00
Irish Temple Players.....5:00
"The Confirmation Suit".....6:00
"First Confession".....6:30
"The Irish Storyteller".....7:00
Gaelic Park Players Imprpov....8:00

SUNDAY

CELTIC STAGE

The Fitzgeralds.....3:00
Boxing Banjo.....5:15
JigJam.....7:15
Wild Colonial Bhoys.....9:30

PATIO STAGE

Lavin Cassidy Irish Dance.....3:00
The Chancers.....4:00
Clayton Shay.....6:00
Myles McVeigh.....8:15
& The Hoyle Brothers

CROSSROADS STAGE

Clayton Shay.....3:00
JigJam.....5:15
Wild Colonial Bhoys.....7:45
Mullane/Godley Irish Dance...4:15
Myles McVeigh.....6:30
& The Hoyle Brothers
Boxing Banjo.....9:00

Get ready for a euphoric journey to the Emerald Isle at Irish Fest 2023, where the air will be filled with the enchanting tunes of Celtic music and the rhythm of dancing feet. This weekend-long extravaganza is lined up with an unprecedented ensemble of Irish bands, dance schools, and artists who will bring the true essence of Irish culture to the forefront.

6119 W. 147th St. Oak Forest, IL 60452

Free Parking!



The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago

50th Anniversary Irish Fellowship Club Golf Outing Honors Gene Callahan

recognize all that Gene Callahan has done for the Irish Fellowship Club. As Golf Chair for over 40 years, Gene consistently led outstanding committees at some of Chicago's leading golf courses and ensured successful fundraising for our Education and Cultural Foundation, supporting Catholic High Schools across the Chicago and Joliet dioceses. I want to thank this year's chair, John Wrenn, for his leadership of the very successful 50th Anniversary event we had this year."

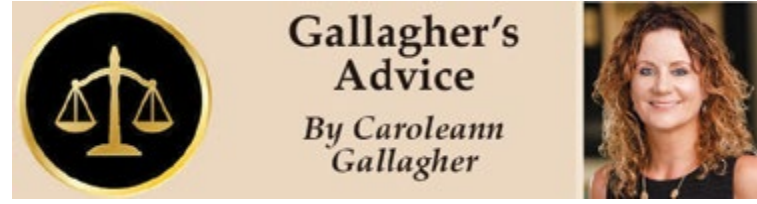
The event began with a shotgun start followed by 18 holes in beautiful weather on a stellar course. Golf concluded at a cocktail reception with awards and a special presentation to Gene Callahan. Ridgemoor Country Club's pro announced the winners, including Club First Vice President, Jim Coyne, and his foursome as the 1st Place Team. John Wrenn saluted Gene Callahan for his leadership of the Golf Outing for over 40 years and his service to the Irish Fellowship Club as President, Chairman and Chair of the Nominating Committee. Said John, "It is my honor to recognize Gene Callahan for his significant leadership of many aspects of the Irish Fellowship Club, particularly our annual Golf Outing. Gene has been a role model of service. His commitment to the success of the Club is most appreciated by the current and past leadership. "Thank you, Gene for all you have done and continue to do in support of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago." Gene shared a few stories of fun and hijinks at previous outings and thanked all those he worked with on those committees through the years."

IFC Executive Director Kathy Taylor commented, "Thanks to our golfers and hole sponsors, this year was one of our most successful Golf Outings. Many of our hole sponsors recognized Gene Callahan's leadership of the Outing and celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Outing. We are also grateful to our Raffle Prize donors and ticket buyers for their support of the Irish Fellowship Club."

Photos by Michael Kardas, kardas@kardasphotography.com

For 50 years, the Irish Fellowship Club has been hosting members and friends for an annual tradition of golf and fellowship. This year's event on July 17 was a special afternoon honoring long-term chair, Gene Callahan and thanking him for his contributions not only to the Golf Outing but to the Irish Fellowship Club. A sold-out crowd of golfers enjoyed the gorgeous afternoon at Ridgemoor Country Club and additional friends and guests celebrated with Gene and his family at the evening cocktail party. Said IFC President Bob Flood, "This was a wonderful opportunity to





Gallagher's Advice
By Caroleann Gallagher

Personal Injury Claims In Illinois: Understanding the Implications of Signing Waivers at Play Places

Indoor play places have become increasingly popular for families seeking entertainment, especially during the winter season where outdoor spaces may be limited. These facilities offer a wide range of activities designed to keep children engaged and entertained, while also providing for a fun time for the whole family. Unfortunately, accidents can happen and injuries can occur, raising questions about liability and personal injury claims.

One common practice among indoor play places is requiring visitors to sign liability waivers before allowing them to participate in activities. These waivers are intended to protect the facility from legal action in the event of an injury. In this article we will explore the implications of signing waivers in indoor play places in the context of personal injury claims in the state of Illinois.

Understanding Liability Waivers
Liability waivers are legal documents where an individual acknowledges and accepts the potential risks associated with participating in a specific activity. By signing such waivers, individuals agree not to hold the facility responsible for any injuries sustained during their visit. Indoor play places often require parents or guardians to sign these waivers individually, and on behalf of their children.

Enforceability of Waivers in Illinois
Although waivers are commonly used in various recreational activities, their enforceability can vary by jurisdiction. In Illinois, the enforceability of liability waivers is subject to specific legal consideration. The Illinois Supreme Court has established certain principles that must be met for a waiver to be deemed valid and enforceable:

1. The waiver must not violate public policy or involve intentional misconduct, gross negligence, or willful and wanton conduct;
2. The waiver must be clear and explicit in its language, leaving no room for ambiguity or misinterpretation; and

3. The individual signing the waiver must have had an opportunity to understand its terms and voluntarily consent to its provisions.

Illinois courts have consistently ruled that waivers cannot absolve facilities from liability for their own negligence. This means that even if a waiver is signed, the facility can still be held accountable if it fails to uphold a reasonable standard of care, resulting in injuries.

Limitations of Waivers
Signing waivers at indoor play places in Illinois does not absolve facilities from all liability in the event of injuries caused by their negligence. While waivers may limit an individual's ability to bring a personal injury claim, they cannot shield the facility from its duty to provide a safe environment. If a facility fails to uphold its duty of care and someone were to be injured as a result, individuals may still pursue a personal injury claim and seek compensation for their injuries.

Parents and guardians should always exercise caution when signing waivers and thoroughly assess the safety measures and practices implemented by indoor play places.

If you suffered an injury at a facility after signing a waiver, it is important that you speak with an experienced attorney like my colleagues and I who will evaluate your claim and determine whether you have a right to recovery against the facility. My colleagues and I devote time to developing personal relationships with all of our clients. Our team has decades of collective experience in representing people who have been injured and we have the knowledge, experience, and resources to walk you through the process and obtain the most desired outcome possible.

**Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of Personal Injury Law and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@cgtrial.com or at (312) 782-7482.*

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Will you be a Burden to Your Children?

If there is the possibility of you living a long life the odds are you may need extended care. Extended Care is not a place or a condition. Rather, it's a Life-Changing event. Not only for the person that needs care but for the family members. The spouse, the children...maybe friends or other relatives.

There are CONSEQUENCES. The first consequences are personal: providing care seriously impacts the emotional and physical wellbeing of the CAREGIVER. Typically, the caregiver is an unpaid individual (a spouse, partner, child, friend or neighbor) involved in assisting others with activities of daily living, coping with cognitive impairment and/or other medical tasks. Formal caregivers are paid care providers providing care in one's home or in a care setting.

About 41 million Americans provide unpaid care to an adult age 50 or older in the last 12 months, and more than 11 million provide unpaid care to people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. You may have been one of them for your parents.

Most recipients of care get their care in their own home (68%) and almost a third (29%) live in their care givers home. These unpaid care givers (spouses, dependent children or other family members) lives are put on hold. Their lives are changed. They stop doing what they normally do to take care of you!

Providing care doesn't bring families together, it often tears them apart. Sometimes there is irreversible damage to your children's relationships with each other due to providing care for you. If you ever need extended care over a period of years, your life is not going to end, but someone else's life-or lifestyle- is going to change.

Children do NOT want to take care of their parents; they will do it because it is the right thing to do. At least one child, likely a daughter, will have little choice but to put aside her life to help provide care for you. Care is rarely shared equally with siblings, and may cause hard feelings that could likely survive your death.

Anyone who has had to provide care over a period of years will tell you that, without question, the overwhelming emotional and physical damage caused by providing that care took place at home. It had to and has to, because of the nature of extended



Master Your Money
By Mike Corrigan

care. Placement in a nursing home is actually a relief, but families find it almost impossible to make that placement because doing so breaks their hearts.

The there is the financial part. Paying for care disrupts every plan you had to secure your future financial viability. It's important to understand the 2nd consequence (financial) in context when talking about the first consequence (personal). The financial consequence begins to accrue when families seek to relieve the BURDEN of personal consequences to those trying to provide care.

Paying for care causes a reallocation of resources, starting with income. The issue is that the majority of successful people will live on all, or close to all, of their income in the future as they did during their working years. Shifting income to pay for care has a direct impact on most people's ability to keep financial commitments.

These commitments could include lifestyle expenses, especially for a still-independent spouse. Or helping a child who has not in the best decisions in life. Or the goal of helping to pay for a grandchild's education or helping one of your own children with special needs. How about that 2nd vacation home? Gone!

While many of these expenses are considered "discretionary", but in the world of successful people they are considered non discretionary and are dreams/goals they have that they worked hard for all of their working years. Asking income to both pay for care and cover lifestyle expenses is, for practical purposes, double counting it.

Some people believe they have sufficient assets and THINK they will simply pay for care from their assets. That may be true for some but "self-funding" versus transferring that risk to an insurance company has unintended consequences. Assets in a portfolio are really "capital" in nature; that is, their purpose is not to be used to pay for care - or any other expenses in life, but to generate predictable income streams that will keep up with the rising cost of living for you and your spouse during retirement that you "cannot outlive".

The unintended consequences when using those assets to pay for care are - unnecessary TAXES, market timing, liquidity issues,

not being able to leave a legacy. Plus, every dollar used for care means that those assets are no longer available to generate income for the future. So, it's has a snow ball affect on the healthy spouse and other commitments you had. Income is likely to decrease as assets go down not only by withdrawals to pay for care but potentially due to market declines.

Bottom line is paying for care is costly either directly or indirectly. Not having a PLAN can be devastating to your family personally and financially. It can have a lasting impact long after you are gone. Is that what you want, if given a choice?

The fact is if you wait too long then you won't be in a position to make the decision. You will be impaired either physically or cognitively. Someone else will be choosing what to do in taking care of you. So, if you want to be in CONTROL then you need to plan and deal with the risk of being a burden to your children or other loved ones, later in life.

Transferring that potential risk to an insurance company via an Extended Care or Long Term Care funding source makes all the sense in the world. Your children or spouse would much rather COORDINATE your care versus provide that care. Having the insurance company pay for your care and having a concierge care coordinator that the insurance company provides and pays for, is game changing. It keeps families together. It relieves the tension and stress on the healthy spouse, knowing they don't have to compromise their finances and family dynamics because there was forethought and consideration to address this likelihood.

There are so many new types of Long Term Care Insurance solutions available today that allow you to leverage assets for the "just in case" situation. Re-purpose one of your assets to create a Healthcare Fund that can provide 3 to 1 of that underlying asset to pay for care. That means you can earmark \$50,000 in an interest-bearing account and have it provide \$150,000 for care - TAX FREE. And if you don't use it then you don't lose it. You just need to educate yourself and do some post-retirement healthcare planning as part of your regular income retirement planning.

Mike is a Certified Long Term Care Specialist. He can provide a free complimentary consultation addressing this area of your life, and a FREE Book; TAX FREE BENEFITS for Long-Term Care in a Post Covid World, reviewing new regulations and government incentives to help you prepare. e-mail mike@corriganfs.com or call 708-215-5100 for this FREE book or to set up a 30 minute phone consultation.

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Fore! Your Guide to This Season's IRISH GOLF OUTINGS!

By Emmett Fitzpatrick
Golf season is now upon us, which means that Irish organizations across the area are planning to host outings throughout the warm weather months. Golfers interested in supporting Irish causes will have many opportunities to spend time on the links this season.

See below for sampling of the many outings and how to get involved.
Young Irish Fellowship Club Saturday, August 19 Old Orchard Country Club

What we're hearing: Maura Keller of the Young Irish Fellowship Club Board of Directors shared that the YIFC annual golf outing unite golfers of all ages to enjoy a day on the links to

fundraise for their charities, Cara Chicago and Almost Home Kids. How to sign up: www.youngirish.com.

Ireland Network Chicago - Friday, September 8 Harborside Intl Golf Center

What we're hearing: Originally started in 2020, the Ireland Network Chicago golf outing has grown to become a signature event for the organization, and President Ruairi Barnwell and the executive committee are excited to host this year's outing at the acclaimed Harborside International Golf Center on the south side. Once again, proceeds from the event's raffle will support Irish Community Services.

You can sign up to play at

www.chicagoireland.org
St. Patrick Fathers - Saturday, September 9 Indian Boundary Golf Course

What we're hearing: "This is our tenth year hosting the St. Patrick Fathers golf outing," said Fr. Mick Madigan. "It's a fun event with many of the same golfers returning year after year and bringing their friends along. We end the day with raffle prizes, a dinner and a perpetual trophy to the winning foursome. All proceeds go towards funding the missionary work of the St. Patrick Fathers."

sign up: Call 773-887-4741
Irish American Partnership Monday, September 11 Beverly Country Club

Partnership is delighted to be hosting our Chicago Golf Tournament at the wonderful Beverly Country Club in September," said Clodagh Boyle, VP of Communications & Engagement at the Partnership. "For more than 30 years, our supporters enjoy the opportunity to play one of the finest courses, and to compete for a spectacular first prize of roundtrip tickets to Ireland. A great day's golf, while positively impacting the lives of thousands of young people across the island, north and south."

How to sign up: www.irishap.org/chicago-2023

Gaelic Park / Carraig Pub
What we're hearing: The Gaelic Park team is still finalizing the details of this

year's event, but please keep an eye out for sign-up information here in the *Irish American News* or online at www.chicagogaelicpark.com.
Irish American Heritage Ctr Saturday, Sept 16 Billy Caldwell Golf Course

What we're hearing: Event organizers for the Irish American Heritage Center "Golfing Fore Green" outing told us that golfers can expect nine holes of golf, golf carts, a voucher for a sandwich and drink at the Irish American Heritage Center, prizes, awards, raffles and more. Since it will be Halfway to St. Patrick's Day, there will be prizes for "best kilt" and "most green worn on the course."

How to sign up: www.irish-american.org or iahc.golfing@gmail.com with questions.



Custom T-Shirt Quilt for Don and Sue Hennessy
The Nimble Thimbles have finished another custom t-shirt quilt for the family of Don and Sue Hennessy. Their son has played hockey for many years, and the 18 shirts here commemorate some of the teams he has played for. There were plenty more to choose from! This is a king sized quilt with blue sashing. The bright colors bordering some of the shirts are taken from the backs of some of the shirts, to give the piece more visual appeal. Don Hennessy (above) is quite happy with the finished piece, and believes it may become an heirloom!

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GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN
Tales & Craic!



miles from Louisburgh county Mayo. It is one of the most magical places you will ever visit. You could

My daughter is majoring in history so we were looking up some of our Brave Irish heroines. We started with Grainne O'Malley or Grace as some call her.

My husband said he is related to her through his grandmother Catherine O'Malley who lived on an island called Inishturk (in Irish it means wild boar island) it lies off the west coast of Ireland located about 9 miles from County Mayo and Connemara's beautiful western coastline.

The ferry pick up point to visit the island is Roanag pier located a few

enjoy the views of the 12 pins mountain range as well as Croagh Patrick. There is a community center with restaurant and a pub, They have musical festivals throughout the year. It's a Beautiful island. It's a must see if you're going to visit our beautiful country.

Stop by to say hello to Mary Catherine and Bill Henue my husbands cousins.

Grace was born around 1530 and grew up in county Mayo Connacht a province in the west of Ireland. Her father was a clan chief of Connacht. They were a seafaring family controlling the local

areas where the clan fished, traded and taxed others who fished off their land. Grace was born and raised at Bell cave castle near Westport.

Legend has it when she was young she wanted to travel on an expedition with her father. She was told she could not go because her long hair would get caught in the ropes so she cut off all her hair which gave her the nickname. 'Grainne mhaol' translated means 'bald Grace.' At sixteen years of age she married Donal O'Flaherty the heir to the O'Flaherty clan.

They had three children, two boys and a daughter.

During that time she became active in Irish politics and was taught the art of piracy by her husband. Her husband was killed by a rival clan so she gathered her clan together and went to war against them successfully taking back Donal O'Flaherty castle slaughtering the people



O'Malley

who had killed her husband.

During her reign, she acquired several castles through marriages and conquest. (she later remarried Richard the iron Bourke) Doona on black sod was one of the castles, also Kildavnet on Achill island, and Rockfleet in Clew Bay where she eventually died and was buried in the Abbey on Clare island.

At the age of 56 she was captured by Sir Richard Bingham, an English governor, who was appointed to rule over Irish territories. During this time of her incarceration she lost a lot of her wealth, and was almost on the brink of poverty.

Upon her freedom she heard about the arrest of her brother and her two sons. She petitioned the crown for their release then set sail in her ship, The White Horse to England where she had a private meeting with Queen Elizabeth.

The historic meeting took place around 1593 at Greenwich Castle. The Queen wanted Grace to cease all her rebellious ways against the crown and she would grant her demands, which also included the return of the land that Bingham her jailer had stolen from her. Later she felt betrayed when the Queen reinstated Bingham over Irish territories, so she realized she had been duped and she once again got her clan together to protect Irish coastal waterways.

She was nobody's fool, Grace was written out of our Irish history, because Irish historians back then were usually religious monks, so she was ignored in their writings because she was a woman. No one knows exactly the precise history, especially the year that she died.

During her life some folks considered her the greatest, boldest courageous heroine, others thought of her as a cutthroat pirate.

Supposedly she lived to the ripe old age of 73. There's lots of stories out there about her, both true or folklore, and I think it's neat that my husband's family are descendants of the O'Malley clan.

Their motto was 'Powerful on land and sea.' His grandmother, Catherine O'Malley would later marry Michael O'Halloran, a seafaring fisherman from Inisbofin, a neighboring island and another beautiful unspoiled island which our kids love and our family still resides there.

To get there you must take the ferry from Cleggan pier, northwest of Clifden. They have great fish and chips there. It takes 30 minutes so bring your walking shoes as the views are breathtaking.

When I took my husband home to meet my mother who was an avid reader and historian, she produced books from her collection that were written about his mother's O'Halloran side of the family who were fishermen and boat captains and famous for saving lives on the Atlantic.

That's another story for another day. Enjoy the rest of the summer and while you are at it, check out your Clan!

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Francis O'Neill Club to Teach Irish Dance at the Chicago SummerDance August 17th!

We are excited to share that the Francis O'Neill Club has been invited to teach Irish Dancing at Chicago SummerDance!

Our very own Theresa Murray will be teaching from 6pm to 7pm and live music will be provided by STEAM. It's going to be FUN.

When: Thursday, August 17

Time: Lessons are from 6:00p to 7:00p. From 7:15 to 9:00p, we'll be dancing to the lively music of STEAM while Theresa calls.

Where: Chicago SummerDance at Spirit of Music Garden - Grant Park, 112 E. Balbo Dr. (corner of Balbo Dr. and Michigan Ave.)

TUESDAY LESSON DATES

at the Irish American Heritage Center are in room 111 from 7:30 to 9pm - August 1, 8, 15

MONDAY AUG 21 - Ronan Eastwood! No Tuesday lesson on 8/22

More Lessons on August 29, September 5, 12, 19 & 26 at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave,

Chicago IL 60630, Room 111 \$5 donation / Proof of covid vax.

Lessons will probably be held in the

Erin Room on the 4th floor, but check the easel board in the front first floor hallway to be sure!



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ACROSS

- Military rank, abbr.
- Asian and African tree with mottled wood
- One who follows orders
- Meat approver, for short
- ___ a soul (no one)- old word
- Exasperation
- Packed closely
- Count
- Convection ___
- Freshwater fish
- 6-Jun-44, 2 words
- Sounds in pounds
- More decent
- Chop ___
- Deceiving, 2 words
- "Eureka!"
- Woeful
- Pilot's prediction, abbr.
- Salty Chinese sauce
- Clique, 2 words
- Early second-century year
- Fashion's Taylor
- 1975 Abba song
- Food testers, abbr.
- Poe's Annabel ___
- Credit card rate, abbr.
- Girl
- "___ Got a Secret"
- Perceive
- "C'est la ___"
- Take out
- Time delay
- Area
- Two-speaker system
- Most trifling
- Director Welles
- Bunch
- W. African coastal country
- French airport
- Broten of hockey fame
- Overindulge
- 15, 23, and 31, e.g.
- Wire service, abbr.

DOWN

- Grabbers

July Solution
Crosswords by Myles Mellor



The Case for Student Loan Forgiveness

In late June of this year, the Supreme Court of the United States made headlines after it ruled against the Biden-Harris administration's efforts to forgive some federal student loan debt. In the majority opinion of the Court, which voted 6-3 along ideological lines against forgiveness, Chief Justice John Roberts asserted that President Biden had "rewritten" statute in order to forgive student loan debt. "However broad the meaning of 'waive or modify,' that language cannot authorize the kind of exhaustive rewriting of the statute that has taken place here," said Roberts. At its core, the opinion said that the President had overreached in trying to forgive up to \$20,000 in student loan debt for eligible borrowers. Whatever your feelings are about this case, it is undeniable that student loan debt is a massive problem for Americans across the country. According to the Education Data Initiative, in 2021 the average person with undergraduate student loans owed upwards of \$37,000. That is a huge burden for new graduates (and college dropouts) to get out from under, even in the best of

circumstances. Many people are stuck paying back their balances well into their 30s, and even their 40s. For people who pursue higher education levels, such as a master's degree, a JD, or an MD, the amount borrowed can reach into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Some may read those figures and argue that, ultimately, an individual is wholly responsible for their circumstances, and that if a student can't afford to go to college then they ultimately should not. And while I agree with the notion that no one should borrow more money than they can pay back, this sentiment leaves out a couple key factors that drive borrowing. For one thing, many people go to college for better career opportunities. It is a well-established fact that college graduates make on average

much more than their peers who just have a high school diploma. But more importantly, the cost of attaining a college education has skyrocketed for upwards of 40 years. According to Forbes, even when adjusted for inflation, the cost of college has increased more than 180% since 1980. The annual price to attend a four-year college in 1980 was \$10,231. By the 2019-2020 school year, that price had reached \$28,775. There are a lot of factors behind that massive jump, not the least of which being greed. But colleges now also play a much greater role in the lives of their students- from mental health support to disability services, from Title IX offices to massive rec centers, institutions of higher education have gradually but greatly increased their offerings

to students. And that all costs money. But while these services are important, income and wealth inequality has prevented parents from being able to match their income and savings to the costs of obtaining that coveted 4-year degree. And so, despite a record number of students attending college and university every year, more and more graduate or drop out with a seemingly insurmountable burden. While providing free college for all who want it should ultimately be the goal of the government, I respect and admire the President's attempts to help alleviate that burden. Hopefully the administration's next attempt to forgive some student debt is able to withstand the ideological preferences of this conservatively stacked Supreme Court.

Stephen Hanley Appointed Clare Tourism Role

Clare County Council has announced the appointment of Stephen Hanley as General Manager of Clare Tourism East, with responsibility for Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, Craggaunowen Bronze Age Park, Knappogue Castle & Gardens, and the Inis Cealtra /Holy Island Experience. Mr. Hanley has extensive experience in the tourism and hospitality sector having previously held the position of General Manager of The Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin and General Manager of the Radisson Blu Hotels in Galway, Limerick, and Cork. The appointment of Mr. Hanley, a native of County Kerry and

Leonard Cleary, Director of Tourism Development, Clare County Council, said the new appointment is the latest in a series of positive announcements for the Shannon Heritage sites in recent weeks. Stephen joins the newly formed Tourism Development Directorate team with a dedicated focus on the implementation of the 'County Clare Tourism Strategy 2030' in partnership with the private sector tourism industry and host communities. "Working with Lambert Smith Hampton, Clare County Council has commenced an in-depth technical review of Bunratty, Craggaunowen, Knappogue, and



Stephen Hanley, newly appointed General Manager of Clare Tourism East (Bunratty, Craggaunowen, Knappogue and Inis Cealtra /Holy Island), pictured centre at the Regency Walled Gardens in Bunratty Castle and Folk Park with Pat Dowling, Chief Executive of Clare County Council; Leonard Cleary, Director of Tourism Development, Clare County Council; Elaine Hiney Wall, Gardens Manager, Shannon Heritage; and Bunratty Castle & Folk Park Entertainers. Photo Arthur Ellis.

graduate of Shannon College of Hotel Management, comes just weeks after Clare County Council and The Shannon Airport Group signed a historic agreement marking the official handover of the Clare assets of Shannon Heritage to the local authority. "I am honoured to assume the position of General Manager of some of Ireland's best known and most loved heritage attractions," commented Mr. Hanley. He continued, "County

the retail unit at the Cliffs of Moher Experience, which will guide future, much-needed investment in maintenance, remedial and conservation works at the sites. Working with Stephen in his new role, Clare County Council is committed to investing in the future development of the sites for the benefit of the tourism sector and the wider economy as well as the communities in which they are situated," concluded Mr. Cleary.

Home is Where the Heart Is

By Aishling Kelly

Understanding Hospice and Palliative Care

Many people dealing with a life-threatening disease have heard a lot about managing pain. "Palliative" and "hospice" care are terms you could have heard before. Both are supposed to provide comfort and relief, but there are fundamental differences between them. If you want the best treatment, you need to know what every service has to deliver. What is Hospice Care? This is for those whose physicians have told that they will not be able to bounce back. It's all about alleviating suffering and preparing families for the terminal phase. Hospice care involves a palliative care component, but it is not the only piece. Hospice patients are often anticipated to live for fewer than six months. Family members, pastors, social workers, and counselors all have a role in providing this type of care, including medical professionals and those dealing with their loss. Who Offers Hospice Care and Where? The term "hospice" refers to a philosophy of care, not a location. Commonly, they're being cared for by loved ones or paid professionals in their own homes. However, hospice care facilities, hospitals, and nursing homes also accommodate these patients. Various professionals are involved in hospice care, such as trained volunteers, spiritual advisors, social workers, doctors, and nurses. Everybody collaborates to offer the emotional, physical, and spiritual support necessary for the terminally ill patient, the caregiver, and loved ones. What is Palliative Care? If your disease is severe but not life-threatening, this program may help alleviate some of your symptoms and address most of

your other concerns. It helps patients cope with long-term conditions like cancer, renal disease, or AIDS and the adverse effects of therapies, such as chemotherapy and radiation. Palliative medicine is not a substitute for other procedures. Adding this to your home will make it easier for you and your household to manage discomfort like dizziness, nerve pain, or difficulty breathing. Moreover, palliative care can help with symptoms such as depression and difficulty working, playing, or getting around because of an illness. As such, many have reported having a greater sense of control over their lives, albeit with the condition. Palliative care allows you to be as active as possible, even if diagnosed with a life-threatening disease. Where Can You Find Palliative Care? While palliative care can be offered in various settings (such as a hospital or nursing home), it can also be performed at home. Insurance policies and Medicaid provides coverage for palliative care. Hospice services for veterans are available through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Additionally, some medical services can be covered by private health insurance such as WM. Schwartz & Co Insurance. Any queries you have concerning the coverage provided by your health insurance plan can be clarified by your agent. Conclusion While palliative and hospice care aim to alleviate pain and other symptoms, the prognosis and treatments differ. A hospice patient has exhausted all of their curative alternatives or has decided not to seek therapy because of the adverse side effects. On the other hand, comfort care, whether or not it has a curative goal, is offered by palliative care

“Come Here ‘Til I Tell You...” a Story About Some Dubliners and the IAHC

By Sandra Crawford, JD

“Come here ‘til I tell you...” is an expression my mother, and many Dublin people, used to convey that they wanted to share something important, some gossip, some story or just about any time they needed your attention. I find myself wanting to use it more and more since my mother’s passing in 2018 but hesitate as I just don’t think it is something that translates.

I am an emigrant. I arrived at “Chicago’s” O’Hare International Airport from Dublin, Ireland, on November 1, 1976, having just turned 15. Green Card in hand and aunts, uncles, cousins waiting for us in the international terminal - which used to have an upstairs surrounded by plexiglass where people could look down to see who was arriving. That night we left the airport and drove south down Mannheim Road - which to this day must be one of the ugliest streets in the whole

railroad - painting train cars, or so I was told. He was not a man of many words. Except on the one occasion when the “Americans” brought home tea bags for the first time. Grandda was in the scullery cutting open tea bags and murmuring in a most alarming way how they were a hinderance to making a good mug of tea (Dublin people prefer mugs versus cup, or so it was once observed by a non-Dubliner). No one had explained to Grandda that tea bags were instead of the loose tea, which was the staple in every Irish person’s home at that time.

Me Ma’s parents, the Kennys, lived at 9 Clanbrassil Terrace, just up the lane from Warrenmount Covent and National School, in an area of Dublin known as the “Liberties.” Grandda Kenny (James) rescued the nuns from the Covent when Hitler dropped bombs on Dublin in the early hours of January 2, 1941, or so the story goes. He and his brothers were said

up in Ballenteer knew the mountains well - hence his moniker “a mountainy man from Dublin.”

The group put on plays, recitals, poetry readings and dances in a hall somewhere close to Cuffe Street. That’s where Ma and Da, and many other couples, met as teenagers. Many of the details of the hall and the group are lost. Some photos still survive.

Shortly after they arrived in Chicago, my parents were brought to the Irish shop on Laramie run by the legendary, Mrs. Maureen O’Looney (1922-2014) - herself the daughter of an IRA fighter from Co. Mayo, Ireland. Mr. O’Looney helped thousands of newly arrived Irish immigrant families, like ours, who were brought to her store by their friends and families. She was famous for helping Irish immigrants in distress by rounding up volunteers to form committees and put on benefits with music, entertainment, and dancing. She

a “British bar” adopted by the Irish), The *Kilkenny Castle Inn* (opened by the Brady’s, a locally famous family of singers from Kilkenny), *The Irish Cottage* (which was the fanciest of all the spots, as it hosted Irish musicians and comedians - Brendan Grace, Phil Coulter, The Chieftains, etc.). My older sister, who returned to Ireland a year and a half after we immigrated, and lives there to this day, often commented when visiting that she heard more Irish music in Chicago than she ever did when living in Ireland!

Once the IAHC was opened, it became a center of activity for all things Irish, including the “news from home.”

It was renovated by hordes of volunteer immigrant laborers and lovingly cared for by hordes of Irish mothers cleaning and making giant pots of tea and sandwiches to feed the laborers. One story in our family that persisted about the day of



(L to R): Mary O’Malley, ? Tom Looney, Mary O’Reilly, Tom Boyle, President Mary Robinson, Dorothy, ?, Nora Murphy, Alan Duggan, and President at the time, Mike Shevlin. Anyone know the missing names, send to cathy@IrishAmericanNews.com

of Chicagoland!

My mother and father were born in Dublin City in 1936, just as WWII was getting going on mainland Europe. They emigrated to Chicago in ‘76 at the age of 40 with 4 children in tow. I was the second in line. My older sister is 13 months older - we are what is known as “Irish Twins.” Our brothers were 12 and 5 respectively. Two of me dad’s older sisters lived in Chicago and Melrose Park, respectively, in the ‘70’s and we were farmed out for the first few months to stay with various Crawford family members whose homes often displayed a picture of the Pope, JFK, and Mayor Richard J. Daley side-by-side. I thought Mr. Daley must be very important indeed if he was up there with a Pope and a President!

My father was the youngest in a household of 13 in Dublin’s city center in the 30’s and 40’s. He and his siblings were raised in a 2-room tenement house on Cuffe Street, which is kitty-corner from St. Stephen’s Green (aka “the Green”). Nanny Crawford (Mary, born 18__ - November 13, 1977, age unknown) always had a beautiful white Irish lace tablecloth on the “dining room” table (the same table that doubled as a bath stand, a bed, a desk, etc.). Mary (nee, Johnston) worked most of her life as the cleaner at the University Chapel across from the Green - there is a plaque there ‘til this day in her honor.

Grandda Crawford worked on the

to have fought with Eamon de Valera at Boland’s Mills in April 1916. They ended up imprisoned in Kilmainham Goal after the Easter Rising for their freedom-fighter efforts. They also ended up being excommunicated by the Catholic Church for their part in the Irish Republican Army’s (IRA) War of independence in the early 1920’s, as the story goes. There wasn’t much talk about their past when I was a child in 60’s Dublin and neither James nor his brothers were men of many words.

The Kennys (Annie and James) didn’t let the Easter Rising, the Irish Civil War, the Depression, WWII, or the aftermath of any one of these traumatizing events of the early century get to them. Instead, they started a youth group. They lead bicycling tours for teenagers around the Dublin Mountains - James having grown



hosted matchmaking events - pairing Irish and Irish Americans and was a radio host of the American Irish Radio Network program forever. She was a founding member of the Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC).

Mrs. O’Looney enrolled me Da, and many other Irish laborers, as the work crew to renovate the IAHC after its purchase with community money raised by her and her band of newly minted Chicagoans.

Me Da, being both a painter and a musician (accordion and piano), was in high demand by Mrs. O’Looney for her committee work, so frequently on a Sunday morning after mass we kids were trooped into her shop and had to hang around while the adults’ talked “business.” The visits were made less painful as Mrs. O’Looney would often pass us kids sweets (aka candy) on the sly and wink at us to be patient while she outlined yet another project which needed volunteers. Her shop sold the Irish newspapers and just about every Dubliner living in Chicago would go there on a Sunday for Irish sausages and the news from home, written or oral.

In the 70’s and 80’s and 90’s in Chicago, in addition to Mrs. O’Looney shop, (remember that was before the internet, Zoom, Facetime and cheap flights on Aer Lingus), there were the pubs and restaurants where you could get the “news from home.” On the Northside, those were *The Atlantic* (technically

the opening of the Center goes like this - the night before the grand opening the painters were still painting the ceilings in the big room on the first floor where the opening ceremony was to be held. The opening ceremony was presided over by the Irish President at the time, Mrs. Mary Robinson. The next morning all who had worked on the renovation of the Center were introduced to Mrs. Robinson one by one. When it was me Da’s turn, he apologized to her in advance in case any wet paint might still be dripping from the ceiling and hit her head. Apparently, she got a “good laugh” out of that.

He was not a man of many words - but when he used his words, he was of often very funny. Between ‘85 and until his death in 2013, me Da was frequently at the Center - either volunteering, playing music, catching a play or a concert, attending the Dublin Club, or visiting Mr. O’Looney, who eventually moved her store to the Center. As is said in Dublin - those were the “rare old times.”

Our family has many fond memories of the IAHC, including that one of its function rooms upstairs where we held my parents 50th Anniversary celebration, shortly before my father who had Parkinson’s Disease was no longer able to get around like he once was.

This recollection is in loving memory of all the Dubliners, including me Ma and Da, who worked on and made the IAHC what it is today!

Once Upon A Time In Northern Ireland to Have Broadcast Premiere August 28-30 on PBS

New Series from Award-Winning Director James Bluemel and the BBC Tells Extraordinary Human Stories from Those Who Lived Through The Troubles

Once Upon A Time in Northern Ireland, a powerful new five-part series, gives voice to the people who lived through Northern Ireland’s violent past by sharing intimate, unheard testimonies from all sides of the conflict. The series combines unfiltered personal accounts with archival footage to tell the story of the people and communities that had to live with conflict daily - and are still dealing with its legacies today. The series will have its broadcast premiere Monday-

through the stories of three women as IRA prisoners begin their hunger strike in protest against Margaret Thatcher’s policies. Tit for tat killings, car bombs and assassinations are now part of everyday life in Northern Ireland. Fatigue, from a population desperate for a respite from the violence, is creeping in.

Episode 4 “*The Dirty War*”

Tuesday, August 29, 10pm ET

By the late 1980s, the news in Northern Ireland is a daily list of the dead - but 14 bloody days in March 1988 mark a new level of harrowing savagery. The conflict also becomes an intelligence war, as the move to prevent further terrorist violence is concentrated on infiltrating paramilitary organizations. “Trust nobody” is the mantra



Wednesday, August 28-30, 2023, on PBS. The series is currently streaming on [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) and the PBS app.

Commissioned for BBC Two, BBC Northern Ireland, iPlayer and PBS, the series comes from award-winning director James Bluemel and the team behind the BAFTA and Emmy Award-winning series ONCE UPON A TIME IN IRAQ, which aired as a FRONTLINE documentary special in 2020 on PBS.

Once Upon A Time In Northern Ireland runs chronologically from the beginning of The Troubles in the late 1960s to the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement signed 25 years ago in April 1998. Episode descriptions are below:

Episode 1 “*It Wasn’t Like a Movie Anymore*”

Monday, August 28, 9pm ET

The opening episode charts Northern Ireland’s progression from relative peace to full-blown conflict. When tensions between Catholic and Protestant communities explode, the British IRA is deployed. When 13 unarmed Catholics are shot dead in Derry by British Paratroopers, the world looks on in shock. Known as “Bloody Sunday,” it has far reaching political consequences and is seen by some as a recruitment drive for the Provisional IRA.

Episode 2 “*Do Paramilitaries Lie Awake at Night?*”

Monday, August 28, 10pm ET

It is now 1972, and a deeply segregated society has emerged, with many Catholic and Protestant working-class communities policed by paramilitary organizations. Hatred and fear of the “other side” are endemic, as is a devotion to one’s own culture and traditions. Six months after Bloody Sunday, the IRA explode 19 bombs across Belfast in an hour, killing nine and injuring 130 others. But punk music emerges as a unifying force for some young Catholics and Protestants, who defy the chaos and segregated world around them.

Episode 3 “*So Many Broken Hearts*”

Tuesday, August 29, 9pm ET

The devastating impact of the conflict is explored

as fear and suspicion permeate all parts of everyday life. Episode 5 “*Who Wants to Live Like That?*”

Wednesday, August 30, 10pm ET

In 1994, President Bill Clinton controversially invites Gerry Adams, President of Sinn Fein (often referred to then as the ‘IRA’s political wing’), to the United States. For some it’s a symbol of international support for peace talks. But others, whose families have been devastated by the violence, are horrified.

A year earlier, an IRA bomb exploded prematurely on Belfast’s Shankill Road, killing the bomber and 9 Protestant men, women and children. In the days afterwards, loyalist gunmen retaliated assassinating many Catholics.

It seemed the violence might escalate further as tensions ran high, but following years of negotiations between politicians, paramilitaries & the British and Irish Governments, an IRA ceasefire was announced in 1994.

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A loyalist paramilitary ceasefire followed 6 weeks later.

There is widespread joy when the Good Friday Agreement is finally announced in 1998. But peace comes at a cost. The early release of all paramilitary prisoners from prison - a key part of the agreement - causes anguish for many, especially the injured and bereaved, who face what all post-conflict societies face, a peace built upon the violence of the past.

Once Upon A Time in Northern Ireland will be available to stream thru November 22 on all station-branded PBS platforms, including PBS.org and the PBS app, available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO.

Once Upon A Time In Northern Ireland (5x60) was commissioned by Clare Sillery, Head of Commissioning, Documentaries, and Eddie Doyle, Head of Content

Commissioning, BBC Northern Ireland. The five-part series is a co-commission between BBC Northern Ireland and BBC Two for BBC and PBS in partnership with The Open University, co-produced by Keo Films and Walk on Air Films, and distributed by BBC Studios. It is due to premiere in all markets simultaneously in May.

The BBC Commissioning Editors are Hamish Fergusson and Mary McKeagney, the Executive Producers for Keo Films are Will Anderson and Andrew Palmer, and the Series Producers are Vicky Mitchell and Rachel Hooper. Bill Gardner is the Executive in Charge for PBS.

Correspondence Corner

Greetings! I thoroughly enjoyed reading *Irish American News*, July 2023 issue at IRISH LEGENDS this past weekend while visiting my daughters family.

I’ve enclosed my check for \$35 for a 1 year subscription. Thank you very much! *Rich Gilloin*

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RFK Jr Delivers in Tour de Force While Elizabeth Vargas Watches

By Sabina Clarke
Listening to Robert Kennedy, Jr., a 2024 Democratic presidential candidate last week on the Cable TV news channel, *News Nation Town Hall*, I felt like I was living in a time warp-- back



felt a tremendous surge of hope and limitless possibilities that I have not felt for any presidential candidate so far. I felt the same sense of limitless possibilities when RFK, Jr.'s Dad, Bobby Kennedy, the former Attorney General was running for President and the utter despair when he was murdered and our hope was dashed--taken from us just as his brother President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was before his time.

As RFK Jr. laid out his clear bold vision for the country-- he sounded so much like both his father and his uncle--it was almost déjà vu. I was captivated by Kennedy's knowledge of all the complex issues facing the country such as crime in our cities; the War in Ukraine; the economy; the Border; drug addiction; gun violence.

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As we all know Ireland is an Island, and one that is not very big. No matter where you are, you are only an hour or so away from the sea. This gives the Irish incredible access to really fresh seafood.

neighborhood these are now considered specialty shops. Most people don't have the luxury of shopping day to day or even having access to fresh local products other than the weekly Farmer's Market, and if they do there is a premium to be paid for organic and non-hormone treated produce and meats. So you gotta envy the Irish and their old school approach to shopping for food. After all you are what you eat!



Some of the items coming to the August market in Ireland are broad beans; we know them as fava beans, beets, the end of new potatoes, every type of berry, and shellfish like Dungeness crab.

and Italy, I believe the Irish prefer to buy fruits, vegetables, and meats that are locally grown and farm raised. Yes there are Supermarkets just like here that carry pre weighed, prepackaged, and frozen products that are designed to make life easier, hence the term convenience store. They do have a place, especially when we are in a hurry and help ease the stress of our sometimes hectic lives. If you visit Ireland you will find that every neighborhood, town and village has a least one bakery, victualler or butcher shop, a store that sells fresh fruits, vegetables and dairy products, possibly a fishmonger, and of course a Pub or two.

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water. Cook for 3 minutes then drain and chill in ice water. With a pair of kitchen shears cut through the top of the lobster shell. Remove lobster meat in one piece and reserve. Place butter, water, vanilla, and lobster tails in a covered pan and cook for 5 minutes. Remove cover and reduce poaching liquid. Place unpeeled beets in a pot of boiling water cover and cook for one hour. Drain and cool. Slice off root top and bottom. Slice into rounds. Shell fava beans. Place in a pot with salted boiling water. Cook 5 minutes. Drain and transfer the beans to a bowl of cold water. Allow beans to cool for several minutes. Pinch the top of the beans gently to slip off skin. Place potatoes in a pot of salted boiling water. Cover and cook for 10-12 minutes. Drain and cool. Cut potatoes in half. Cut off root of the frisee. Pull apart leaves. Rinse and dry. Place vinegar, shallots, Dijon mustard, lemon juice, and tarragon in a blender and blend slowly adding oil until emulsified. Place frisee, beans, and potatoes in a bowl with dressing reserving some for the lobster. On a dinner plate make a ring of alternating beets leaving a 4inch opening in the center. Place frisee, potatoes, and beans in the center of the beets. Top with the poached lobster tail. Drizzle with reserved dressing, and butter reduction. Garnish with chives. Season the salad with salt, and pepper.

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Siblings Anne Marie Herlehy (left) and Bridget (nee Herlehy) Milionis (right) first started coming to the Center in 2000 for Irish Fest, and then taking an Art class here and there, as well as many a show in the pub and theater. Now, you'll find them cheering on Eleanor Milionis (center) at Irish Dance lessons from world renown Trinity Irish Dance along with many other generations of families at the Irish American Heritage Center!

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members and Friends of the Irish American Heritage Center,

I hope this letter finds you all well and enjoying the summer season.

I was honored to be recently elected to serve you as President of the Irish American Heritage Center.

In July, we had a fantastic event at our center—the Irish Consulate of Chicago's Irish Diaspora conference. This gathering brought together over 60 attendees from Midwest Irish Cultural Centers and Festivals, Irish Consular officers from various states, and representatives from Culture Ireland and the Emigrant Support Program. The conference included sessions on effective non-profit management and successful fundraising strategies. Moreover, it provided an incredible opportunity for all of us to network and discover ways to advance our shared goal of promoting Irish culture.



One of our main objectives this year is to expand our cultural activities. The installation of a new AC system in the Mayfair Theatre enables its use throughout the year. We are grateful to have received financial support for this improvement from the Irish government's

Emigrant Support Program as a strong head start for this project. We have had a busy summer calendar and have an exciting lineup of performances, including Seo Linn on August 3, 2023, and the Red Hot Chili Pipers on August 25.

Additionally, on August 9th, we have a heartfelt tribute performance by Socks in the Frying Pan, featuring special guests such as Jimmy Keane, Katie Grennan, John Williams, The Byrne Brothers, Liz Carroll, Pauline Conneely, and more. This concert will be a touching way to honor the memory of our late friend, Maryann McTeague Kiefer, and 30% of the proceeds will be donated to the Children's Research Fund—an opportunity for us to give back to the community while enjoying wonderful music.

Moreover, we're delighted to welcome Grainne Duffy and Paul Sherry, who will perform at the Fifth Province on July 28th. It will be a fantastic show you won't want to miss! Keep an eye on our website, irish-american.org for more information on entertainment at the Center.

I'm looking forward to meeting many of you at the center in the coming months. Your presence and support are what makes our community and organization thrive.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I hope to see you soon!

Warm regards,

Tom Chambers
President, Irish American Heritage Center

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2023's exquisite work of art "Diamonds in the Rough" is ready for the annual raffle. Don't miss your chance to win this beautiful 82" square, all-cotton, washable quilt. No need to look for them in person at the IAHC. You can purchase your tickets right here!

This beautiful quilt was custom-quilted, block by block. A quilt like this, hand-made by our very own Nimble Thimbles, would cost at least \$500 if purchased outright!

The drawing is on December 4th.

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SOCKS IN THE FRYING PAN

AUGUST 9 | 7:00PM

Join the lads from "Socks" and special guests Liz Carroll, Jimmy Keane, Katie Grennan, John Williams, The Byrne Brothers, Pauline Conneely, and more for a concert in honor of their longtime friend the late Maryann McTeague Kiefer. 30% of the proceeds will be donated to local cancer charities in her name.
 Tickets are \$30, \$25 for IAHC members.



CLARE SANDS

AUGUST 11 | 7:00PM

Channeling the music of her ancestors, Clare Sands is a unique force in Irish music. Join us for her first ever performance at the Irish American Heritage Center!
 Tickets \$30, \$25 for IAHC members.



RED HOT CHILI PIPERS

AUGUST 25 | 7:00PM

Don't miss this chance to see the Red Hot Chili Pipers for their first performance in the Mayfair Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center!
 Tickets are \$45, \$40 for IAHC members.



AN EVENING WITH SHARON SHANNON

SEPTEMBER 8 | 7:00PM

It's a very rare Chicago performance with Irish music superstar Sharon Shannon as she joins us in the Mayfair Theatre.
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SCYTHIAN

FOR HALFWAY TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

SEPTEMBER 17 | 7:00PM

Heritage Center Favorites SCYTHIAN, with opening act Basil & the Rathbones, help ring in the halfway point with their own party!
 Tickets are \$35, \$30 for IAHC members.



FR. RAY KELLY

SEPTEMBER 21 | 7:00PM

Youtube sensation, Fr. Ray Kelly, the singing priest from Ireland, stops at the Irish American Heritage Center on his seven week tour. See him in person!
 Tickets are \$30, \$25 for IAHC members.



ARDAL O'HANLON

SEPTEMBER 24 | 7:00PM

Comedian Ardal O'Hanlon of "Fr. Ted" fame brings his comedy to the Mayfair Theatre at the IAHC this fall. Enjoy the opportunity to see international talent in an intimate setting!
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The Laghtgannon Axe

By Bill Daly, local Archaeologist, Oughterard Cultural and Heritage Group.

As we progress through life, some days are more ingrained in the databases of our brain more than others. The late afternoon of Monday 5th December 2022 was one of those days for me. As I walked home from the Courthouse, along the Magheramore Road, I could see John Cronnelly standing outside his house in the distance. In the deep of winter it was unusual enough to meet anybody on the roads at this time of year. As I got closer to John, I had this feeling that he might actually be waiting to talk to me. And sure enough he was. After we exchanged greetings, he thrust something heavy into my hand and asked; 'is this any good to you'. As I looked down at my hand, I felt the hairs rising on the back of my neck as John had just given me a huge prehistoric axe. John told me that his late father, Jack Cronnelly, had come across it over 50 years ago at his home place in the

townland of Laghtgannon a short distance below the Golf Club.

I couldn't believe what I was seeing, and I knew exactly what I was looking at. It was an ancient axe most likely made from a material called shale and these were in use from the Mesolithic (8000 -4000 BC), into the Neolithic (4000-2500 BC) and up to the Early Bronze Age to approximately 1500 BC. After this, copper/bronze axes would replace the ones made from stone. The next day, I asked Alex from Myoptix to take some professional images of the axe for me, and I sent these to Professor Graeme Warren in UCD and Dr. Bernard Gilhooly at the National Museum. I weighed the axe at the Post Office and it was 945 grammes with an overall length of 23 centimetres. It was the biggest shale axe I had ever come across.

Graeme Warren came back to me and said - 'What a beautiful artefact! It could very easily be Mesolithic rather than Neolithic'. Bernard Gilhooly from the NMI remarked - 'its size is exceptional. The majority of shale axeheads range from 8-14cms. This axe is over 23cms long. It is possible that the raw cobble came from an area with less rolling activity, such as a river or lake (The Drimneen River is close to Laghtgannon, where the axe came from, and enters Lough Corrib near Aughnanure Castle) it does not look like there was much work done to

the body or butt. The majority of the manufacturing was at the blade end, and consists of predominately grinding, with possibly only a small amount of knapping' Shale cobble axes played a



significant role in Irish prehistory, particularly during the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. These axes were important tools that served multiple purposes, including woodworking and construction. Shale cobble axes were typically crafted from a dense and durable sedimentary rock known as shale. Shale is characterized by its finely layered composition, making it suitable for fashioning into axe heads. The axes had a distinctive shape with a roughly oval or elongated form. Crafting shale cobble axes involved a combination of methods. Initial shaping was achieved by pecking and grinding the shale using harder stones, such as quartz or chert, to remove excess material and create a rough form. Further refining was done by grinding, polishing, and honing the blade edge to enhance its cutting efficiency. Shale cobble axes served various purposes in our prehistory. They were primarily utilized as



versatile tools for woodworking, allowing Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age communities to fell trees, shape timber, and construct wooden structures.

Shale axes also had symbolic and ritualistic importance within Irish prehistoric societies. They have been found in ceremonial contexts, such as burials, indicating their associations with beliefs, ceremonies, or rituals surrounding life and death. These axes might have held social or religious significance, symbolizing power, status, or a connection to the spiritual realm.

Jack Cronnelly, (pictured) who passed away in 2007, was a very well known figure in Oughterard who predominantly did his fishing from the pier and occasionally up in the mountain lakes. On Sunday February 14th 2010 a memorial seat on the pier at Oughterard was blessed by Fr. Jimmy Walsh and dedicated to the memory of Jack. An intelligent and curious man, close to landscape and nature, Jack found this axe over 50 years ago, and not quite sure what it was, put it into the safety of his shed until somebody came along to shine some light on it. This is a wonderful artefact from our prehistoric past and the Oughterard Culture & Heritage Group is very much indebted to Jack and John Cronnelly for bringing it to our attention. The axe looks very Mesolithic which would give it a date of 7000 -8000 years old. However, we cannot say that conclusively as it cannot be dated now out of the soil context. The youngest it can be is about 4000 years old. The story has just begun.

Irish TV Service

IrishEyes.tv is a new streaming service that lets one watch hundreds of hours of the best Irish film and TV programs for free! The TV service has recently launched its content streaming service in North America and many of its programs are available for the first time for the North American audience. Philippa Keogh, CEO of IrishEyes.tv commented, "our aim is to become the go to place to watch Irish tv and

film globally and it will have a positive impact on the Irish production industry."

Thanks to Joan Moody of the Harp & Shamrock Society of Texas for this information!



Galway Fellowship Club's Luncheon 9-17

On Sunday afternoon, September 17, 2023 the Galway Fellowship Club will hold its annual luncheon from 1pm to 5pm at Biagio's (4242 North Central Avenue, Chicago, IL 60634) Tickets for this lovely afternoon are \$50 with a cash bar. More info below: Tom Dolan @ 708-214-9059 John Diamond @ 847-414-9592 Colm Connolly @ 630-935-3722

Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



I would like to review each county, all 32. My original topic for the paper was to give background on each county. I'd like to review because our memories fade over time and also for any new readers to the paper.

I will start with Co. Armagh and go in alphabetical order. Armagh is known as the Orchard county. Therefore, next month I will cover Co. Antrim and then Carlow and so on. Armagh is a part of the six counties in Northern Ireland it borders Monaghan, Louth, Down & Tyrone. Armagh is in the province of Ulster. The population is about 175,000.

St Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh is the seat of the Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, primate of all Ireland. This status came about as a result of St. Patrick's burial in Armagh. The building of a Catholic Cathedral in Armagh was of great significance years ago because of the penal laws.

A few years ago, Armagh had its warmest weather ever recorded at 87°. That is a sign of Global warming as Ireland is usually in the 70's even in Summer.

Armagh has been through, "The Troubles" as they say but I don't want to dwell on that topic.

Tommy Makem (pictured) was born in Armagh. He was a storyteller and talented singer. He was with the Clancy brothers and a solo performer. He played the bagpipes, banjo, tin whistle and bodhran. (Irish drum made from goatskin)

Some famous songs from Makem include, Four Green Fields, The Parting Glass and the Foggy Dew. He passed away in New Hampshire about 15 years ago.

Napoleon Hill's Three Feet from Gold

"One of the most common

causes of failure is the habit of quitting when one is overtaken by defeat. Every person is guilty of this mistake at one time or another. An uncle of R. U. Darby was caught by the gold fever in the gold-rush days and went west to get rich. He had never heard that more gold has been mined from the brains of men than has ever been taken from the earth. He staked a



claim and went to work with a pick and shovel. After weeks of labor, he was rewarded by the discovery of the shining ore. He needed machinery to bring the ore to the surface. Quietly, he covered up the mine, retraced his footsteps to his home in Maryland, told his relatives and

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they got together money for the needed machinery. The uncle and Darby went back to work the mine. Down went the drills! Up went the hopes of Darby and Uncle! Then something happened! The vein of gold ore disappeared! They had come to the end of the rainbow, and the pot of gold was no longer there! They drilled on, desperately trying to pick up the vein again— all to no avail. Finally, they decided to quit. They sold the machinery to a junk man and took the train back home. The "Junk man" called in a mining engineer to look at the mine. The engineer advised that the project had failed, because the owners were not familiar with "fault lines." His calculations showed that the gold would be found just three feet from where they had stopped drilling! That is exactly where it was found! The "Junk" man took millions of dollars in ore from the mine, because he knew enough to seek expert counsel before giving up. Before success comes in any man's life, he is sure to meet with much temporary defeat, and some failure. When defeat

overtakes a man, the easiest and most logical thing to do is to quit. That is exactly what the majority of men do. Failure is a trickster with a keen sense of irony and cunning. It takes great delight in tripping one when success is within reach". Questions? (708) 425-7021

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Terry From Derry
by Terry Boyle

The Myth of Identity

“Are you Irish?” I am asked this question all the time. It should not surprise me. My accent is a dead giveaway. I suppose that matters could be worse. People still think of me as Scottish, Australian, and God forbid, English. Yet, even with all these cases of mistaken identity, I see myself as Irish. However, officially, (since my hometown, Derry is still part of the United Kingdom) I am also British. If that is not confusing enough, I am an American citizen. So, it is no wonder that I am a little confused about who I am. I have never known definitively who I am. This lack of definitiveness, especially when it comes to identity, has always been a feature of my life.

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Growing up during the Northern Irish Troubles you know how important identity is. From the advent of Civil Rights in 1968 to the present day, Northern Irish people have always defined themselves as either Protestant or Catholic. No other identity exists between these two polarized viewpoints. To illustrate my point, there is a funny story Northern Irish people enjoy telling. A Jewish man, walking down a street in Belfast, is accosted by a group of young men. The young men question him, asking him whether he is a Catholic or a Protestant. Confused, the man replies, “Neither, I’m Jewish.” To which they respond, “Well, are you a Catholic Jew or a Protestant Jew?”

Being a Catholic during the Troubles meant you were the underdog, the victimized minority, for whom opportunities for improvement were limited. However, when the balance of power began to shift, during the latter part of the conflict, new openings emerged, and I became the first of my family to attend university. Entering the academic world brought the question of identity again to the forefront of my mind.

For one thing, academia changed me in ways I could not have predicted. My worldview began to expand beyond the city of Derry and its preoccupation with Northern Irish politics. My new understanding challenged me to question all my previous assumptions about life and soon I began to shed some of the cherished preconceptions I had grown up with. Abandoning some of these formative beliefs was not easy, and inevitably my departure from these ideas made it harder for me to fit back into where I came from.

After earning a PhD in Literature, I began to teach. Teaching at the University level was something that I loved, so when I was offered a teaching

Socks in the Frying Pan in Our Area Now

Socks In The Frying Pan is an award winning trio from County Clare, the universal hub of Irish traditional music.

This trio blends Irish traditional melodies with their own personal flair which has gained them critical acclaim and accolades including ‘New

experiences reveal a different side to who we are.

We all want to belong. We want the world to know what tribe we are from and who we identify with. I’ll say it again; the truth is we are never really one thing. There are many tribes we can belong to without excluding others. As we live and grow, circumstances change us all the time. The person we were ten years ago is different to who we are now. By welcoming life, we welcome change.

Most of us at times wonder who we are and what we are becoming. And, by affirming those experiences that change who we are today we are liable to find the question of identity even more perplexing. When we try to force ourselves to be something concrete and definitive, we lose some of the more interesting things about who we are. The contradictions, or complications that come from wanting to fit in and our inability to completely feel at home is quite common. Most people don’t own up to it. They give the impression of apparent ease with being a part of the tribe but scratch the surface and you soon find it’s not what it appears to be.

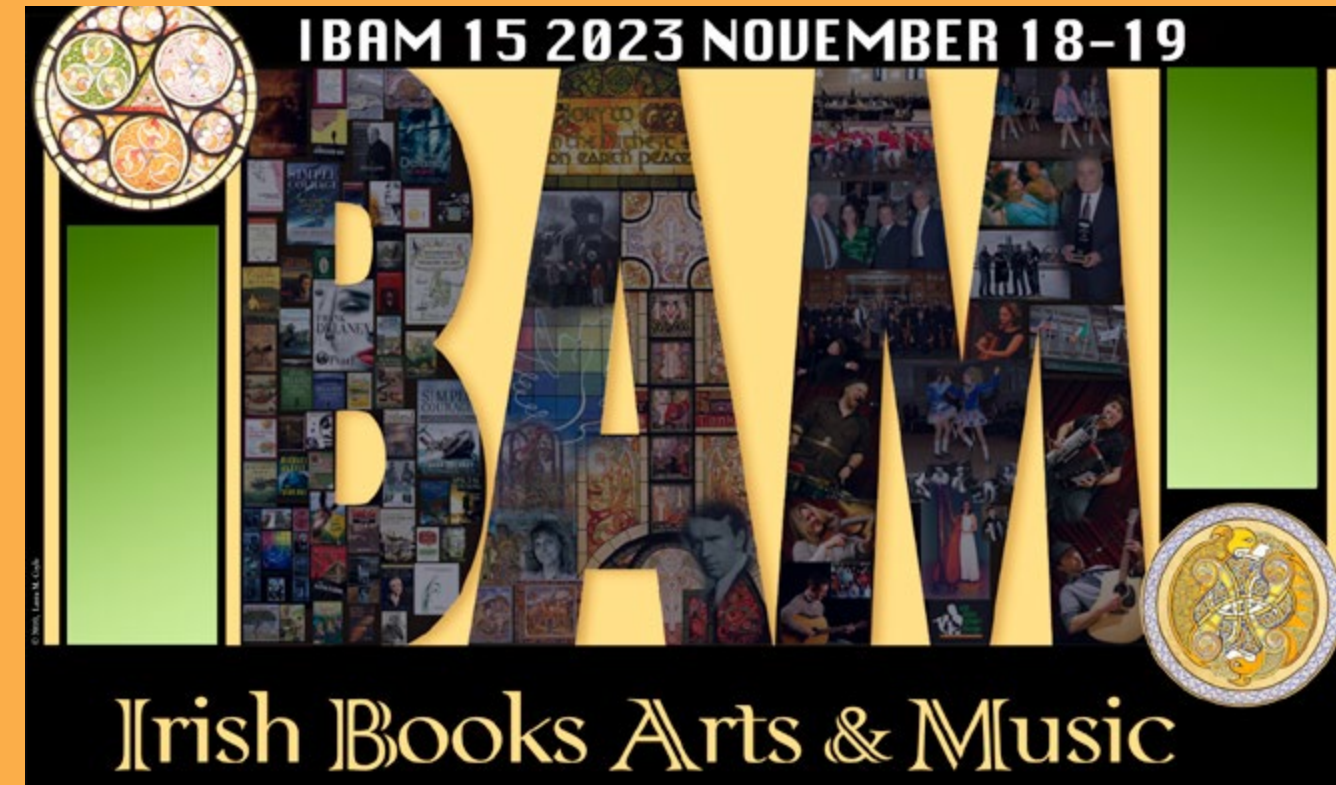
It’s only when we accept that we’re never going to be completely accepted into any group of people we realize that it’s quite natural to feel that way. Life is never simple and it’s this lack of simplicity that makes it much more interesting. Believe it or not, expressing these diverse experiences makes you more desirable to the group you want to belong to. Your unique perspective will enrich the group’s ethos. And, when you relax and accept the person that you are, others are drawn to your bravery and confidence.

It allows others the space to express their own doubts and fears without feeling as though they have to compromise who they are to be a part of the group.



MIDWEST TOUR DATES
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Aug 9- Chicago IL Irish Heritage Center
Aug 10--McGuinness Irish Pub, Appleton, WI
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Aug 25-27 Peoria Irish Festival, Peoria, IL
Sept 15-17 Michigan Irish Fest, Muskegon, MI
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Colm Toibin, Literature

Born 30 May 1955) is an Irish novelist, short story writer, essayist, journalist, critic, playwright and poet.

His first novel, *The South*, was published in 1990. The Blackwater Lightship was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. The Master (a fictionalised version of the inner life of Henry James) was also shortlisted for the Booker Prize and won the 2006 International Dublin Literary Award, securing for Toibin a bounty of thousands of euro as it is one of the richest literary awards in the world.

His fellow artists elected him to Aosdána and he won the biennial “UK and Ireland Nobel” [4] David Cohen Prize in 2021.

He succeeded Martin Amis as professor of creative writing at the University of Manchester. He was appointed Chancellor of the University of Liverpool in 2017.



Eileen Dunne, Journalism

Eileen Dunne (born 28 April 1958 in Dublin) is a respected and recently retired Irish journalist, newsreader and presenter for Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ), Ireland’s national radio and television station, where she presented the main TV news programs Six One News, Nine O’Clock News and One O’Clock News including all other news bulletins on both radio and television from 1980 to 2022.

She was the co-anchor alongside Sharon Ni Bheoláin of RTÉ’s flagship Nine O’Clock News and presented afternoon bulletins for RTÉ Radio 1.[1]

Dunne regularly featured on RTÉ coverage of major state occasions. In 2016, she was co-anchor with Bryan Dobson for the official state commemoration of the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

She is married to the actor Macdara Ó Fátharta They have one son, Cormac.



Jimmy Keane, Music

Keane was born to Irish-speaking parents from Connemara and Kerry. His father Jimmy Keane was an old style sean-nós singer.

Playing the piano accordion, he won five consecutive All-Ireland titles. In the 1970s, he started his professional career with fellow All-Ireland fiddle champion Liz Carroll and the duo was named All-Ireland Senior Duet Champion in 1975.

In the 1980s, Robbie O’Connell and Mick Moloney releasing two albums (including the first recording of the iconic Irish song “There Were Roses” penned by Irish folk singer-songwriter Tommy Sands.

In the ‘80s, Keane collaborated with guitar great Dennis Cahill.

Keane founded the group Bohola with Pat Broaders and Sean Cleland. Keane won “Male Musician of the Year” (2010), & “Male Musician of the Decade” by Live Ireland & *Irish American News* (2011).



Mary Pat Kelly Person of the Year

Born 1944, she was a nun for 6 years, has written several novels, and produced a full-length feature film, *Proud* (06) that was nominated as Best Independent Film in the Black Reel Awards. Novels include: *Galway Bay*, *Irish Above All*, *Of Irish Blood*, *Martin Scorsese*; *The First Decade* and *Martin Scorsese*; *A Journey*. Kelly worked in Hollywood as a screenwriter for Paramount and Columbia Pictures and in New York City as an associate producer with *Good Morning America* (1976) and *Saturday Night Live* (80-82), and wrote the book and lyrics for the musical *Abby’s Song* which is being adapted into an animated movie under the title *Shira of Bethlehem*.

She produced and directed award-winning PBS documentaries: *To Live for Ireland* (1986) a portrait of Nobel Peace Prize winner John Hume & *Home Away from Home: The Yanks in Ireland* (92), a history of U.S. forces in N. Ireland during World War II.



One) all fighting for audiences who, it seems, are now coming back to movie theaters.

But don't worry: the big screen won't be going black any time soon, though you won't see many actors, actresses and directors on chat show couches - that's one of a long list of things Union members are not allowed to do.

Another one is attending award ceremonies, and with the Emmy nominations announced just the other week, it's already looking like the September show is going to be pushed back - maybe even into early 2024, because at the moment, the event simply cannot go ahead.

Family drama Succession got the most nominations with 27, followed by The Last of Us (24) and The White Lotus (23), while Irish comedy/drama Bad Sisters picked up a handful too.

Meath-raised Sharon Horgan is up for best lead actress in a drama series, though she'll have tough competition from Melanie Lynskey (Yellowjackets), Elisabeth Moss from The Handmaid's Tale, Kerri Russell (The Diplomat) and Sarah Snook from Succession.

Bad Sisters got four nominations, including Outstanding Directing for Dearbhla Walsh, Outstanding Writing (Horgan and two others), plus Outstanding Casting.

As for this column, it's still business as usual - at least for a while - though of course anything planned soon or in the future may all be subject to delay, though the next James Bond movie, is used to that. Daniel Craig's last outing, No Time to Die, was delayed by COVID several times, though speculation was always buzzing about who will take his place.

Right now, you might want to put a few bucks on Irish actor Jamie Dornan.

The Fifty Shades of Grey star has always been among the names on the list, but he said he hasn't given it much thought, noting that "Sometimes I'm more in that conversation than other times. It tends to be if you have a movie coming out."

Sure enough, his next movie, spy thriller Heart of Stone, is coming to Netflix this summer, and that has meant the Belfast-born actor's odds have gone from 16/1 to 33/1.

If he got the nod, he would be the 2nd Irish actor from Ireland to play the part following Pierce Brosnan, and the other actors on the "maybe Bond" list include Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Henry Cavill, James Norton, Richard Madden, and another Irishman, Aidan Turner, who was born in Clondalkin, just outside Dublin.

Either way, the summer sun has finally arrived with a vengeance all over the world, and if anyone of you are planning a trip to the Emerald Isle, why not visit their latest attraction: the pub from the award-winning movie The Banshees of

Inisherin?

Believe it or not, the pub built for the movie was saved from the scrapheap, and now movie buffs and tourists can sample a pint in "JJ Devine's pub," which has been rebuilt in County Galway.

Devine's had a long trip on a lorry, being moved from Achill Island where the movie was shot to Kilkerrin, where publican Luke Mee, of Mee's pub, is now keeping the seats warm for movie lovers across the world.

"The film was getting so big that I was wondering how come no-one in Achill had put it together for a tourist attraction," Luke told the BBC, explaining that it turned out his brother-in-law, who worked security on the movie, had been given the set of JJ Devine's to use for timber. It sat in a yard for over a year



J J Devine's moved and open in Galway

before Lue offered to buy it, and was told he could have it for free.

"We had the pub license ready to go, so I thought it was a worthwhile idea, and we tore into gathering it. It was in big pieces like a jigsaw, and was a top-secret job - we wanted to keep it secret until we opened it to the public."

The reconstructed and relocated pub has already attracted visitors from America, and actor Brendan Gleeson, who was Oscar nominated for his role in Banshees, was among those to send a message wishing them well and promising to pop in for a pint.

And yes, there will be a donkey: not the original one from the movie but a local stand-in, Holly, who apparently loves her sudden fame and happily trots up to be pictured with all the punters!

Well, it's official. A few days ago SAG-AFTRA, the actors' union, voted to join their colleagues from the WGA (Writers' Guild of America) on strike, and on the picket line.

What does that mean? It means that essentially all film and television production has come to a grinding halt, and it's anyone's guess when a deal might be reached. The studios and streamers certainly have more money and lawyers, and will be happy to wait things out.

What does that mean for you and I? Certainly, more sports and repeats and old movies on television, for a start. It's unfortunate timing too, with big blockbusters Barbie, Oppenheimer, Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny and Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning (Part

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