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STORY PAGE 6


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JULY 2023



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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



What Maori Can Teach Ireland About Irish

Tēnā koutou katoa. Or, if you have been reading this column for a while and are familiar with me, maybe I should just say Kia Ora. Long before I landed in New Zealand, I started to receive emails from the people who were helping to organise my tour with that opening greeting: Kia Ora Maurice. Nobody explained it to me. Little explanation was needed. It is a way of saying Hello in Maori.

A concerted effort to integrate the Maori language into daily discourse in New Zealand stems from the 1970s. Up to that point, the narrative of the language, and much of the Maori

culture, had been the usual one of cultural dispossession that attended the colonial extirpation in the 'New World': new because it was new to Westerners and that designation was sufficient for Westerners to ravish it and push the natives off their lands. As with human beings, so with natural habitats. Less than one million Western settlers managed to clear over 2 million hectares of forest in New Zealand between 1886 and 1909.

The wars between the natives and settlers in New Zealand ended with a landmark treaty, the Treaty of Waitangi, signed by Maori chiefs and the British in 1840. What is notable about that treaty is that it is written in both English and

Maori, and supposedly the Maori version had equal weight. In practice, the English language and English law gained a clear mandate in the agreement.

Still, the treaty enshrined the ideal of upholding the dignity of the Maori people, which encompassed the rights of their language and identity. It took the Maori protest movement in the 1970s to ensure that that became fully part of New Zealand culture. It is an ideal that has become a unifying aspect of the nation since successive governments initiated a programmatic response to protecting and celebrating the language. In this, New Zealanders started with a considerable advantage over their neighbours in Australia since there is principally one Maori language. By contrast, there are around 250 aboriginal languages in Australia, and it would be invidious to single one out for bolstering. So, public events in Australia tend to start instead with an acknowledgment (in English) of the 'Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today. I would also like to pay respects to Elders past and present'. The result is that aboriginal languages face an existential threat in Australia whereas interest in, and commitment to, the Maori language in New Zealand continues to grow. We can learn a lot from that in Ireland, where a theoretical interest in the Irish language has, paradoxically, been one of the chief obstacles to its flourishing.

One technique New Zealanders have adopted to great success is what I outlined in the first paragraph: they intersperse the language in their conversation, email communication, television and radio broadcasts. You do not need to speak it fluently, or even be able to construct full sentences. Just use words here and there and the language becomes more of a living thing than something confined to the past with connotations of division and dispossession. Is this approach, a gateway to a broad, national revival of the language? Time will tell. Yet its revival in miniature cannot be

denied and it is an important step towards embracing linguistic pluralism. Languages thrive on feeling attractive and giving a sense of belonging to the speaker.

We seldom do this with Irish in Ireland. It is true that letters to editors of Irish newspapers tend to begin with 'a chara', which that it translates as 'my friend'. 'A chara' as a mode of addressing a newspaper editor has now become as natural as ending the missive with 'Yours etc.' It is one of those rare incidences of the Irish language being integrated into everyday English speech in Ireland. Its normality proves that other words and phrases could equally be at home in speech in Ireland as Maori is in New Zealand. The point is that Ireland could, with very little effort or investment, integrate Irish into public discourse much more effectively. Although the language is taught as an obligatory subject in Irish schools for the entire span of a child's education, the results are dismal. Even so, some of the language remains dormant and submerged in Irish people's minds and memories. With a shift in government policy and effort in the general public, much more of the language could emerge.

Is this just an Aisling (dream)? I do not think so. Irish parents remain enthusiastic about bestowing Irish language names on their babies. Neither are there any difficulties with using the Irish language form of placenames. Moreover, most of us know of Irish people who, at some point in their lives, decide to adopt the Irish language form of their names instead of continuing to use the English form. That traditionally could even happen from very early in life. For example, the only name my father has used, or been called, is the Irish form of his name. However, the name on his birth certificate is an English translation of it.

We have a lot to learn from New Zealanders about adopting Irish phrases and words into our daily language. It could ultimately enable an entirely new way of seeing the Irish language. Tíocfaidh ár teanga.

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

In breaking news Irish Distillers ended export of Jameson whiskey to Russia. In late May, the distiller's parent company Pernod Ricard announced its decision to cease exports of the international brands and expressed its intent to stand firm with the people of Ukraine.

The distiller provided assistance to people there including the local Irish team. This included financial assistance, psychological support, and accommodation

for some employees and their families. Those Irish living in neighboring countries, included employment outside Ukraine for those requesting it.

At some point, the distiller resumed exporting whiskey prompting Larysa Gerasko Ukraine's Ambassador to Ireland to urge the Irish people to stop buying Jameson whiskey in protest.

She accused Jameson of playing a role of financing Russian aggression, adding "it

would be better to relocate Irish employees to safer countries either France or Ireland'.

In other breaking news readers may recall Pope John Paul's first visit to Ireland in 1979. He was met with an outpouring of love, affection and enormous crowds. When he offered Mass in Dublin's Phoenix Park over two million people attended.

On that visit the Pope expressed shock that the Emerald Isle held the record for the highest number of sexual abuse cases in Ireland and throughout Europe.

This served as a blow to the stricken families and their abused sons and daughters. Clearly the Pontiff was unprepared prior to leaving Rome enabling him to address the issue, and make a stab at an apology.

The Pope's silence fell like a deep dark thunder cloud.

Four decades later Pope Francis visited and passed through Dublin on a Saturday. In contrast crowds were sparse and boos could be heard allegedly from abused victims and others who lined the road. Francis spent the weekend in a radically different Ireland than

the previous Pope encountered.

The country was richer, better educated, more secular and displayed a deeply disillusioned population.

In addition to clerical sexual abuse the Irish were facing the cruelty of the church-run workhouses where children were taken away from their un-wed mothers who slaved working in church run laundry's while both state and church engaged for decades in cover ups.

In comparison to Pope Francis's visit, when Pope John Paul arrived attendance at weekly Mass was close to 80 per cent and homosexuality was illegal. In contrast, today same sex marriage is legal and the former Prime Minister was openly gay. That year of 1915 voters went against church doctrine and cast ballots to remove a constitutional amendment banning abortion.

Pope Francis meanwhile spent most of his two days in Ireland apologizing for the church's behavior and sought forgiveness for the sexual abuse in Ireland from members of the hierarchy. He added "they did not care about these painful situations and kept silent."

Many of the abused were unmoved and in fact the pope's message was marred by a newly surfaced allegation when a former Vatican official accused Frances of ignoring sexual conduct that went on years by American Cardinal Theodore Mc Carrick in Washington D.C. He resigned but maintained his innocence. Pope Francis departed Ireland and it was said by many that "he had better Public Relations," than previous Popes!

Recently that cloud just spilled over once again in mid-May when news broke that an Irish retired School Principal, a Christian Brother from a Dublin School, will be sentenced in July for sexually abusing one of his students for several consecutive years. Paul Hendrick, who is 75, pleaded guilty at the Dublin Circuit Criminal court to 11 counts of indecently assaulting a pupil named Kennet Grace, during most of his time in secondary school at the Christian Brother's School on Westland Row, Dublin.

How does this happen? Did any of the Christian Brothers hear about or witness signs of this sexual abuse? Were they too busy with their own needs to notice? The abused boy apparently never revealed

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the abuse but lived through it and he and his family will be forced to relive it when the Dublin Criminal Court begins its examination.

Also, one has to ask about the abused man's family. Did they notice anything over the years? Apparently not.

Is it unfair to declare that those who surrounded and worked with the School Principal including Christian Brother teachers share some of the guilt that played havoc with the pupil's Kennet Grace's life? He was not the first, and I'll hazard a guess, he won't be the last.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Island: A Memory

-- Sun tan lotion? What...? Have I put what on? Ach, come on! This was 1971. The boy would have looked at you as if you had escaped from a Home for the Bewildered if you had asked him that. And he wouldn't have been being a little Smart Alec, either. He would have been genuinely puzzled. When school was out and if you were lucky enough to be enjoying a hot summer - and they were all hot summers back then, whether they were or not - you just stripped the shirt from your skinny frame, went off to the beach or went for a cycle on your bike and you would no more have dreamed of putting on suntan lotion than fly to the moon, even if you knew such an outlandish thing existed. Nah, we just burned the first day; we just burned. We came home from wherever we had been playing, writhed in a sleepless night of bloody agony and then went out the second day and did it all over again. By which time you were grand. You had a base, see? Honestly, it made sense back then, God help us.

Anyway, on this day in 1971 the boy - who is twelve years old - has his shirt stripped off, he's wearing a pair of shorts, has beaten up, comfortable gutties on his feet (trainers to you) and he is zooming around the island on his rented bike, not a care in the world. He's on holiday in his favourite place in the Universe, the place his mum and dad have been bringing the brothers to for years now - and often for an additional day here and there when they get the chance on a

warm Sunday. Officially it is called Great Cumbrae, off the west coast of Scotland; but to them it's just Millport, after the wee place that is the only village on the island. And it is the favourite holiday haunt of the Brady Family.

He wishes he could have brought his own bike, which he thinks of as an actual chopper, since it has ape-hanger handlebars and he's convinced that it makes him look like a genuine Hell's Angel. That wouldn't be very practical, though - even cars are not allowed on to the island at this point in its history; and so, you rent a bike for the couple of weeks you might be there from one of the shops in the village that supplies them. As the kid spends his days on one, it's an absolute necessity. And for all that the island is only a few miles by a few miles, he has a whole world to explore.

The family are staying up at the caravan park, top of the hill after you get off the boat from the mainland. And this place is pure magic! Dozens of caravans to suit couples or families - and at night you realise what a rabbit warren it is! You can sit out in the moonlight for ages, just looking at all the Thumpers running fearlessly about the place.

[Several decades ago, the boy who was the aspiring Hell's Angel makes a nostalgic return visit to the island as an adult. He's amazed that the caravan site is still there, but now it has proper shops for your convenience; and instead of a communal shower that was always set on bloody Arctic temperatures, there are individual ones with actual hot

water. Imagine.

[Wearing what is no doubt a rueful smile, the adult shakes his head. Back in Ireland he has just taken out membership of a gym. And one of the things that persuaded him was that it has an honest-to-goodness plunge pool. So, after a spell in the sauna you can have a dip in freezing cold water and pay a good wedge for the privilege. That kid would have thought that the adult he was to become could have done with a right old shake - paying to jump into ice cold water? - and he might have been right.]

There never seems to be time to waste for this energetic young fella. As soon as he has the breakfast down him, he is off on the bike to make his first circuit of the island. He cycles past the tourists - poor unfortunates who are only over for the day, whilst he has two whole weeks spread out in front of him like a great big colourful quilt. He passes Crocodile Rock, one of the island's attractions: it's a long rock on the beach front that looks vaguely crocodile-shaped and has been painted to accentuate the illusion, although I doubt it would have fooled Mick J. Dundee.

Next up is the Aquarium. In reality this isn't much more than a handful of glass tanks with various

small sea creatures in them. Yet it is of endless fascination to the boy. He could stare all day at the lobsters or just watch the multicoloured fish swimming around, astonished at the thought of these creatures being out there in the ocean, right under his paddling feet.

One time he brought with him a copy of Jules Verne's terrific 'Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea'. And just after he's left the Aquarium he sits down by the shore and reads some of it. He LOVES that bit when they're exploring the ocean bottom and the character who's telling the story muses on how there are no tide lines, those ridges that jar your feet when you're running to dive into the water. They are so far down that the sand is just plain smooth. Picture that, just as smooth as can be. And on one unforgettable occasion he is on the far side of the island when a submarine surfaces only a few hundred yards from him, there being a base farther up the Scottish coast. In his mind it was Captain Nemo's 'Nautilus', no mistake.

As a kind of supplement to the Aquarium the kid will stop maybe ten minutes further on and do his daily check of the rock pools. In this little microscopic island

world of its own, the rock pools are an even smaller world within the world, with just as much life there and just as much going on.

I wish I could take you with me around that perfect island, more than a half century ago now. Yes, of course the boy was me - who did you think it was? But the adult is out of space.

And as I lie back here, enjoying a sweltering Irish summer - and is there a more beautiful country when the sun shines? - I'm remembering what a great childhood I had and the wonderful parents who made it so. And I'm glad, so very glad, that my childhood was at that moment in time. I could have asked to be dropped down in no better era.

"You don't have to look back to see those children; part of your mind will see them forever, live with them forever, love with them forever. They are not necessarily the best part of you, but they were once the repository of all you could become...childhood has its own sweet secrets and confirms mortality, and that mortality defines all courage and love."

...from the novel 'IT' by Stephen King.

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Forget Your Stresses, Engage in a Lively Conversation, and Relax at the James Joyce Pub in Berwyn

Colin Downes and Brendan White Had a Feeling About the James Joyce Pub. They Were Right.

When Brendan White and Colin Downes opened the James Joyce Pub in Berwyn April 15, 2000, they envisioned a place where people could come together in a welcoming environment, where patrons would be treated as members of an extended family. In short, they wanted to create an Irish pub.

Read a selection of customer reviews of The James Joyce Pub on the website Yelp and you will quickly discover that Brendan and Colin have been wildly successful in making this vision a reality.

Review one: "I've traveled around the world. James Joyce is my oasis, it's my little home away from home. The owners and staff are like family."

Review two: "The variety of people that go here is what makes this bar interesting. No matter when you go you can always learn something new or meet someone new."

Review three: "There aren't many bars that have the owners walking around half of the time entertaining and welcoming their customers. The bartenders are some of the best and entertaining

as well."

How did this happen? The story of the James Joyce Pub begins in Ireland, where Brendan and Colin grew up nine miles from each other, Brendan from Dublin and Colin from Drumree in County Meath, without ever meeting each other until they had both emigrated to the United States, and more specifically, Chicago,

of the Irish community who was kind enough to let him live with her for his first months stateside. Maureen put him in touch with the Viking Soccer Club, where he made connections which led him to enter the construction trade as a member of the Local 1 Carpenters Union.

Colin arrived in Chicago in 1994, following the lead of his brother



Brendan and Colin with Alex Conyngham, founder of Slane Whiskey

near the end of the twentieth century.

Brendan arrived in Chicago in 1987, planning to stay for less than a year, when he met Maureen O'Looney, a well-respected member

and two cousins who were living in Oak Lawn. Like Brendan, he worked in construction and then started working at the Bridgeview Courthouse as a janitor for five years.

The two emigrants met while bartending at Healy's Westside Bar in Forest Park, where each had taken second jobs to supplement their earnings. As Brendan remembers, "We hit it off straight away as we worked and got to know each other. We realized that we had a good chemistry behind the bar. In fact, they only let us work together once or twice as I think they believed we were having too much fun working."

Colin credits John Phelan, owner of the *Irish Times* and later the *Celtic Crossing*, for helping Colin get the job at Healy's Westside and eventually encouraging him to open his own establishment. With Brendan on board, they drew upon the help of a friend who worked in real estate to look at different properties where they could open their own bar and found their preferred site at the shuttered Windsor Lounge.

"When I walked in, I had a good feeling," said Brendan. "It had a nice, homely atmosphere. I thought this could be something."

In many ways, their individual experiences prepared them well to open a bar together. Colin had started bartending at bars that his family ran in Ireland and had a background in accountancy and banking, while Brendan brought a blend of expertise in carpentry, sales, marketing, and humor. Nowadays, Colin manages the accounting while Brendan manages the marketing the pub, largely on its website and social media.

"We complement each other with our different skill sets, and we trust each other," Brendan mentioned, before deadpanning,



"I don't do anything, and Colin does a lot."

Walk into the James Joyce Pub on a typical day, and you will likely meet people from all different backgrounds, religions, ages, and political persuasions,

they were tempted to expand, open another location, or make other changes, but Brendan acknowledged that "the longer the bar was open, the less likely it was to make any changes. We were busy with our own lives, and since we own our current building, we didn't want to lease another place."

While valuing tradition and resisting the urge to change too much, Brendan and Colin have evolved with the times, adding televisions to accommodate the sports viewing public, and witnessed growth in Berwyn, which has seen an influx of young professionals, a boom in housing prices, and beautification in the local neighborhood.

The James Joyce Pub also hosts large group outings and community-focused events, including a fundraiser in partnership with the Berwyn Fire Department and the Chicago Blackhawks to support the Youth Burn Camp for children who are badly burned. They host readings from *Ulysses*, written by the pub's namesake, to celebrate Bloomsday each June and a block party to celebrate Halfway to St. Patrick's Day and support the Band of Brothers Pipe band each September.

Having owned the pub for over two decades, Brendan and Colin have no shortage of stories and anecdotes to share, beginning in their first year of operation when the Chicago Fire Commissioner began frequenting the pub. His name? James Joyce, of course. More recent guests have included Darryl McNally, one of three master distillers in Ireland who makes Limavady Irish Whiskey, Alex Conyngham, founder of Slane Whiskey, Tim Herlihy, founder of Lost Irish Whiskey, and Michael Flatley, who was in town filming a part for a documentary on him.

They have seen their fair share of engagements and marriages - Colin actually met his wife Jessica at the pub - and welcomed a number of characters inside their doors, namely Ernie Spence, a bartender who doubled as a magician, entertaining guests for years before he passed away. The



You never know who you will run it at the James Joyce pub. Brendan (L) and Colin (R) welcome Michael Flatley who dropped in while filming a documentary.

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pub recently hosted a 50th birthday party for a woman who became engaged to her husband at the pub 23 years ago.

Perhaps Brendan put it best when describing the history of the James Joyce Pub, which can also double as a mantra for its continued success: "When we started out over 23 years ago we were thinking how to market it and we decided to let people find it themselves. We felt confident, we had something, and believed once they got into the door, we'd keep them. We are proud of it."

Galway Fellowship Club's Annual Luncheon on 9-17

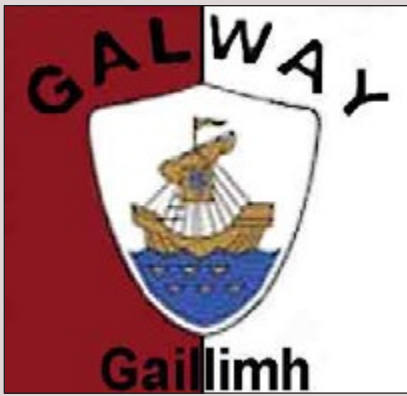
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The luncheon will be held from 1-5pm with tickets for the event will be \$50 a person and cash bar. Dinner will be served.

Music by Gerry Haughey and Teresa Shine.

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Hi, I'm **Annie Nestor**. I was born in Ireland and have family from Galway, Mayo and Kerry. I'm a locally owned Home Care Agency founded in 2015.

After 50 yrs in early childhood education and owning several child care centers, I decided to pass the baton. Our children are the third generation in our family to start schools and after seeing their success & passion I decided to venture into another area of caregiving, **seniors!** I thought, I'm not going to retire I'm going to RE-FIRE!

Working with seniors reminds me of my wonderful years teaching children loving, laughing, and appreciating the joys of life.

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Thanks to Consul General Kevin Byrne for visiting in June to commemorate the official start of the GAA youth season. The clubs (Chicago Celtic Youth, Limerick Youth and St. Jarlath's) were on hand to honor the women who work so hard to make youth Gaelic sports so successful in the greater Chicago area, and to play the games they love.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan



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visit chicagogaelicpark.com for more information on upcoming events

July 27th - HOWL AT THE MOON

August 8-10th - KIDS' CAMP

August 21st - OUR LADY OF KNOCK

September 14th - THE CARRAIG PUB GOLF OUTING

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no cover charge! visit carraigirishpub.com for more up to date information

July 6th - DAMIEN PATRICK

July 7th - O'LEARY'S LANTERN

July 8th - THE ROCKETS

July 13th - WHISKEY & HARMONY

July 14th - BERNIE GLIM

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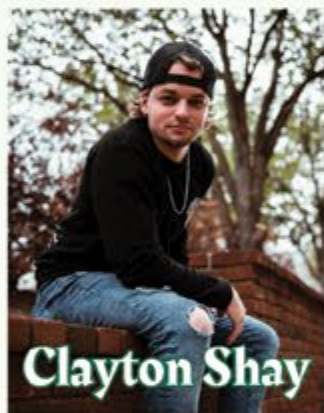
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Clayton Shay

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25TH

Clayton Shay - Boxing Banjo - Lisa Canny - Liam Durkin
The Larkin & Moran Brothers - Gaelic Brew
Gerry Haughey - Cross Keys - Sullivan School of Dance



Boxing Banjo

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26TH

Lisa Canny - Dancing Queen: An ABBA Salute - 4CAST
Wild Colonial Bhoys - The Dirty Wellies
Gaelic Brew - The Fitzgeralds - The Chancers
Blackbird Academy of Irish Dance



Lisa Canny

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH

Clayton Shay - Boxing Banjo - JigJam - The Fitzgeralds
Wild Colonial Bhoys - The Chancers - Lavin-Cassidy
Mullane School of Dance - Emerald Pipe Band
Myles McVeigh and The Hoyle Brothers



Liam Durkin



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On the Law
 Martin Healy Jr. John P. Scanlon
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 TRIAL ATTORNEYS

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 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 in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

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

**Eat, Drink, and Be Weary:
 Social Host Liability in Illinois**

Summer is here, bringing with it great weather to enjoy with family and friends. By keeping in mind a few important pieces of information, you can ensure that your summer is spent at the cookout and out of

the courtroom.
Minor Consumption, Major Problem
 Most states have some form of law dealing with "social host liability." Event hosts can be civilly or criminally liable for underaged drinking occurring in their homes, even if the host was not aware this drinking was taking place. Since 2004, the social host law in Illinois holds adults accountable for serving or providing alcohol to a minor or permitting the use of alcohol by a minor. The statute specifically imposes civil liability for "any person at least 18 years of age who willfully supplies alcoholic liquor or illegal drugs to a person under 18 years of age." Under the statute, the victim can recover economic damages, non-economic damages, attorney's fees, and in some circumstances punitive damages.

Under the current law, an adult host is held liable for the injuries to persons or damages to property caused by an alcohol-impaired minor who consumed alcohol in the host's home. It is important to note that this liability remains whether the host provided the alcohol or merely facilitated an environment for its consumption, and it applies even if the host was not present while the alcohol was being consumed.

The statute covers not only injuries to the teen, but also to any third-party victims of the intoxication. If the intoxicated teenager leaves the home and gets into an accident, the homeowner providing the alcohol may be responsible not only for the injuries suffered by the teen, but also the injuries suffered by any other person involved in the accident.

Looking to place the duty of reasonable care on mature adults, legislators specifically eliminated any theory of contributory negligence of the minor from the statute. The Act states, "Neither contributory negligence nor contributory willful and wanton conduct shall apply to any injured party claiming damages under this Act." It does not matter that the minor may be acting carelessly; the homeowner may still be found liable for their actions.

**Don't Let Your Premises Be Your Nemesis:
 How to Satisfy the Duty of Reasonable Care**

Premises liability laws vary from state to state but generally all share the same basic principles. As the host of social events, an owner or occupier of land owes their guests a duty of reasonable care under the circumstances. This duty of protection extends to dangerous conditions on the premises which the host

was or should have been aware of. Failure to provide warning of, or protection from, such dangerous conditions which guests could not reasonably discover on their own establishes a host's breach of duty if an injury was to occur. A host is exposed to liability for injuries suffered as a result of this breach, regardless of the severity of the injury. If the owner or occupier of the premises fails to satisfy their duty of reasonable care, that breach of duty could make them responsible for payment of the injured person's medical bills and other injury-related expenses including, but not limited to, lost income.

The Illinois Premises Liability Act discusses a handful of specific situations which do not fall under the umbrella of a host's duty of reasonable care. These exceptions include, among others, no requirement that guests must be warned of dangers which are open and obvious to them, no duty to warn of latent defects unknown to the host, and no duty on the host to protect guests from their own misuse of the premises.

Pool Safety: Avoiding the Deep End of Liability

Our firm previously handled a case involving a client who was injured by a poorly-designed pool. This client was a guest at an evening house party and was lounging on the steps of an in-ground pool. At the time, he was sitting in what he believed to be the shallow end of the pool. The opposite end of the pool had a ladder for exiting the pool, and there were no markings indicating the depth of the pool. Just before the guest intended to leave, he got out of the pool using the shallow end steps and walked toward what he believed was a deep end at the opposite side of the pool. He dove into the pool, but unbeknownst to the guest, the pool had two shallow ends and a deep middle. Thus, instead of diving into a deep end of the pool, the guest dove into water just over three feet in depth, struck his head on the bottom of the pool and was rendered quadriplegic. Our firm represented the individual, an Irish immigrant, against the designers and manufacturer of the pool, as well as the homeowners resulting in a record multi-million-dollar jury verdict.

Private swimming pools also pose a significant risk of harm to young children. To mitigate this risk, the state of Illinois passed the Private Swimming Pool Enclosure Act. This Act requires that in-ground pools on residential property must be "enclosed by a fence, wall, or other effective permanent barrier of 42 inches or greater height." The enclosure requirement also applies to jacuzzies and above-ground pools with a height of less than forty-two inches. Pool owners may be held liable for expenses and costs related to injuries caused by a failure to provide these protective enclosures.

Conclusion

Whether it be hosting a pool party, barbecue, or other summer event, a little extra care in the short run can mean that your saying "I'll have another one" remains a reference to drinks and not incoming lawsuits. As a guest, if you or someone you know is injured, feel free to contact Healy Scanlon Veugeler

Gannon, and we would be happy to assist. 312-977-0100

By: **Maxwell X. Campbell**

Maxwell X. Campbell, a law clerk at Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon, is a second-year law student at DePaul University College of Law. He is a writer for the DePaul Law Review and is on the Dean's List.



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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.

**Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago - Monday, July 17
Ridgemoor Country Club**

What we're hearing: Celebrating 50 years of golf and chaired by John Wrenn, this year's outing will include a shotgun start followed by a heavy buffet, a raffle and prizes for winners. President Bob Flood said, "Thank you to John Wrenn for leading the IFC Golf Committee this year. I look forward to seeing our members and guests enjoying Ridgemoor Country Club's course and the fellowship of an Irish event."

How to sign up: Visit www.irishfellowshipclub.org or email Kathy Taylor at ktaylor@irishfellowship.com

**Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance Friday, July 28
Deerpath Golf Club**

What we're hearing: "We are very excited for the second annual golf outing in support of this up-and-coming dance school on the North Shore," said Tim Lynch, who chairs the golf outing. "Last year, we had over 150 people come out, and this year we're hoping for even more. The event is open to golfers to play nine or eighteen holes and anyone else who wants to join for dinner and a special performance from the Fitzpatrick School dancers."

How to sign up: www.fitzpatrickschoolofirishdance.com or call 847-284-0808

**Concern Worldwide - Monday, July 31
Chicago Highlands Club**

What we're hearing: "You can help change the lives of the world's most vulnerable people by joining Concern Worldwide for our annual golf outing at the stunning Chicago Highlands Club in Westchester, IL, a par 72 championship links-style golf course with 75- foot elevation changes and sweeping views of the Chicago skyline," said Bridget Conway, Development Manager, Midwest, noting that tickets include a round of golf, lunch and refreshments on the course, and attendance at the evening reception.

How to sign up: <https://www.concernusa.org/event/concern-worldwide-chicago-golf-tournament>

**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 International 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.

How to sign up: 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."

How to sign up: Call 773-887-4741

**Irish American Partnership -
Monday, September 11**

Beverly Country Club

What we're hearing: "The 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.chicagogaelpark.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 e-mail iahc.golfing@gmail.com with questions.



Bill McDonagh & Mike Neary ride 70 miles on 6-23-23 raising money for Pat Mac's Kids who suffer from brain and other cancers. See what they raised & more at <https://patmacspack.org>

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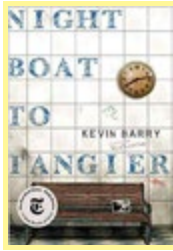
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Books in Review By Michael Corrigan



case. Evidently, the Keslers and the church share skin in the game.

Banville creates some friction since the detectives don't like each other. He also adds a romance when Quirke meets Molly, Rosa's estranged sister, in a hotel. The precise details evoke a sexual tension:

"She had been standing motionless, gazing down emptily at the unpacked suitcase. There was something faintly suggestive in the way the squat thing lay there, the lid agape and lolling on its hinges, and her tightly packed things bulging upwards slightly, as if they were taking in a deep, much needed breath. He caught a glimpse of salmon-pink silk, and looked away. She had taken off her coat. The light from the window glittered all down one side of her tight silk skirt."

When Molly survives a hit and run, the plot gets personal for Quirke. In the novel preceding The Lock-Up—April in Spain—Quirke suffered a personal tragedy that deepened his state of grief and unrest.

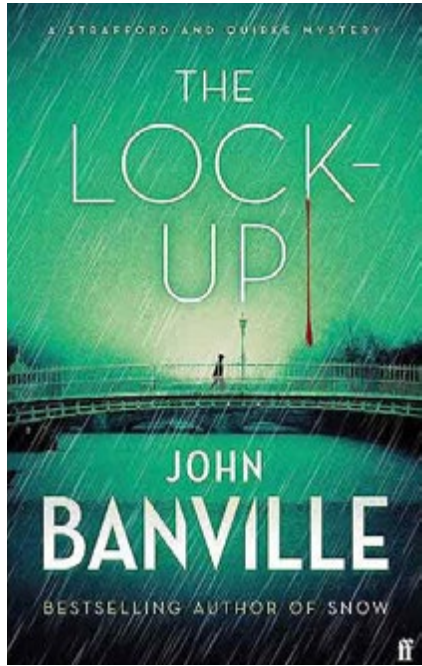
Banville ends The Lock-Up with a jarring epilogue; a minor character reveals who really killed Rosa Jacobs. For such a careful writer like Banville, this feels like a solution that is too easy, but the reader can decide.

Scottish journalist, Allan Massie, wrote, "The plot of the novel is full of twists and turns, not all, on reflection, entirely probable, yet all so good in themselves that

The Lock-up

Another Thriller from John Banville by John Banville May, 2023

Born in 1946, John Banville is considered a master Irish novelist and won the prestigious Booker prize for his powerful novel about grief and remembrance, The Sea, in 2005. John Banville is known for his pristine prose and remarkable set pieces, so vivid and dramatic, not unlike the late Cormac McCarthy. In addition to literary works, Banville also writes genre novels under the pseudonym of Benjamin Black or his own name. He admits that the detective stories are much easier to write with prose more casual and less "literary." John Banville's latest novel, The Lock-Up, features two detectives, his alcoholic but brilliant Quirke, a pathologist, and an Irish Protestant inspector named John Stafford. (Stafford's religion is problematic in the Republic of Ireland.) Quirke is a disturbing character whose "mere presence in a room had an incendiary effect. He was like phosphorus, that burns in air."



The plot is straight forward. In 1950s Dublin, Rosa Jacobs, 27, is found dead in a car, apparently a suicide by carbon monoxide. Detective John Stafford and Quirke take the case, and Quirke soon discovers Rosa Jacobs was murdered. A comment by a colleague of Jacobs leads them to a German family named Kesler who have a mysterious connection to Israel. The fact that a Jewish woman would be close to Germans who were probably former Nazis strikes Stafford and Quirke as odd. The plot grows more complicated when a friend of Rosa's from Tel Aviv investigating Israel's attempt to acquire the atomic bomb is killed by a hit-and-run driver. Another twist comes when a powerful Catholic bishop warns the chief inspector pull his two detectives off the

any incredulity is waved away. Banville is always good on weather, characters and set-pieces. One might not care to spend time in real life with the likes of Quirke and Stafford, but on the page, they offer a deep, purring pleasure" (Massie, The Scotsman).

I would concur with this assessment. John Banville is always a joy to read, particularly his popular novels. Few writers can create such simple scenes latent with a sinister subtext. If a film is made, the role of the always angry and morose Quirke would be a gift for any capable actor.

Available at Amazon and many other locations

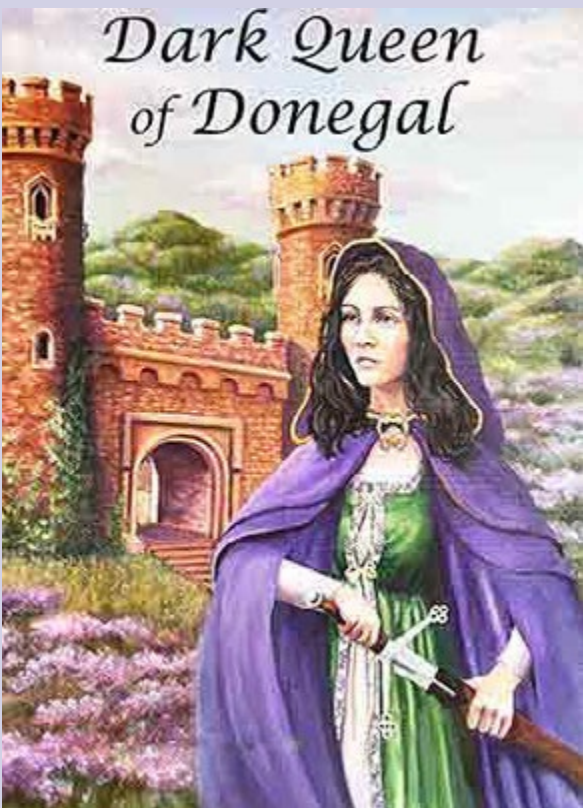
Advertisement for Radio Chicago 1490 AM, featuring photos of Margaret O'Connor, Breege Looney, and Siobhainn O'Connor. URL: https://radiochicago1490am.com

Advertisement for Lizzie McNeill's Irish Pub, located along the scenic Chicago River. Features photos of the pub interior and exterior. Address: 400 N. McClurg Court, Chicago IL. Website: lizziemcneillschicago.com

Advertisement for Fiddler's Hearth Family-Friendly Public House. Features a map showing the location at 127 N. Main and a QR code. Includes text about outdoor dining and social distancing.

Advertisement for Gaelic Imports, featuring fresh baked soda bread, scones, meat pies, and sausage rolls. Lists traditional Irish breakfast items and seasonal fall hours. Address: 6346 W Gunnison St, Chicago, IL. Website: gaelicimportschicago@gmail.com

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

This is a scary story from a mother of three from County Tyrone. In her own words she described the dramatic moment her nine year old child jumped into Loch Neagh and saved a life of a teenager who was struggling in the water,

Joanne Montague, known on social media as the 'Swimming Mamma,' has asked the public to be aware of the dangers of open water swimming during the warm weather.

The incident happened at an area on the coast of the lough known locally as the Battery.

We have stayed at the Battery for more than a week. I have a little camper van so I took the kids down there. We only live 10 minutes away. I took the kids to school in the morning and they were coming back in the evening to go paddle boarding and swimming. The weather was just brilliant on Sunday for my girls.

Some of my swimming group were there playing together with all their kids. My girls like to jump in from the Marina side. Over the course of the past two years they've built up their confidence from nonswimmers to excellent swimmers and from wearing life jackets to not having to wear one.

They were jumping in having the Craic as children do.. My children are six,nine and eleven. They all have additional special needs as well.

So getting back to the story, If you know Moortown at all, you'll know there's a lot of houses around so there's a lot of school children who may come to the lake on the Weekend.

Some girls came down that weekend and sat at the marina. I

was the only adult sitting out on the grass directly watching them as two of my girls were jumping in the water. Two of these girls also jumped in. One was a little blonde haired girl the other was a dark haired girl. The dark hair girl started going under and tried to grab onto the blonde haired girl then started to go under.

The blonde haired girl managed to get to the ladder to climb up but the dark-haired girl had one hand up in the air and she was taking in water. Her head disappeared. She went down three or four times and I jumped up. I was about 70 to 100 meters away, not far but far enough that the child was going to go under and she wasn't going to come back up again so I started running and heard a splash in front of me.

"My nine year old daughter, Emily, had jumped in to rescue the floundering teenager. She had pushed the girl over to the ladder to safety. She just had the shock of her life. She was absolutely terrified," siad Joanne. I've never witnessed that before and I never want to witness that again. The 'Swimming mamma' Joanne is now putting on swimming lessons for the local children and the folks at the water park Splash have offered their facilities Free of charge.

Joanne is a qualified open water swimming coach. She said I couldn't get swimming lessons for my kids because of their problems, I also trained as an autism swim coach, which can obviously



GOOD GRIEF
By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN
Tales & Craic!

incorporate Neuro diverse children as well.

That's what I did with my own children who have come a long way with regards to their ability in the water and their ability to save themselves. Yes I agree Joanne I think you're an Amazing mother to get out there and take matters into your own hands and get yourself qualified, and now want to help other children . Joanne also said people need to know the dangers in

in the lakes all year round with her daughters. I hear it's great for inflammation and anything and everything that ails you.

I have lots of friends who jump in Chicago lake every Sunday morning no matter what the weather and yes I will join them as soon as I get my knee re-done. Us Irish love the water. You are never more than fifty miles from the ocean at any given point. I don't remember swimming lessons growing

up but I had a brother who thought it was funny to chuck us into the water, (yes John you ..) luckily it was the shallow end so I guess we just started copying what others did. That's how we learnt to swim .

We have had our swimming pool for 23 years, and just like Joanne, the first thing I did was to teach my kids how to swim and go under the water. Luckily for me they loved it and still enjoy it to this day.

I'm hoping Joanne will come over one day with her beautiful daughters because they're all my wonderful brave nieces .

Until next time please enjoy your summer, and watch out for kids in the water!



Joanne Montague, with her daughter, Emily who is 9 years old, autistic, and a lifesaver!

open air swimming. She also stressed people need to learn how to float as it could save their lives .

That's a wonderful survival story which by the way was only weeks ago. I think first little Emily needs a huge Thank you for her bravery

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Irishfest La Crosse August 11-13

www.irishfestlacrosse.org
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La Crosse, Wisconsin. Irishfest La Crosse is a non-profit, family friendly festival run by a completely volunteer board



along with our volunteers.

The annual festival will feature a stellar lineup of Irish music from traditional to harp to rock and everything in between. In addition to music, we will have Irish dancers, cultural displays, workshops, storytelling, Genealogy Tent, Highland games, 2 days of Tug of War, Kilt Run, an Irish Market and more. Our Harp Stage this year will again feature the Harp Twins and their eclectic style of music. Our Wee Folks area is sure to entertain the kids with games, activities, contests, sheep shearing, music, puppets, and Irish dogs. There is the arcade and Aran Islands Golf for the older kids. A variety of food and drinks will be available.

All musical performances will be under tents. Entertainment will include Skerryvore, *Screaming Orphans*, Boxing Banjo, Gaelic Storm, Seo Linn, The Harp Twins, Tallymoore, Shane Hennessy, Seamus Kennedy, Ian Gould many others.

Advance tickets are \$25 for a 3 day pass or \$15 for single day on our website: www.irishfestlacrosse.org. One day tickets will be available at the gate for \$20. Youth 17 years of age and younger admitted free. Additional information is available on the website or Facebook.

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Developing Film, Talent, and Hope

By: Noreen Russo, Associate Director, Special Projects

Mike Becker (pictured), mastered his photography skills through the After Supper Visions program at Catholic Charities.

Legendary photographer and director David Bailey said, "In photography, everything is so ordinary; it takes a lot of looking before you learn to see the extraordinary."

It's a lesson that Mike Becker, a former guest of Catholic Charities Tuesday Night Suppers, learned quite well. He, too, is quite extraordinary.

The Suppers provide free meals to guests in the River North area who bear burdens such as homelessness, food insecurity, mental illness, and substance

abuse. Thanks to the generosity of dedicated volunteers, some who are professional photographers, guests of the Suppers are invited to join After Supper Visions, a training program designed to build their skills as photographers.

Before joining the program, Mike had never taken a photo in his life. A swimming accident when he was 23 left him a quadriplegic, but with assistance through rehabilitation medicine was able to regain use of his arms. After coming to the community Suppers, he began to show interest in the program. Remarkably, Mike's talent was evident from the moment he took his first picture.



"We gave him a camera and his eye for photography was incredible," said Fr. Wayne Watts, Catholic Charities Associate Administrator and a co-founder of the program.

Ellen Gorney, another co-founder of the program, recalls that the program began as a way to offer Supper guests a positive, creative experience. "An initial donation of disposable cameras provided a unique opportunity to flex creative muscle," said Ellen. "More than 20 years later, After Supper Visions continues to flourish with better cameras and a growing community of support."

We hold an annual After Supper Visions Photo Exhibition to highlight the work of the program participants and provide an opportunity for them to sell their work. Among those sellers is Mike.

"I love coming to the shows,"

said Mike. "The pictures let me be creative. I like talking to the people that come ... and see the pictures of the other artists."

A featured artist in one of the first shows, Mike was able

to re-invest his earnings to upgrade his camera and lenses. His continued dedication to the craft caught the attention of leadership of the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab (formerly known as the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago) where Mike was a patient after his swimming accident. They commissioned him to take the inaugural photos of their new state-of-the-art facility, which currently hang in the facility's public spaces.

Mike always has his camera with him in the event a visual moment suddenly transpires. He said, smiling, "I take the camera with me everywhere I go. I always have my eyes open for different pictures that might jump out at me."

The After Supper Visions program continues to be a wonderful respite for its participants.

"It's an opportunity to be part of a large, supportive community of people who enjoy photography and want to affirm each other as they strive for new levels of originality and expertise," added Jody O'Connor, a professional photographer who has been with the program since its start.

Fr. Wayne agreed and said, "It's amazing to see how the logistics of the program have changed, from cardboard cameras to computer storage. Even through these changes, there's a great amount of joy to behold."

I feel fortunate to be a part of After Supper Visions team along with my friends and mentors, Fr. Wayne, Ellen, Jody and Maureen Kelly. It gives me so much joy being with the artists, especially, Mike. He continues to amaze us with his dedication to the program and his sincere desire to help other artists progress in their skills, too.

Mike seeks, and finds joy in After Supper Visions. He's an extraordinary man with extraordinary talent, discovered when someone provided him an ordinary camera.

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Game On!

By Chris Wheaton



I have been watching with a bit of interest the kerfuffle that has been brewing in Ireland over the broadcasting of GAA games on television. The GAA and Sky Sports had a long-standing contract which allowed the games to be broadcast for free. When the Sky Sports contract ended it opened the door for the GAA and GAAGO to form a partnership and broadcast games across Ireland on GAAGO. That is all well and good except for one simple fact; GAAGO is a subscription service, meaning that fans who could not get into the games had to pay about 12 euros to watch their beloved GAA clubs compete. Hardly consistent with the GAA motto of "where we all belong".

GAA fans here in America are undoubtedly not fazed by these new developments mainly because we are used to "pay for view" tv. It wasn't too long ago that the Cubs formed a partnership with the Marquee Sports Network after being broadcast on free WGN for as long as anyone can remember. I'm sure the old-timers out here remember that "Dollar Bill" Wirtz refused to broadcast the home Blackhawks games on tv because he was afraid that people wouldn't come to the stadium if they could watch from the comfort of home. As for GAA sports, GAAGO is the only game in town here in the US and the yearly subscription fee is a small price to pay to be able to watch just about every hurling and football game live.

GAAGO does a fantastic job with their coverage and although a lot of the games are in the Irish language it is the action on the field that we tune in to watch. I had a most pleasant experience last weekend when I was celebrating my birthday with family at The Galway Arms on Clark Street. As we were walking through the restaurant heading to the outside seating area, I

noticed a man seated with his computer signing on to GAAGO. It turned out that it was Terry, the manager of the pub and he was looking for an event to put on one of the many tv screens. I asked if he was going to broadcast on one of the outdoor screens and he graciously told me we could watch any game we wanted. Within minutes, while enjoying a well-poured pint of Guinness, the Kerry v. Dublin game appeared on the tv directly in front of me. That is not something that is going to occur at 95% of the bars in the city of Chicago and was a great treat. In addition to watching the football game I was served one of the best chicken sandwiches I have ever had followed by the Celtic bread and butter pudding, which was an incredible dessert. Needless to say, I left full and happy and anxious to return. I have never had a bad experience at the Galway Arms as it is one of the most welcoming pubs in the city. An added bonus was the tall stack of this very newspaper on full display to every patron as they walked in.

With summer now in full swing and GAA tournaments happening just about every weekend across the Midwest you should all take a Saturday or Sunday afternoon and travel to Gaelic Park to catch some great games or just enjoy the best outdoor beer garden in town. It is well worth the trip to the southside, but I suggest checking the Chicago GAA website to confirm that you will catch some of the action. Looking ahead, the Naperville Hurling Club will be hosting the Joe Hurd Memorial Hurling Tournament on July 22, at Commissioner's Park in Naperville. The tournament has been renamed to honor our fallen brother and former Club President who succumbed to a rare form of cancer at a much too young age. It will be a fun day of hurling and camaraderie and some post tourney shenanigans at Quigley's Irish Pub.

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Home is Where the Heart Is

By Aishling Kelly



What Happens to our Bodies as we Age?

When it comes to physical health, the control over how you perform declines as you get older. However, a healthier body can still be achieved if you understand how the aging process works and how to slow or stop the inevitable changes that come with it.

A Trip to the Lavatory

Controlling your bladder may be more difficult. Urinary incontinence is the known medical term for this, and approximately 10% of adults 65 and older are affected by this condition.

Several of these folks sneeze or cough and some of them lose a significant volume of urine before they can make it to the restroom. For women, menopause may play a role, while men may be suffering from an enlarged prostate.

Also, you may have noticed that you haven't been as consistent as you were in the past. Diabetic diseases, for example, can cause a slowing of the bowels. Constipation can be a side effect of several medications. These include high blood pressure, depression, and Parkinson's disease medications.

Teeth Sensitivity is Reduced

Not only do you have fewer teeth, but they are also less sensitive. The hard inner tissue, dentin, grows between the tooth's exterior enamel and its core nerve over time. Because of the additional layer of protection, you're less sensitive. But the unfortunate thing is that your gums recede, making the roots more visible with time.

It's Harder to Hear and See

Objects that are close up may be complex for you to focus on. For the first time, you may require reading glasses. You may be more sensitive to glare or have trouble adjusting to sudden shifts in lighting.

Moreover, you may have trouble hearing in a noisy place or at high frequencies, depending on the volume of noise. Keep an eye on your eyesight and hearing health. Protect your eyes from the sun by donning a pair of sunglasses.

Protect your ears from damaging noise by using earplugs.

Heart Rate Increases

Your blood vessels and arteries stiffen as you age. Pumping blood requires more effort from your heart. This can lead to hypertension and other cardiac issues.

Maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. Walking, running, or swimming a few minutes a day can help you maintain a healthy BMI and keep your blood pressure in check. You can also hire a caregiver at home to help you monitor your vitals.

Heart-healthy foods include those that are high in fiber, such as leafy greens and whole grains. Reduce your level of tension and always get a good night's rest.

Sense of Taste Deteriorates

You will have less taste, maybe not in terms of apparel (although that too may be debatable), but rather in the realm of the actual. Most people lose half of their taste buds by the time they reach the age of 60, which may partly explain why the elderly tend to overcompensate by indulging in more sweet, salty, and fatty meals.

The aging process cannot be stopped, but there are lifestyle decisions you can make to enhance your capacity to remain active, to do the things that make you happy, and to spend quality time with friends and family. When the need for caregiving arises, trusted home care can provide excellent services to aid an aging family member.

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Well, I'm all settled back now after the Gertrude Byrne Alaskan Cruise. It was a fantastic experience, and it was so nice to meet up with all the outstanding musicians, and especially the great support shown by my Chicago friends (more like family) and everyone I met along the cruise. A huge thank you to Stephen Smyth for having me as part of his band. I am very grateful and I'm looking forward to doing the same again in 2024 on the Gertrude Byrne Greek Island Cruise, which, I believe is already sold out. If you haven't heard Stephen Smyth perform, he's one of the most talented musicians in the business. It would be easier to ask him what instruments he doesn't play. We were talking one day at the bar about the amount of instruments he plays and Jimmy Buckley said "Sure Stephen could play a tune on the monitors" which got a big laugh.

Now, my wife Margaret, son Declan, and I are looking forward to this year's Fleadh Cheoil in Mullingar, in August. Followed by a few days in Ennis. County Clare is my son's favorite place for Irish music. He says you hear tunes there that you wouldn't always hear in other parts of Ireland. I have to agree with him, the musicianship

"Natasha's Song"

Written by Joe McShane

Verse 1

Our thoughts drift away, to a far better place
Every once in a while, there's a smile on your face
Our hearts have been broken, and we're hoping today
That all these sad times will soon drift away

Chorus
Cause you've got a future it's waiting out there
All those hopes you once had, are gonna take you somewhere

So try to be patient and hold on to your dreams
Till this sadness will leave, like a leaf in a stream
Bridge Even as a little girl,
you were the light in your father's eyes
You've got a mind of your own your conscience is clear
And you've done everything just right
As we sit by your bedside with hope and despair
We pray that these hard times will soon disappear

Chorus
You've got a future it's waiting out there
All those hopes you once had, are gonna take you somewhere

So try to be patient and hold on to your dreams
Till this sadness will leave, like a leaf in a stream

Joe McShane

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there is a wonderful experience.

Every time I'm in Chicago people always ask me about Natasha McShane, and how is she doing. I've been to visit her over the last while and she always has that lovely smile, despite what happened to her. She goes to therapy every week and is happy with her family beside her. Her plans obviously changed after her attack in Chicago. She had just passed her master's degree, at the time of the incident. It was so heartbreaking to see her in the hospital bed back then, in a coma with her master's degree sitting on the nightstand beside her bed. I still remember the accused few words when the judge asked him if he had anything to say before being sentenced. His words were "Sorry you's guys". He tore a lot of lives apart. I thought this month's song should be the one I wrote to sing at the mass at the Irish American Heritage Center, in Chicago. Where we all prayed for her recovery. I told Natasha and her family that everyone always asked about her in Chicago, and she replied with that gentle smile of hers.

As always, be good to one another, Joe

[Joe's FaceBook Music Page](#)
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that while making history the whole nation will remember.”

Among the top female military and civilian pilots who will be soaring, diving and spinning will be the Air Force's single jet F-16 Viper Demonstration Team Leader, Captain Amie "Rebel" Fiedler.

Lake Michigan Shoreline, Historic Milwaukee Soar Line

Only Great Lakes show on deck for first woman Blue Angels jet pilot

The Irish known for adventures include the man behind the 2023 Milwaukee Air and Water Show, the only chance for aviation fans from Chicago to Brewtown to make a short drive to see the Navy's Blue Angels stunt team make history. Zooming up and down the Lake Michigan waterfront on July 22nd and 23rd will be the Blue Angel's first female jet fighter pilot, Lt. Amanda Lee, call sign "Stalin."

Air show founder and president Paul Rogers knows a bit about history, from his Irish and Welsh roots, to his World War I Canadian ace fighter pilot grandfather's nine aerial victories to Rogers' own Cold War service .

"It will be a thrilling and historic moment for Milwaukee, Northern Illinois and all Wisconsin to see the trailblazing

As the team commander, Fiedler will perform precision aerial maneuvers to demonstrate combat capabilities of one of the U.S. Air Forces' premier multi-role fighter aircraft, the F-16 Fighting Falcon, also known as the "Viper".

"When you travel to air shows, you are meeting the next generation of fighter pilots and Airmen, and that inspires me to do my job better," said Fiedler. "They are the ones that are going to be flying alongside me or trained up to take on this mission after my time is done. We get to show the people we meet that this is an attainable goal and as long as they set themselves up for success, they can do this job."

"Stalin" Lee will feel the same way as she executes hard-to-believe acrobatics with 5 other Blue Angels threading the needle between the Milwaukee skyline and the safe distance offshore. She'll be flying in the star of last summer's blockbuster movie Top Gun Maverick: the Navy's F/A-18 Super Hornet.



jet naval aviator streaking down the waterfront," says Rogers, who followed his stint as a Coast Guardsman in Alaska with his hometown military service as an airman with the Air Force 128th Air Refueling Squadron in Milwaukee, whose tankers are a fast moving gas station for Air Guard fighter jets from around the Great Lakes and when deployed, the nation or world.

Oak Creek Wisconsin-based WaterStone Bank, is a big supporter of the military and is the presenter of the show, helping to keep it a free event for the public.

"The Air Force will be making its presence known with its own fighter jet team where the pilot puts on a one plane show that crowds love," notes Rogers, who founded the free to the public show in 1994. Rogers says "the original vision for the show was to honor America's military veterans and those who defend us today. Females have made an important contribution to the armed services and this year's show certainly reflects

"Young kids growing up thinking whether they can do something or not because of their race, gender or ethnicity...they just go out and say this is what they wanna do." reflects Lee. "And this question isn't really in their mind."

No question for show founder Rogers on what he likes most about the event he created with family entertainment at the forefront: "The faces," he replies with the quick certainty of a CEO and an Irish depth of feeling. "The faces of all the young children looking up at the planes, perhaps seeing their future."

Showman and executive to be sure, but even more certainly, Rogers at heart is a dream maker.

More information about performances, show-site information and other news surrounding the Milwaukee Air & Water Show can be found at

www.milwaukeeairshow.com

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This month I'd like to touch on magic or sleight of hand! Magic relies on illusion; magicians seem to be good at exploiting the gaps in our minds and sight. My brother recently went to Vegas, and I heard there are more magicians in Vegas than anywhere in the world.

Some Vegas magic shows include Chris Angel, Michael

Carbonaro and the legendary David Copperfield. As you probably know, David Copperfield is the most famous & richest magician in the world. (billionaire) Have you been to a magic show? Most people have been to at least one. You might even know someone that knows a magic trick. There is a saying



GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

BY TINA BUTLER



"The magic of the holidays". We have the magic carpet, the magic number, black magic (magic for evil purposes) and every little thing she does is magic. (Maybe when you first met your girlfriend!)

Most of us are fascinated by mystery and magic is mysterious. Some Irish musicians include Keith Barry, Paul Gleeson and Rosy Gibb. They say those who don't believe in magic will never find it.

Magic is the ancient practice rooted in rituals, spiritual divinations, to provoke or manifest supernatural forces in the natural world. I'm pretty sure the Bible frowns on believing in magic but it is entertaining. Most magicians are self-taught, but most have mentors. I'm assuming they have to practice one trick for a very long time.

Keith Barry was born in Waterford. (the crystal county) His interest in magic began when he was 5 years old. He

graduated with a degree in Chemistry but pursued a career in entertainment. He had a TV series, "Close Encounters". He had a Ted Talk, "Brain Magic" and performed several times on The Ellen DeGeneres Show. He also has a series on The Discovery Channel, Deception with Keith Barry. He also starred as the hypnotist on the game show, You're back in the Room. Barry published his first book, Brain Hacks, it rose to number



one for non-fiction.

Next, we have Paul Gleeson or better known as "Rua", he was born in Dublin. He started as a fire performer but switched to magic. Rua began his career on TG4 (the Gaelic speaking Station), a series called, Draiocht, which means magic. The first Irish language magic series in Ireland. The first Irish series that featured an escapologist. Rua was the co-curator for Dublin's Science Gallery exhibition, Illusion. The exhibition explored the neuroscience of magic and illusion. Rua had a one-man show in the Dublin fringe festival, and he performed on

stage at one of Europe's largest outdoor festivals, the Electric Picnic in Co. Laois.

Lastly our female magician Rosemary Gibb was born in Dublin. She was an athlete, social worker, clown and magician. She was one of the first women accepted in the Magic circle. She grew up in different places around the world, Guernsey, Ethiopia, and Rhodesia. She was a swimmer and represented Ireland. I think her most notable work was that she founded a literacy program for traveler children in Dublin and she was involved in charity work and entertaining and training those with intellectual disabilities. Sadly, Gibb died in her 50's of cancer.

There are special days and weeks for different things and magic is included, magic week starts October 25-31st.

Movies about magic: The Prestige (Hugh Jackman and Michael Caine), Upside down magic (Disney) and Now You See Me (Morgan Freeman and Woody Harrelson)

I think if we want more magic in our life, we can do these three things: practice gratitude, forgive and do random acts of kindness.

Smidin Gaeige
 Magic - Draiocht
 Illusion seachmaill
 Trick-cleas
 Practice-cleachtadh
 "Let the magic of life remind you of your own miracles" Shaa Zainol "Magic comes from what's inside you, it is part of you. You can't weave together a spell you don't believe in"
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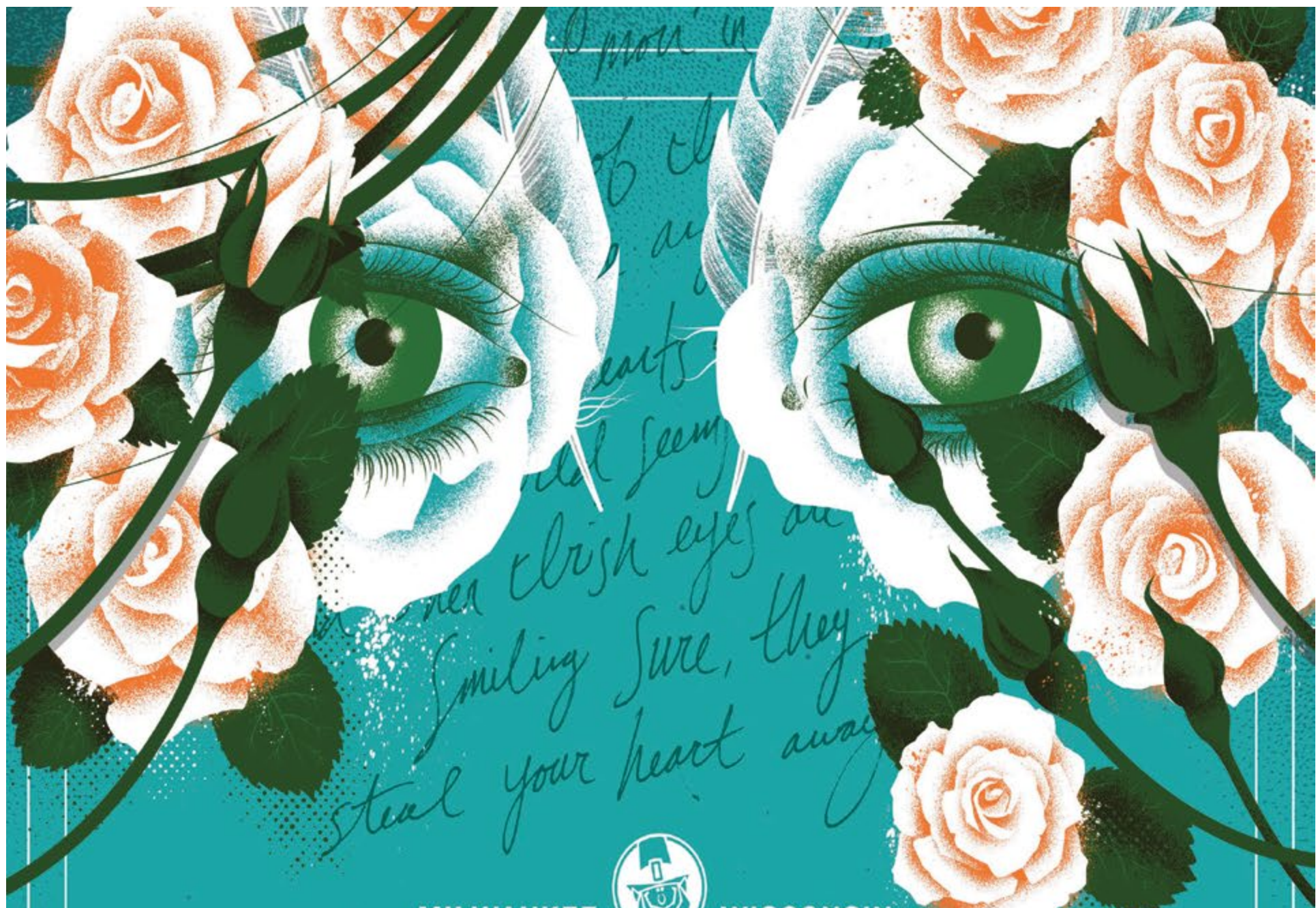
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IRISHFEST.COM

Milwaukee Irish Fest Converses with Alec Dalglish from Skerryvore on Irish Fest Memories

Skerryvore, an award-winning band from Scotland, will headline the CiderBoys Stage August 18, 19, and 20 at Milwaukee Irish Fest

Since 2005, Skerryvore have brought their performances to audiences across the globe, from their early days in Scottish West Coast halls and bars, to festival crowds in USA, Canada, Australia and throughout the UK and Europe. Picking up Scottish traditional music's 'Live Act of the Year' twice on the way – in 2011 and again in 2016 – the band's wide range of influences and talent produce a musically expansive, high energy set that excites and captivates audiences.

Melissa Ward, Director of Marketing for CelticMKE, the home of Milwaukee Irish Fest, talks with Skerryvore about Irish Fest, touring, and their new album, Tempus.

Melissa Ward: I was taking a look online at our Milwaukee Irish Fest Scrapbook site; it's essentially a digital archive of our festival, and I found that Skerryvore made their first appearance at Irish Fest back in 2011 - over a decade ago! Do you guys remember your first year performing at the festival? Can you speak to that experience a little bit?

Alec Dalglish: Wow, it's incredible to think that it was such a long time ago since we first visited Irish Fest! I remember that we were all incredibly excited to be given the chance to appear at the festival because we'd heard such amazing things and knew it was a big deal to be asked. We met so many wonderful people in that first year that are still great friends to this day and I remember we were all blown away by the incredible atmosphere, the sense of community, the hospitality and the music which was everywhere you went. I think we were probably like a bunch of kids turning up to Disneyland, and to be honest not much has changed.

MW: 2023 will be Skerryvore's 8th appearance at Milwaukee Irish Fest. Side note, when we get to the band's 10th appearance, we'll have to throw a fun musical party to celebrate! How has performing at Milwaukee Irish Fest over the years, in addition to years of touring in the United States, helped the band?

AD: Milwaukee Irish Fest has played a huge role in putting Skerryvore on the map in the US. It was the first major festival to ever give us the chance and has been such a great platform of exposure for our music. Many of the fans that we've made and gigs that we've subsequently done have been as a result of people seeing us at Irish Fest. Wherever we travel in the US, more often than not the question from people is 'but are you playing Irish Fest?'. We're always delighted when we can say that we are, and our

summer tour is often organised around that being the main event.

MW: Speaking of musical celebrations, something we've been programming about every other year now are special shows that can only be seen at Irish Fest. Skerryvore has been a part of every one of those shows so far - the Beatles Celtic Style show, which was the very first of the special shows, followed by the Irish Rock show and the Scottish Rock show. These shows have brought not only various artists together for unique collaborations but our festival patrons as well. Our patrons always comment on our social media channels how these shows were the highlight of their festival experi-

ence. I know it's a lot of work on your end (and We Banjo 3's) to prepare and rehearse for these shows, can you talk a bit about why you do these shows with us, share some of your favorite memories, and what your experience has been like - seeing the crowds, collaborating with artists, etc.?

AD: These events are always a fantastic highlight for us. We play a lot of festivals and Milwaukee is the only place where we come together with other musicians in such a way. I think the audience love to see their favourite musicians in a completely different light and they can tell how much we enjoy doing it.

As you can imagine it can be

stressful putting the show together with so many musicians and such little time but every year they all turn up having done their homework and just amaze people with these beautiful and unique performances.

There are so many highlights through the years, but I think that as soon as Eileen Ivers and her band take to the stage, everyone knows they're about to see something special. Their medley at the Beatles concert had people going absolutely wild and I think these collaborative performances have the Irish Fest audience more enthused than I've ever seen them.

During rehearsals for the Irish Rock Show we'd played 'Come on Eileen' about twenty times and there was only one single, but very important moment in the song where Enda (WB3) was needed to play that famous little banjo hook in the middle. Not once did he ever remember. The moment of truth came on the night of the gig as we all stood waiting for his moment and when he finally ripped out that banjo lick perfectly for the first time ever I think we nearly had to stop the show from the sheer hilarity that ensued.

A personal favourite moment of mine is from the Scottish Rock Show where I decided that I'd dress as Angus Young from AC/DC. I don't know if people were more amazed that I'd turned up dressed as a school boy or just in sheer disbelief that my legs were even whiter than they'd imagined.

MW: Well, thank you Alec and Skerryvore for always having such memorable performances at Milwaukee. We look forward to Skerryvore's shows this August at Irish Fest. Thank you for bringing such quality to your performances and for creating such a fun, energetic, and interactive show for our patrons!

AD: Thank you for bringing us back over all these years. It's always a pleasure and an absolute highlight in our calendar each year. We can't wait to see everyone and bring the audience new material from our latest album, Tempus.

Skerryvore will make their 8th Milwaukee Irish Fest appearance this August at the Henry Maier Festival Park. View the full entertainment lineup and schedule by visiting irishfest.com. Tickets are currently available for the lowest price, online only. Get your tickets in advance to save at irishfest.com/tickets. Irish Fest takes place August 17 - 20. Enjoy over 100 entertainment acts across 16 stages!

Check out Skerryvore's newest album Tempus, available to listen to on various streaming platforms and to purchase at skerryvore.com.



*Picture from the 2022
Irish Fest Scottish Rock Show*



*Picture from the 2022
Irish Fest Scottish Rock Show*

Musical & Cultural Highlights at Milwaukee Irish Fest

Cultural Areas at Milwaukee Irish Fest

Multiple areas at Milwaukee Irish Fest are dedicated to showcasing the rich culture of Ireland and its country's traditions

The **Cultural Pavilion** on the south end of the festival grounds features various areas to immerse in all things Irish! The Pavilion continues its long tradition of bringing all things Irish and Celtic to the festival through digital and physical displays. The area will again have an exhibit on the 100 Anniversary of the end of the Irish Civil War, which ended in 1923. They will also have a display on the mythology of Ireland, the Fauna of Ireland, and the story of Colmcille. The organizers are also working with Dr. Niamh Hamill on an exhibit about St. Brigid.

The Literary Corner

will feature popular Irish author Carlene O'Connor. Latest additions to her Irish Village Series will be available along with a new novel based in Donegal, called No Strangers Here.

Genealogy

How did your Celtic ancestors get to the Midwest? Find out at the festival's Genealogy Tent, located on the south end of the grounds in the Cultural Area. This year's interesting new displays focus on the immigration of your Celtic Ancestors and their travel to midwestern states, which includes mapping of these immigration routes. Come meet professional genealogists who will make presentations and



provide consultations. The tent will also bring back favorite exhibits on DNA, Irish First Names, Irish Surnames, and much more to assist you in your genealogical journey. One-to-one researchers will also be available to support you in your searches. Don't miss out visiting this area to complete your Irish Fest

experience!

History, genealogy, politics, literature, modern culture and more will be discussed in the **Hedge School**. Brendan O'Leary, author of Making Sense of a United Ireland and member of the ARINS Project, will speak at the Hedge School, as

well as Terry Clavin, co-editor of the RIA's Irish Sporting Lives, José Laners, professor from UW-Milwaukee, and the Black and Irish organization from Ireland. The Hedge School will also include its annual Poetry Hour, featuring poets of Northern Ireland and the winner of this year's Milwaukee Irish Fest Poetry Contest.

The **Irish Language Workshop** tent and Gaeltacht tent will also return to the festival's cultural areas with a full weekend's worth of programming. The Theatre Pavilion will feature the plays "In the Shadow of the Glen" – Synge and "A Bedtime Story" – O'Casey, in addition to multiple tiny plays from Fishamble, the award-winning Irish theater company.

Callen Celtic Kitchen

This year's featured chef in the Callen Celtic Kitchen at Irish Fest is **Tom Flavin**, (pictured) a chef and food consultant from Limerick, Ireland. Flavin grew up on a dairy farm in West Limerick and has over 30 years of experience in the hospitality industry. He started his career in Manila where his passion for food was enhanced working with a like-minded multinational brigade of chefs. Prior to returning to Ireland in 1999, he worked in many 5 star hotels throughout the world such as:
Raffles Hotel Singapore
The Dorchester Hotel London, UK
Hanbury Manor in Hardfordshire UK
The Reef Hotel Casino, Cairns, Australia
The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Melbourne, Australia
The Intercontinental Hotel Manila, Philippines
and in a variety of 5* hotel kitchens and fine dining restaurants in Australia and Philippines.

Flavin has spent 22 years in Limerick as an Executive Chef and opened the Hilton Hotel Limerick in 2007. He is a member of Eurotoques Ireland and a former Fáilte Ireland Food Champion promoting local food and tourism along the Wild Atlantic Way.

You can catch his Irish cuisine demonstrations at the Callen Celtic Kitchen all weekend long at the festival. View his demonstration schedule at irishfest.com/schedule.

There's so much to see and do at Milwaukee Irish Fest. From music to dance to language to sports, there's so much to discover and immerse yourself in. Get your tickets now at irishfest.com and view the full program.



Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School Returns

August 14-18 for In-Person Irish-Themed Classes

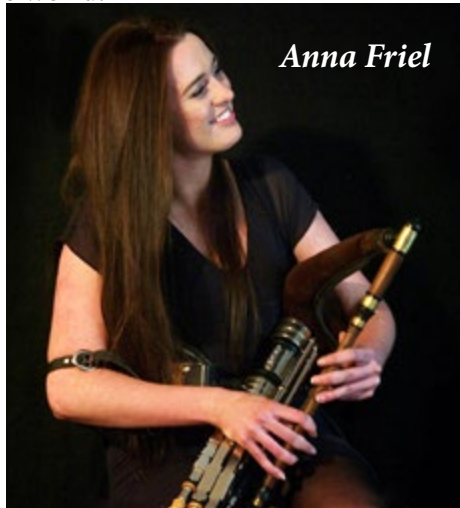
Music, Culture, Language, Dance, History, Art and More!

This year's Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School will offer a selection of over 40 in-person classes Monday, August 14 through the afternoon of Friday, August 18. Classes take place in the Village of Wauwatosa, primarily at the CelticMKE Center, which is the parent organization of Milwaukee Irish Fest and its Summer School.

The **Summer School** features classes that showcase the rich culture, history and traditions of Ireland and Irish America, past and present. Come learn to play the Irish fiddle, flute, tin whistle, guitar, harp, Celtic music styles, and more from master musicians. Or take a discussion class and learn about Irish history, Irish language, art, and culture! The Celtic arts classes offer hands-on learning for everyone!

Classes at the Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School are taught by renowned musicians and field experts from across the world.

Áine McGeeney
(from Goitse)
Aisling Lyons
Anna Friel (from The Friel Sisters)
Colm Keegan
Kim Robertson
Liz Carroll
Máirín Uí Chéide
Shane Hennessy
Ronan Eastwood
+ many more!



Anna Friel

Below are a few highlights of this year's three-day class offerings.

Crochet with Edel MacBride

Crochet a 1970's style poncho for yourself or a little one or just do a little of the pattern to make a Winter Collar.

Using the basic crochet stitches of slip stitch, double and treble crochet, with a little shaping this pattern can go on infinitely to become whatever size you wish. Taking its inspiration from the Irish language movie, *An Cailín Ciúin*, 'The Quiet Girl', you can use this pattern to use up lots of your stash yarn too. Bring 200g (400 yards) of any yarn weight you wish from sport to worsted, a crochet hook recommended for the yarn or choose yarn in class.

Celtic Art with Patrick Gallagher

Join Patrick Gallagher Celtic Artist as he takes you on a journey through the ins and outs of the Celtic Art Tradition. Travel from the dawn of time to our own world. Experience the power and heritage of a symbolic design system that has survived virtually intact since the neolithic era of Old Europe. Like a tree, Celtic Art is ever growing, evolving, accumulating and perfecting the images and spiritual concepts that connect us to the earth and our environment. No experience is required.

Sean-nós with Alicia Guinn

Rhythmic, playful, inventive! Sean-nós dancing is a fun, easy form of old-style Irish solo dancing. In this class, we will learn basic movements, rhythms, and steps for sean-nós dancing. We will explore the culture and history of this tradi-

tional dance style. Students will also take away tools and resources for creating their own dance practice at home. All levels welcome, including students new to dance.

Uilleann Pipes with Sheila Friel

Intermediate/advanced uilleann pipes class: In this class Sheila Friel hopes to deliver instruction on technique whilst developing a repertoire of classic piping. There will be dedicated time to learn the basics of playing and tuning drones and if relevant delve into the art of regulator playing.

Advanced Bodhrán with Colm Phelan

Take your bodhrán skills to the next level with Goitse's Colm Phelan. Tailored to Advanced players, Colm's class will cover: Looking at grooves in multiple tune types and how to play in the pocket; How to follow the melody line of tunes; Odd time signatures & rare session tune types; and Technique tips & tricks.

Intermediate Fiddle with Clare Friel

In this class, Clare Friel will pass on tunes and technique learned from years of teaching and attending workshops and sessions. The class will feature session tunes, and an introduction to Donegal repertoire and technique, which will cover bowing, phrasing and ornamentation.

In addition to the three-day classes, the Summer School also offers one-day only samplers and workshops, taking place on Friday, August 18. Below are a few examples of Friday class options!

Celtic Kids Camp

The Irish Fest Summer School Celtic Kids Camp offers a full, immersive, three-day Irish learning experience for kids ages 7 to 12 years old. Taking place Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the Summer School week, kids will have the opportunity to take a deep dive into all things Irish - from music and history to art and dancing. Head to irishfestsummerschool.com to view more details about the program.

Sampler: Girls in Silk, or the world's wild rebels?:

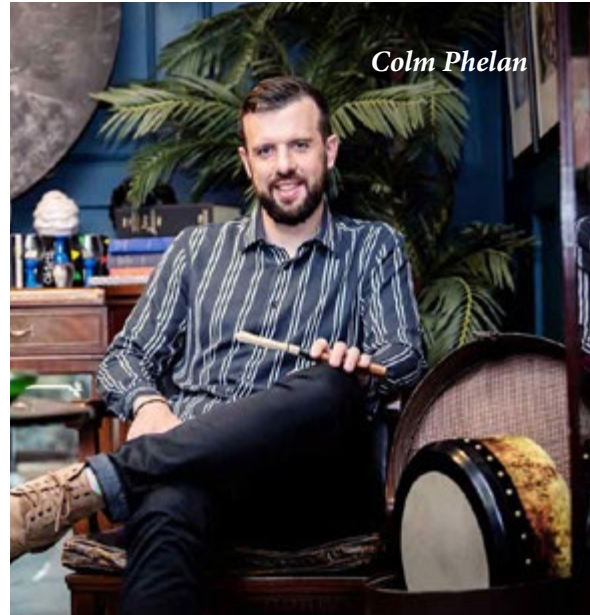
Constance Markievicz and Eva Gore-Booth with Dr. Niamh Hamill

'Girls in Silk, or the world's wild rebels?' Dr. Niamh Hamill details the remarkable lives and work of Constance Markievicz and Eva Gore-Booth, two sisters from Lissadell in County Sligo. Immortalized in the poetry of W.B. Yeats, the two sisters were both devoted to each other, and to a life of public service for which they would pay a high price.

Genealogy Workshop: Hey, What's the Story? with Dave Miller

Are you just starting out with your genealogy or have been at this for a while or just starting your

Irish research and don't know where to start? Genealogist Dave Miller will help you with the starting points and how to start your Irish research from home before you even step foot



Colm Phelan

on the plane to Ireland. Later, Aunt Martha told you stories about your ancestors. You begin to prove the story is correct...or maybe it's totally wrong. Nothing against Aunt Martha but maybe the story was never explained to her correctly either. Then you find out the ancestor who no one knew anything about was actually accused of attempted murder and put on trial only to find out she was later acquitted,

and it was all about a family dispute. These are the stories you need to prove or disprove and some of these stories can be unbelievable. Dave Miller will also show some of his family stories (some are real whoppers) and how he went about proving them and how you can find ways of proving your family stories.

Creating Variations Workshop with Katie Grennan

Part of the beauty of Irish music are the nuances embedded into the melodies - no one person plays exactly the same way. This class will explore the uniqueness of the art of variation, how to accomplish it and use it to effect, and endeavor to have each participant look to create their own take on a few tunes together.

Additional Information

View the full class and instructor list by visiting irishfestsummerschool.com.

Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School classes take place Monday through Wednesday, in the evenings, and Tuesday through Thursday, in the afternoons, in addition to the Friday sampler and workshop classes.

Register now to secure your spot! Registrations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Some classes are limited in size to optimize the learning environment. Classes are open to anyone - any age and any playing level. Register online at irishfestsummerschool.com

The Irish Fest Summer School is a part of CelticMKE, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Irish, Irish American, and Celtic music and culture. Learn more about CelticMKE by visiting CelticMKE.com



milwaukee irish fest
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at Milwaukee Irish Fest



MEGA-Trad



Polly Barrett



The Finns

TRADFEST

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View their Performance Schedules at

IRISHFEST.COM

Milwaukee Irish Fest: In Conversation with Hugh from The Finns About Music and Milwaukee

The Finns are a highly successful folk music duo from Laois, Ireland. Their roots lie in traditional Irish music but their original songs have been described as alt-folk roots, or indie folk music, with strong hints of blues and rock. The brothers, Hugh and Ciaran, will make their Milwaukee Irish Fest debut this August, performing all four days of the festival.

Melissa Ward, Director of Marketing for CelticMKE, the home of Milwaukee Irish Fest, discusses music and Milwaukee with Hugh from The Finns.

Melissa Ward: Hi there Hugh! I'm looking forward to our patrons seeing The Finns in Milwaukee in a few months. I know some of our patrons who follow us on social media were first introduced to The Finns back in 2021 for our virtual At Home St. Patrick's Day program, so it's exciting that they'll get to see you perform in person at Irish Fest. What a different time that was! Do you remember that project coming

stream so we were very, very lucky.

MW: It feels like a full circle moment, almost - doing the CelticMKE At Home St. Patrick's Program and now performing at Milwaukee Irish Fest. Can you talk a little bit about your perspective on The Finns making their debut at Irish Fest in August and touring in the U.S. as an Irish band?

H: Honestly, we are so pleased with ourselves and truly honoured to play there. We've always thought it as a main goal to be one of the bands on the Irish Fest lineup and I even have it written down on "my list of goals" so to be invited is very rewarding... and now I am pretty sure I'm a psychic too!! Regarding tours, we've been dipping in and out of America for short tour stints in the past decade and we've always just loved being there but we want to look into doing bigger tours and really let more people hear our music and hope they like it. It's great being on the road in the US with a banjo on the back in

absolutely amazing songs and we want to be able to keep them alive and relevant.

MW: Your original song, "Freemind" is a beautiful, uplifting song. "Silence breaks free now of my mind." - I really love that lyric line. I'd love to know more about this song as it's very compelling. What's the story?

H: I'd almost want Ciaran to explain this as he was the one who penned the original lyrics back when he was a wee teenager. Who knew that a grumpy, loved up 17 year-old metal band drummer had such poignant and emotional lyrics in him. The song was genuinely written for a three piece metal band called Kingdom of Mine which consisted of Ciaran, our older brother Eoin and a bass player, when Ciaran was between secondary school and college in Limerick. "Silence breaks free now from my mind" was about a girl but he's still yet to share who it was...she was go ask him again.



about? Recording a half hour long show for a virtual program ...how at home videos became a popular way to connect with folks during the pandemic? And by the way, thank you for being a part of that program. It's one I'm still very proud of and we loved having The Finns be a part of it.

Hugh: Hi Melissa and first of all thank you for your time and secondly thank you for inviting us to be part of the Irish Fest community both online before and of course in reality this year. We remember that virtual festival, it was very smoothly put together. With all the pandemic's many flaws, we enjoyed the live streaming throughout and we doubled our fans online too! The exposure for events like the Milwaukee Paddy's Day program was unreal, and we actually made a few life-long fans/friends from that

a car rental living the dream. I do wish I was 21 again though...

MW: Songwriting is clearly a critical piece of what defines The Finns musically. And your repertoire has a mix of original songs and classic Irish folk songs like "The Fields of Athenry." How would you describe your sound and your ideation behind performing both traditional classics and original compositions?

H: We just love the music, and writing songs is just a huge part of our whole purpose as a band. Our original songs are Irish folk songs, too, but they just need a couple hundred years to become classics!!! We've never shied away from putting them out there and I think it makes our set stand out while still maintaining that core of well known Irish folk songs because they are

MW: What can we expect at your shows at Milwaukee Irish Fest?

H: We provide a good bit of honest entertainment, big sound, catchy songs, no gimmicks, a few laughs, and plenty of good Irish vibes. We will play an array of songs and a lot of our originals especially the brand new ones which will be the first time playing them on stage so that's very exciting, even for us. New songs bring new energy. We can not wait and please be sure to come say hello to us.

Milwaukee Irish Fest returns to the shores of Lake Michigan at the 75-acre Henry Maier Festival Park August 17 - 20. The Finns will perform at Milwaukee Irish Fest August 17, 18, 19 and 20. View their schedule, along with other artists, by visiting irishfest.com and get your tickets in advance to save.



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4 Days of Music, Culture & Craic!

OVER 100 ACTS. 16 STAGES.

Since 1981, Milwaukee Irish Fest has been dedicated to celebrating and sharing our rich Celtic heritage with the world. We are passionate about preserving the history and traditions of Irish, Irish American and Celtic cultures at the festival and through other programs and initiatives with our parent company, CelticMKE.

This year's festival features over a hundred entertainers across 16 stages. Whether it's learning the Irish language with a Gaelic speaker at Gaeltacht, listening to a discussion on Irish history at the Hedge School, catching an Irish dance performance with your family, or dancing the night away with Scythian, there's something for everyone to enjoy at the world's largest Irish music festival!

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Experience Irish Fest in an exclusive setting! Invite your friends and be a part of a VIP experience!

Access to the Failte Club VIP deck includes two complimentary beverages, an elevated view of the Miller Lite stage so you can catch performances from Doolin', Gaelic Storm, Boxing Banjo, and more, a private bar, private restrooms, snacks, come and go access, and more!

Individual day passes and 4-Day passes available to purchase at irishfest.com.

GET TICKETS ONLINE & SAVE!

IRISHFEST.COM

Irish Singer Song Writer Victoria Johnston Debut Album is 'Where The Lights Glow'

Dublin based singer-songwriter Victoria Johnston has released her debut album, 'Where The Lights Glow' of all original songs including her single 'Tar Liom' (Follow Me) that was shortlisted for Song of the Year at the 2021 Grammy Awards.

Victoria Johnston is an independent artist and her music has received television features and radio airplay across Ireland including on its prime national broadcaster RTÉ. Victoria has been interviewed and featured in Irish magazines and newspapers including *Irish Tatler*, *Irish*



World newspaper, *Irish Daily Star*, *The Sunday World*, and *RSVP* magazine.

Her debut album encapsulates her music background as a classically trained musician and award-winning composer. Victoria's distinctive signature vocals remain the focal point throughout, with emotive songs including themes of light, hope, positivity, loss and reflection.

In 2020, *Hot Press Magazine* featured Victoria as 'New Artist' and 'New Music' to watch for. "The tunes turn out to be as impeccable as her credentials. She is already being hailed as the next Enya" - *Hot Press Magazine*. The album, was produced by legendary Grammy nominated producer Denis Woods (previously of Windmill Lane

Studios, Clannad, AC/DC) and Kevin Corcoran (Villagers)

In speaking about her debut album Victoria, "Dreaming big, raising your expectations, moments of illumination, looking forward, reflecting on the past, resilience, encouragement, are all themes reflected in my songs on this album. If there is one defining message from the album, I hope it's that the songs are an encouragement in remembering that you are a unique light in this world, so shine brightly!"

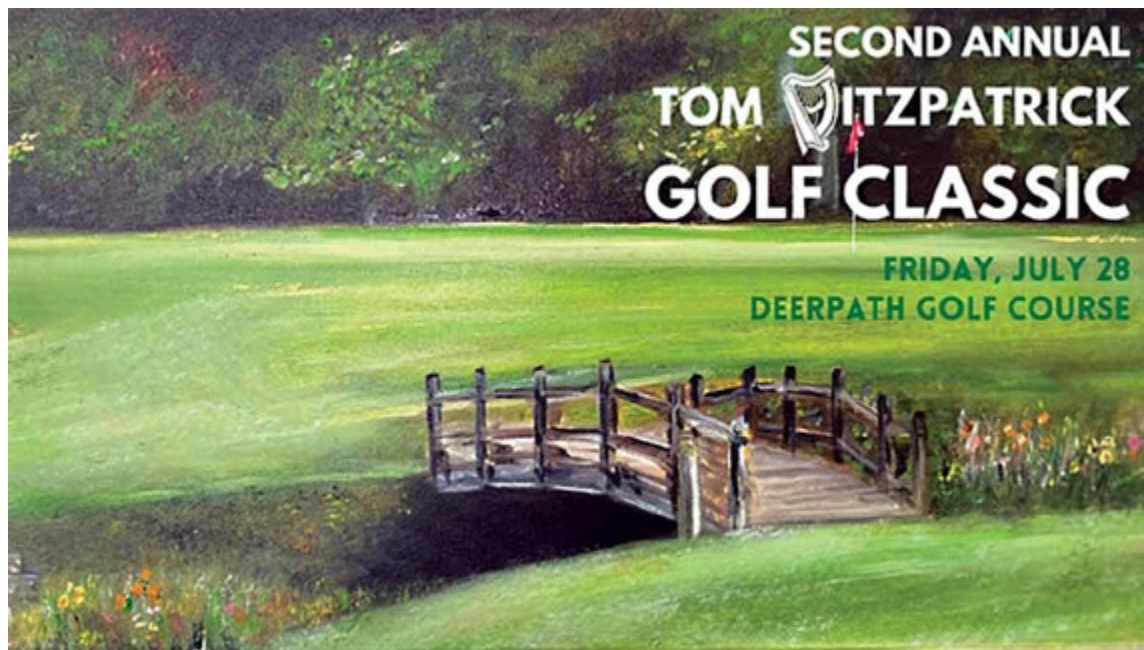
Victoria's music background includes being classically trained at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin from age 9 obtaining annual scholarships. She then continued

her music training at the TUD Conservatoire in Dublin majoring in Composition.

Victoria also holds a MPhil from Trinity College Dublin in Creative and Cultural In 2022 Victoria partnered with the Irish charity Fields of Life to create and fundraise for a pilot music education program initiative called 'Music for Life' for 2 Fields of Life schools in Uganda.

The fundraiser and pilot program were for the procurement of music instruments and a music education. <http://victoriajohnstonofficial.com>

Catch the video for the lead song from the album, 'FOREVER (In the End)' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1ZVP9Tj5xY&t=5s>



2nd Annual Tom Fitzpatrick Golf Classic July 28 Lake Forest

The Second Annual Tom Fitzpatrick Golf Classic takes place on Friday, July 28 at Deerpath Golf Course.

The powers that be are busy planning the golf outing and making sure it's the best one yet.

- That's where you come in!
- This year's highlights include:
 - 9 hole or 18 hole option
 - Kids putting contest
 - Dinner & drinks
 - Golf prizes & raffles
 - Music from the byrne siblings
 - Dancing from Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance



TIMING:
Golf tee times begin at 1pm
dinner reception begins 5pm

PRICES:
golf: \$125 for 18 holes and \$100 for 9 holes (includes cart, drink tickets and dinner reception)

dinner reception: \$40 for adults and \$15 for kids ages 3-12 (under 2 are free)

- Event Title Sponsor (\$1,500)
- Exclusive naming rights: "Tom Fitzpatrick Golf Classic Presented by (Your Name Here)"
- Golf and dinner reception for four
- On-site signs at golf outing check-in and reception area

- Company/organization/individual image featured in event program
- Recognition on FSID website, social media, newsletter, and other channels
- Hole Sponsor (\$250)
- On-site sign on one golf hole
- Company/organization/individual name featured in event program
- Deadline for Sponsorships: Friday, July 21
- E-mail fitzpatrickschoolofirishdance@gmail.com or call Emmett at 847-284-0808 This event is a fundraiser for the Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance Foundation.



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Rory Fought a Losing Battle

By David McDonnell

'Rory-o, Rory-o,
Wherefore art thou Rory-o?'

Rory McIlroy has been on my mind of late so forgive my clumsy use of poetic licence as events on the golfing

stage over the last month have unfolded like a Shakeperian tragedy.

At the start of June, news dropped that the PGA Tour, along with the World Tour, were getting into bed with Saudi Arabia's 'Public Investment Fund' (PIF), the very people behind the LIV Golf Tour which caused major upheaval across golf during the last 12 months.

It was a gobsmacking turnaround by

the PGA and the hypocrisy, particularly from PGA Commissioner Jay Monahan, has been difficult to stomach based solely on his words and actions over the past year.

Let me provide some context.

It is well-known the Saudi LIV tour recruited a host of the biggest names in golf to pack their bags last summer and head to the Middle East with promises of extravagant riches. Some of these deals were barely believable with Phil Mikelson and Cam Smith signing deals worth a reported \$200 million and \$100 million respectively.

And that wasn't the prize money for

competing, that was just for turning up to play.

Other defectors included major winners Dustin Johnson, Sergio Garcia, Brooks Koepka and Byrson DeChambeau.

It led to a civil war of sorts between the players with Rory McIlroy becoming the chief critic from within the ranks of

the remaining PGA players.

He had spurned a \$400 million offer from the Saudis to remain loyal and seemed to take it as a personal affront as Chairman of the Player Advisory Council for the PGA that the deserters left to fill their coffers on his watch.

In June 2022, he came out swinging: "You had people committed to the PGA Tour and statements that were put out, and people went back on that. So I guess I took them at face value, took them at their word, and I was wrong."

He continued to be scathing in his criticism throughout the season.

"I hate what it's done to the game of golf. I hate it. I really do. It's gonna be hard for me to stomach going to Wentworth in a couple weeks' time and seeing 18 of them there. It just doesn't sit right with me. I feel strongly. I believe what I'm saying are the right things, and I think that when you believe what you're saying are the right things, you're happy to stick your neck out on the line."

And sticking his neck out for the PGA tour is exactly what Rory did. He was readily credible and certainly helped to galvanise the PGA Tour players as a group.

It could be argued that his approach was in his interest too, that it suited him to become the de facto Captain America of the PGA tour.

Rory lives and plays most of his golf in the States. His biggest sponsors, including Nike, are American companies and his rhetoric has endeared himself more strongly to the US golfing public and those in the media, whose livelihoods are directly tied to the commercial success of the PGA tour.

The PGA officials went for the jugular during this time and were quick to point out that the Saudi Prime Minister and Crown Prince, Mohammad bin Salman (MBS), was responsible for ordering the murder of Washington Post journalist, Jamal Khasoggi, at the Saudi embassy in Turkey in 2019.

Khasoggi had written articles detailing some of the human rights abuses happening throughout his native land and was critical of MBS, insisting he was not the progressive leader he was being made out to be during an extensive international marketing campaign over the last decade, which included a commissioned documentary on the Saudi royal family by the BBC.

When he came to the embassy to collect travel documents for his wife that fateful morning, a team of 16 men were waiting for him. They strangled him and proceeded to chop up his body using a bone saw. During his ordeal, a man dressed up in Khasoggi's clothes left the embassy and it was initially argued that the journalist had walked out of the building using CCTV footage. It was soon dismissed by authorities as the staged doppelganger was wearing different shoes.

The office where the murder took place has been bugged by Turkish security services and details from the leaked recordings of the murder soon became public knowledge.

The fallout for MBS was mainly reputational.

To his political allies, including the US and the UK, he made heavy investments and aesthetic reparations including hanging five of the men he had ordered to commit the murder, which gives you some insight into whom the PGA are attaching to the future of the global game.

The truth is the PGA sold out and



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how they moved in secret was in direct contrast to how they purported themselves in public. It has made their duplicity all the more distasteful.

Last year, the affronted Jay Monahan even gathered the families of 9/11 victims to his cause, despite there being no credible evidence that the Saudi Arabia government had any involvement in funding Al Qaeda.

He stated: "I would ask any player that has left or any player that would consider leaving have you ever had to apologise for being a member of the PGA Tour?"

Twelve months on his moral indignation reeks of insincerity and hubris as he, along with Chairman of the PGA Tour policy board Ed Herlihy, and Jimmy Dunne brokered this deal in secret away from both the PGA staff and players.

Discussions of the merger began soon after the Masters in April with Yasir Al-Rumayyan sitting on the Saudi side of the table. He is well-known as

the chairman of the richest company in the world, the state-owned Saudi petroleum company; Aramco.

He was also the chief negotiator 18 months ago when a consortium financed primarily by MBS, bought the English Premier League side Newcastle United.

He has been a busy man this summer as the PIF have taken a coordinated approach in seizing power across the sporting landscape.

This summer the PIF took control of the top four soccer clubs in the Saudi league and have been overpaying for some of the biggest names in soccer on unmatched salaries following the same approach they took with LIV Golf.

They have also attempted to buy Formula 1 but their initial offer of \$20 billion dollars was

refused. My guess is that tennis will soon be next and don't be surprised to find an NFL or NBA franchise in Saudi government hands in the near future.

Back to golf and unfortunately, I expect the deal will go through with Jay Monahan losing his position as a sacrificial lamb, only to end up being employed on a high salary in some capacity by the

new order. With the players having greater prize money to compete for and I expect the protestations of the present will soon fade away.

As for Rory, his immediate public reaction was one of resignation that this deal would be good for golf. He is smart enough to know which side his bread is buttered.

He tried in vain to point out that this merger was not the LIV tour taking over in a blatant attempt to save face. But the sad truth is that it is the same people and their plan to divide and conquer using LIV Golf was a complete success.

They are no longer looking for a seat at the table, instead they will be sitting front and centre at the top of world golf.

I'm sure even Shakespeare would tip his hat to such villainy.

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- Across
- Power units
 - Litterbox problem
 - Con
 - Mazda ___ car
 - Create
 - Soliloquy starter, 2 words
 - Woman who turned her success as a talk-show host into a financial empire
 - Got 100 on
 - Omnia vincit ___
 - Van Morrison's lover, 4 words
 - "... ___ quit!" - 2 words
 - Throw out
 - Director of "Hoffa"
 - Beatles label, once
 - Yemen seaport
 - Disney World transport
 - Large Irish lake, Lough ___
 - Not open to objection
 - Lowest male singing voice
 - Sportscaster Albert
 - Good buddy
 - Dummy
 - Nearby, 2 words
 - Irish author who wrote "Ulysses"
 - About when the plane lands, abbr.
 - Factory work complaint
 - Amazes
 - Western writer Grey
 - Irish poet
 - Neighbor of Missouri, abbr.
 - Subj. for an M.B.A., abbr.
 - Concur
 - As well
 - "Stop that!"
 - Buccaneers star from their Super Bowl win
- Down
- Rock music style
 - "Live!" co-host
 - Guisse
 - Box-office draw
 - Mideasterner
 - Carp and minnow
 - ___-dokey
 - Turn in
 - Place for showmanship
 - Strip
 - End early
 - Jazzman Saunders
 - An owl's sound, 2 words
 - Dropped a line
 - Islamic spirit
 - Paint
 - Simpson's character
 - Neckline shapes
 - Australian rock group
 - Ruler in Abu Dhabi
 - Tach readings, abbr.
 - standstill, 2 words
 - Per
 - "Money, money, money" singers
 - Valley
 - Round up
 - Collaborate
 - Football shaped
 - Took possession of
 - Country singer Tucker
 - Precious stone
 - Some tournaments
 - Kind of question, 2 words
 - Javelin, e.g.
 - NZ forest tree
 - Meat-filled snack
 - Look ___, 2 words
 - Brain tests, briefly
 - Lee with frozen desserts
 - Dance move
 - Ninth month, for short
- ← JUNE SOLUTION
 Crosswords by Myles Mellor

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AT SEA	15 JAN 24	MON	AT SEA
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten	16 JAN 24	TUE	Arrive 8am Depart 5pm
St. Johns, Antigua & Barbuda	17 JAN 24	WED	Arrive 8am Depart 5pm
Castries, Saint Lucia	18 JAN 24	THU	Arrive 8am Depart 5pm
Roseau, Dominica	19 JAN 24	FRI	Arrive 8am Depart 5pm
Basseterre, St Kitts & Nevis	20 JAN 24	SAT	Arrive 8am Depart 5pm
St Thomas, U.S.V.I.	21 JAN 24	SUN	Arrive 8am Depart 4pm
At Sea	22 JAN 24	MON	AT SEA
Half Moon Cay, Bahamas	23 JAN 24	TUE	Arrive 8am Depart 3pm
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1,137 Dolly Lookalikes Set Another Guinness World Record For Listowel

By *Mattie Lennon, Ireland*

Cowboy hats, blonde curly wigs and extravagant outfits you wouldn't normally associate with Listowel were the order of the day on June 24th as the football pitch that has hosted many a GAA match is swarmed with a very different cohort of people, many covered in rhinestones and sporting cowboy boots as they contributed to setting the world record for the most amount of people "instantly recognisable" as Dolly Parton in one place.

With over 1,137 Dolly-lookalikes in attendance, the town has set the record for the largest gathering of people "wearing a full head-to-toe Dolly Parton costume" after months of careful planning and promotions. The importance of the Dolly Day event, held in aid of Kerry Hospice and Comfort for Chemo Kerry, was reflected in the masses of crowds, who had turned up to contribute to two deserving charities, whilst having some fun doing so.

Busloads arrived from all across the country and the field came alive with excitement, as everyone sang their hearts out to Dolly Parton's 9 to 5 over the speaker.

Among those in attendance was Dolly Parton's right-hand man, and Limerick native, Mr Eugene Naughton, who has held the position as president of Dollywood since his appointment in 2019.

Liz Horgan of Finesse Bridal wear told me, "I can honestly say Dolly Day brought such fun into so many people's lives! It has given the town such a boost in every way. It proved yet again what a wonderful town we live in. Absolutely everyone got behind it and supported it in their own way. The minute people put the wigs on they turned into 16 year olds laughing & skitting. In a funny way the wigs gave people a licence to step out of their comfort zone and that they did! Young and old participated."

It is expected that the Guinness Book of records will certify the record very soon.



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The Chicago Literary Hall of Fame will induct Chicago greats Nella Larsen, Bette Howland, and Finley Peter Dunne. The speaking lineup includes Martha Bayne, Chaz Ebert, Mike Houlihan, James R. Sullivan, and Rachel Swearingen, as well as Catrina Evans and Howland's sons Jacob and Frank Howland, with the event emceed by J-L Deher-Lesaint. The ceremony will take place at the Chopin Theatre in Wicker Park, and will run about an hour long, followed by appetizers, a cash bar, and an abundance of conviviality.

It's largely through donations that the organization is able to offer programs such as this to the public FREE.

registration required <https://sps.northwestern.edu/professional-development/writers-conference/tuition-and-registration.php>.

FRIDAY & SAT JULY 21-22
The Northwestern University Summer Writers Conference Online 9:30am-4:30pm

The Northwestern University Summer Writers' Conference, taught by Northwestern faculty, returns this year on Friday, July 21 - Saturday, July 22, and it's online again, so writers of all genres and backgrounds can join from anywhere in the world. Attendees can learn from award-winning authors how to

push their personal narratives beyond "navel gazing," make their readers cry, shudder, and laugh, and create conflict for their characters to keep readers turning pages. They can get pro tips on the art of interviewing, writing cover letters for literary journal submissions, and assembling short story collections for contests and agent queries. They can also schedule individual manuscript consultations with conference faculty. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/induction-ceremony-nella-larsen-bette-howland-finley-peter-dunne-tickets-636045117067>

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Printers Row Lit Fest
Printers Row Neighborhood -

Chicago 10am-6pm

Printers Row Lit Fest 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 beloved two-day 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 100K 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 more than 200 presenters, 70 programs (including programming for children) and 100 booksellers and exhibitors. If you're interested in applying for programming, the deadline to submit an application for consideration is this Friday, June 30. If you're interested in exhibiting, please contact vendors@printersrowlitfest.org - and if you're interested in sponsorship opportunities, please email info@thenspb.org. A press release is forthcoming. In the meantime, please save the dates! FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. No registration required.

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Just over a year ago I bought a 2 bedroom ranch on Spring Lake in Antioch about an hour North of Chicago. The property was originally purchased in 1928 by my grandfather where he built a small cottage. My aunt and uncle inherited the house in the early sixties, and she lived there until last year, when failing health forced her to move to an assisted living facility. It has been in our family now for three generations. I am telling you this because since our retirement from the Irish Shop Anne and I have been able to spend more time on the Chain of Lakes

in Wexford, Jackie Lennox's in Cork, Wharton's on the ring of Kerry just to name a few. They all have something in common. The freshest fish, deep fried in a light crisp batter accompanied by chunky chips. Add a splash of malt vinegar and you are in heaven.

Believe it or not great fish and chips is easy to replicate in your own home. Like any real cooking there is some prep work you need to do ahead of time. Let's start with the potatoes. Idaho or Russets work well.

Peel 2 pounds of potatoes and cut into

1 tbs. Salt
 1 tsp Baking powder
 6 oz Soda water and 6oz beer
 In a large bowl mix the dry ingredients except for the corn starch. Add the soda water and beer. Whisk until you form a smooth batter similar to pancake batter. Heat the oil to 350 degrees. Pat the fish dry with paper towels and dredge in the corn starch. Dip the fish in the batter making sure it is completely coated. Shake off the excess batter and gently lay the fish in the hot oil. Cook 3- 5 minutes until fish puffs and turns golden brown. Turn fish over using a spider or tongs and cook another 3-5 minutes. Remove fish and place on a wire rack to drain. Remove all bits of batter and add the chips. Cook another 5 to 8 minutes.

Place fish on a plate with the chips and serve with mushy peas*, malt vinegar, and pickled onions.

You can use this batter for mushrooms, onion rings, shrimp, cheese curds or any other battered fried food.

*Mushy Peas:
 10 oz frozen peas
 ¼ cup heavy cream
 1 tbs unsalted butter
 ½ tsp each salt and pepper

Fill a pot with salt and water. Bring to a boil. Add peas and return to a boil. Cook 3 minutes. Drain and place in a food processor. Add heavy cream, butter, and salt and pepper. Pulse until you have a chunky puree.

Enjoy this meal with a pint of your favorite brew.



which means Friday Fish Fry's. Every Friday we visit a different place that does a fish fry. Supper clubs, American Legion Halls, and hole in the wall bars looking for the ultimate fish fry. The menu is remarkably similar from place to place. Cod or Pollock, walleye, perch, and even blue gill, breaded, or battered, served with coleslaw, tartar sauce, fries or potato pancakes with sour cream and applesauce and rye bread.

I haven't found a favorite yet but none compare with the fish and chips you get in Ireland. Chippers can be found in every city, small town and village. John

2inch x ¾ pieces. Soak the potatoes in cold water for about ½ hour or overnight in the refrigerator. Drain and pat dry. Place oil in a large pot or fryer and heat to 325 degrees. Add potatoes and cook for ten minutes. Potatoes should soften but not brown. Drain and place on a cookie sheet.

The batter consists of flour, rice flower, corn starch, salt, baking powder, soda water or lager style beer. Here are the proportions.

- 4-6oz thick cut cod fillets
- 1 cup Flour
- 1 cup Rice flour
- 1 cup Corn starch

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER JULY 2023

Congratulations to Tom Chambers, Mike Lepore, Eileen Ryan, and Ki Wolf-Smith, for becoming the newest IAHC Board members of Friday night. The new Board members will serve a 4-year term. Thanks to everyone who made the decision to run for a board position this year and thanks to everyone who voted. The Center is stronger with great candidates and participation from all the members. The new Board will begin their term on July 10.

I would like to thank the 2022-23 Board for the time and effort that they donated to make the Center the amazing place that it is. Some of the accomplishments of this year's Board, Meg, and the Staff of the Irish American Heritage Center

- Final installation of air-conditioning in the Mayfair Theater, making it a year-round option for concerts, shows, and entertainment.
- A full return of the Center's St. Patrick's Week celebration. Parade Saturday is the IAHC's single largest fundraiser, and we were happy to welcome over 2000 guests, young and old to enjoy the entertainment and community provided over the course of the day.
- Installation of a new ADA door in the North Lot will take place in June.
- An exploratory committee has been formed to re-imagine our Summer Irish Fest and make it as profitable and fun as our St. Patrick's week celebration.
- The return of Thursday night Sessions with James Conway and Michael Austin
- The new Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Celebration with the Center's Annual Golf Outing
- A full concert roster including Cherish the Ladies and Gaelic Storm and upcoming shows with Trad superstar Sharon Shannon and the Red Hot Chili Pipers
- A new partnership between the Irish Musician Association of Chicago, the Irish Emigrant Support Programme, and the IACH to establish a music archive at the center to preserve Chicago's tradition and history of Irish music.

A special thank you to Donna Quirk and Cliff Carlson who continue to contribute so much to the IAHC as they end their current terms and leave the Board.

It has been my privilege to serve on the Board and as President of the Board for the last year. Thank you to everyone who made the past year as successful as it has been.

The Irish American Heritage Center was built by and continues to grow and thrive thanks to the multitudes of incredible people who selflessly donate their time, talent, and treasure to ensure that our community remains not only greatest place for the Irish and those of Irish ancestry to gather in Chicago, but anywhere around the Globe.



Tom Chambers



Mike Lepore

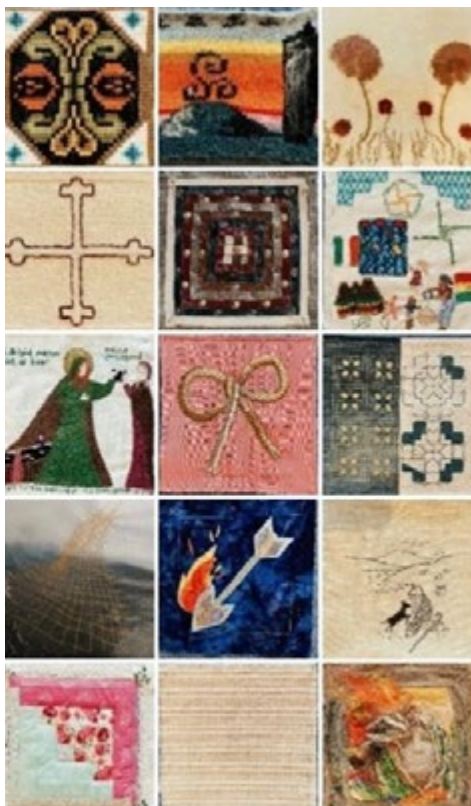


Eileen Ryan



Ki Wolf-Smith

Tony McHale
President of the IAHC. Board of Directors



Common Threads

Textile artists from around the world were invited by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs to contribute unique individual pieces for "Common Threads," a quilt honoring St. Brigid's Day 2023. The IAHC's very own Nimble Thimbles provided their own patch. The Nimble Thimbles cotton piece is made from shapes fused and applied onto a midnight blue batik background. The quilt is currently on display in Dublin at EPIC, the Irish Emigration Museum in Dublin. For more information, go to www.ireland.ie/en/st-brigids-day/common-threads/.

Congratulations, Nimble Thimbles!

Red Hot Chili Pipers - Friday, August 25th at 7:00PM



Don't miss this chance to see the Red Hot Chili Pipers in the Mayfair Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center, Friday, August 25th.

Another rare opportunity to see a big-name band in an intimate setting!

Tickets are \$45, \$40 for IAHC members. \$60 for upfront VIP, \$55 for IAHC members. Prices do not include fees.

Members call 773-282-7035, extension 10 for discount code.

Seo Linn



August 3, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

One of our favorite touring festival bands joins us for the first time Thursday, August 3rd.

Many of us have enjoyed their performances at Milwaukee Irish Fest, and it's great to have them play closer to home! Tickets are \$25, \$20 for members at irish-american.org, plus Eventbrite fees.

An Evening with Sharon Shannon



September 8, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Don't miss this very rare Chicago performance with Irish music superstar Sharon Shannon as she joins us in the Mayfair Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center on September 8th. General Admission tickets for Sharon Shannon are \$35, \$30 for IAHC members, not including ticketing fees. irish-american.org

Socks in the Frying Pan



August 9, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Join the lads from "Socks" and special guests to be announced for a concert in honor of their longtime friend the late Maryann McTeague Kiefer, Wednesday, August 9th. Tickets are \$30, \$25 for IAHC members, plus Eventbrite fees. irish-american.org

Fr. Ray Kelly



September 21, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Fr. Ray Kelly, the singing Priest from Ireland and YouTube sensation is embarking on his 4th tour of the US where he'll be singing to inspire and entertain with songs and stories of hope, love, and joy. Tickets are \$30, \$25 for IAHC members, plus Eventbrite fees. irish-american.org

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Maximizing Social Security

Do you know what you CAN DO so you know what you SHOULD DO as it relates to claiming your Social Security? One of the most important decisions you need to make before you retire is when and how to claim Social Security. About half of retirees apply for Social Security as soon as they become eligible at age 62, but by doing so, they may significantly and permanently impact their income and benefits for the rest of their lives.

The difference between the best and worst possible decision of when to start Social Security can be well over \$100,000, on average. Retirees will collectively LOSE \$3.4 Trillion in potential income that they could spend during their retirement because they claimed Social Security at a financially SUB-OPTIMAL time.

You need to learn the important rules that affect the amount of retirement benefits you can collect, as well as strategies for coordinating Social Security with other sources of retirement income! It's complex and confusing. There are over 9000 claiming combinations. The government has not made this easy for the average American. Social Security could represent on third of your income in retirement. That's significant. But the other two thirds has to come from other sources like pensions, 401-k's, other savings or investments you may have. How do they all integrate with each other? What about TAXES? Is Social Security subject to income taxes? Wasn't that a tax to begin



Master Your Money By Mike Corrigan



with? The government has been taking money out my paycheck for social security as long as I have been working.

It's all overwhelming for most people. Then there's Medicare and how does all of that work? More confusion there. So, at a time in our lives when you're at or near retirement you have to make 2 of the biggest decisions in your life (one could argue). How do you figure this all out?

For many Americans, Social Security is the single largest asset they have in retirement and greater than 90% of all recipients do NOT maximize their benefits, Advance planning is essential and the decisions you make today can have a

tremendous impact on the total amount of benefits you stand to receive over your lifetime. We offer the much-needed information to help you understand the system, coordinate spousal and survivor benefits, minimize TAXES and maximize your personal benefits. No matter if you are single, married, divorced or widowed, there may be ways to maximize the lifetime Social Security benefits you receive. We will teach you strategies to consider before deciding to apply for benefits. You will learn what to do if you have other income from pensions or IRA's. You will learn the monetary consequences and benefits of claiming early versus delaying. Also, what the key spousal decisions and benefits surrounding marriage, divorce and death. Knowing about spousal benefits can be a game

changer for some couples. There is a lot you need to learn if you are in your late 50's or early to mid-60's about Social Security. You want to get this right. You have worked hard all of your life and you want retirement to be stress free. Protect the income you NEED so you can help maximize the income for the things you WANT in retirement.

The good news is there is help. Call our office or send me an e-mail. We teach couples and individuals the ins and outs to simplify the decision making process about Social Security claiming. There is no cost for a consultation to better prepare yourself for a better retirement. Office phone 708-215-5100 e-mail mike@corriganfs.com.



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Keeping it Simple

I read recently that the European male, especially those in middle, senior management and self employed

positions are now working far longer hours that they used to previously. They are spending less time with their families and more time with their work

colleagues. I know that there are times when businesses are surging where the long hours have to be put in but there is usually an antidote where hours can be relaxed back again. One of the disturbing aspects of the latest findings is that, given a choice, more people want to spend longer time at the office. We need to watch this as we are mortal beings with a designated life span and the film of our lives can never be rerun for a second time. It brings to mind a little story conveyed to me some years ago by my Mother's cousin, Billy Coughlan.



In New York during the 1950's he was invited to spend some time with friends who were servants in a large and prosperous house. At 11am on the first morning he was sitting in the indoor heated swimming pool with his friend, the butler, and his wife the housekeeper, enjoying some martinis. He was a bit puzzled and inquired as to where the owners of the house were. 'Oh, replied the butler, 'They haven't got time to be here, they're up in Wall Street trying to make more money'. The tragedy was that the servants were living off this life of luxury and the people that should have been enjoying it weren't. Sometimes we have to stand back a mile and ask ourselves: 'When is enough, enough?'

Billy passed away some years ago and I attended his funeral in a small country Church on a cold January morning a few miles outside Tallow in Co. Waterford. During the Mass I reflected on how we had interfaced over the years and how he had also given me something for my own life. He was one of that generation who was forced to leave Ireland in search of work, and he spent the majority of his working life in England, New Zealand and Australia. Having never married, he returned home after 25 years to the people he had grown up with.

His passions were hunting, fishing and music and his cottage close to the Blackwater River was like a little museum to house these pursuits. I remember nights when my brother and I would go fly-fishing with him many years ago and afterwards return to Billy's cottage where the freshly caught fish would be carefully cooked and served with copious amounts of strong tea and soda bread at about 3am in the morning. This feasting was also interspersed with discussions on life and all of its complexities.

These were important nights and they have been forever ingrained in the databases of my brain. Sometimes, when we are doing and enjoying the little things we don't realise how important they were until we start to look back afterwards with the great power of hindsight. Life is very short and it is vitally important that we hammer the best out of it at every opportunity rather than standing back and marking time. Time wastes our bodies and our intellect, but we also waste time, so that makes us about even.

'Simplify, Simplify, Simplify' - Thoreau

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Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



In Chicago you can go on an architectural tour of the city via bus, walking, boat and probably train. Tours in the Summer are a fun activity and something for out-of-town guests to enjoy. When I think of architecture I think of the famous James Hoban. (O'hubain) (1755-1831) He was an architect from my home county Kilkenny (the marble city). There is a hotel in Kilkenny named after him, The Hoban hotel. He was born in Callan, a small parish with about 2,000 people.

An architect designs buildings as we all know but at times architects think more like lawyers. Their drawings are legal documents and have little room for error. Architecture is a very important job that can get overlooked.

Hoban designed several buildings courthouses, government projects, roads and bridges but most notably he designed the White House. In Ireland the white house (the presidents house) is called, Aras An Uachtarain.

The White House is an historic

landmark as is the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and Independence Hall in Pennsylvania. The White House has over 100 rooms, six levels, about 150 windows and seven staircases. The type of architecture is called Neoclassical. Which means greatness in size and similar to ancient Greek and Roman designs. The first President of America, George Washington, never actually stayed in the White

House.

They offer free tours of the White house; it takes about 45 minutes to walk through. I've never been but seems interesting. The White House is a living museum of American history.

Hoban emigrated to the State's, and he married an American named Susana Sewell. They had ten children. One son was a Jesuit priest and another son served as US attorney of the District of Columbia. It's been said that Irish immigrants have helped build American as a country and as an idea, but you could also say they designed it!

Any questions or comments call (708) 425-7021

Instead of a story this month I want to remember the Irish National Anthem, "THE SOLDIERS SONG." It's an Irish rebel song to ask all Irish people to participate in the struggle to end English control in Ireland.

Sinne Fianna Fáil,

Atá faoi gheall ag Eirinn,
 Buíonn dár slua, thar toinn do ráinig chugainn,
 Faoi mhóid bheith saor, seantír ár sinsear feasta
 Ní fhágfar faoin tíorán ná faoin tráill;
 Anocht a théam sa Bhearna Baoil
 Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil,
 le gunnaí scréach, trí lámhach na bpiléar,
 Seo dhíbh canáigh, Amhrán na bhFiann.
 Soldiers are we,
 Whose lives are pledged to Ireland,
 Some have come from a land beyond the wave,
 Sworn to be free, no more our ancient Ireland
 Shall shelter the despot or the slave;
 Tonight we man the Bearna Baoil
 In Erin's cause come woe or weal,
 'Mid cannon's roar and rifle's peal,
 We'll chant a soldier's song.

2nd-Annual "Grand Garden Party & Bocce Tourney for Cancer Care"

Event Raised \$35,000 for Lurie Cancer Center's Survivorship Program

"Our party at the Wilmette Harbor Club created and hosted by an all volunteer crew and funded by an all-donations based program was an incredible success raising \$35,000 for Lurie Cancer Center Patients," reported co-founder Dina Bair Maher (left) of WGN-TV and co-founder husband John Maher (right). "There's still time for donations and supporters unable to be there can do so

a nutritionist, as well as mental health experts, allow patients to remain healthy and tolerate treatment longer.

It's a novel way to treat cancer and help save more lives. Studies show treating the whole person helps cancer patients live longer.

Founded by Dina Bair Maher of WGN-TV & her husband John Maher; Dina, a two-time cancer survivor, lost her father in 2020 to



online at <https://day1survivors.com>" She continued.

The mission is to help anyone facing a cancer diagnosis to become a survivor from Day 1. Cancer patients see a whole variety of doctors to help them thrive through therapy. The multi-disciplinary approach with

cancer and husband John's mother to cancer in 2022; They decided to start the 501c-3 nonprofit to try to help patients with this new Survivorship Program at Lurie Cancer Center. Contact volunteer Mary Murray Felish, 847/638-2564. (Also pictured holding check is Dr. Leon).

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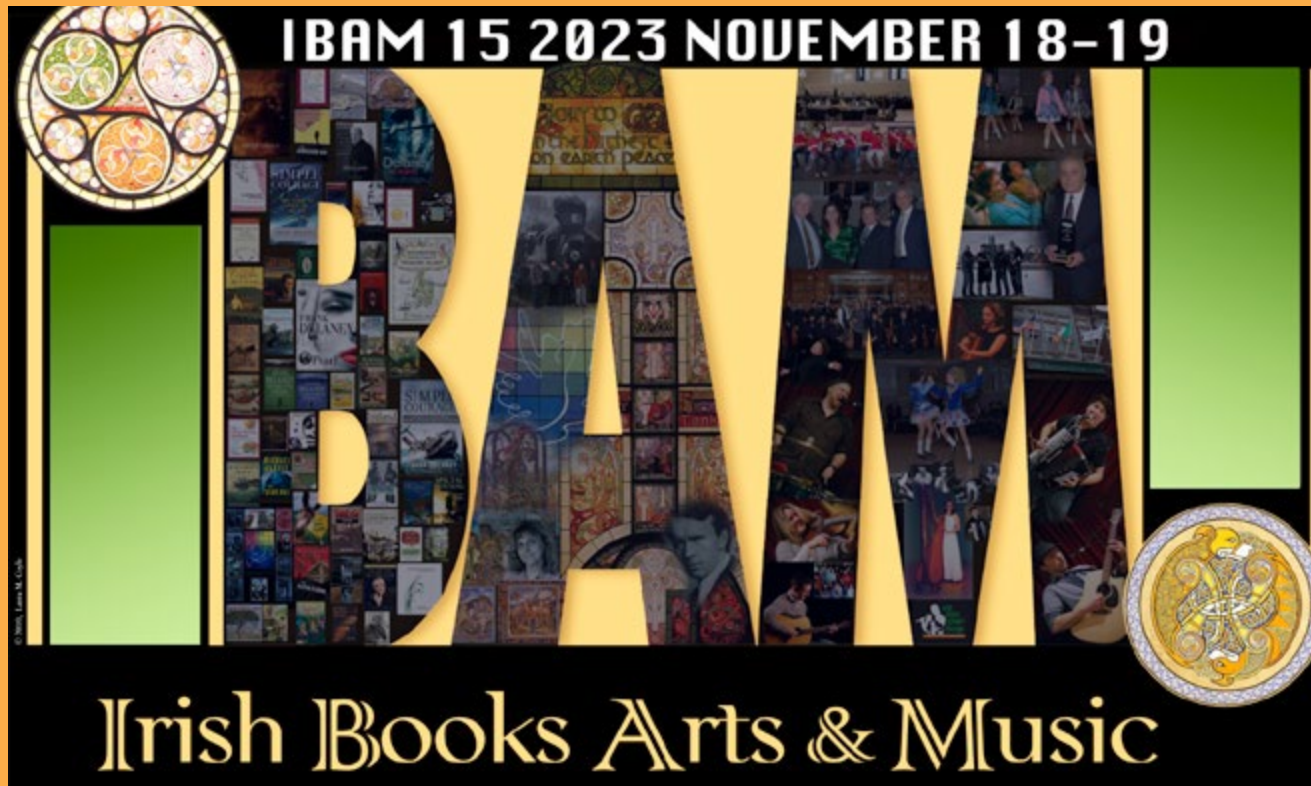




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Irish Books, Arts, and Music Celebration!

Saturday November 18 **iBAM! GALA AWARDS DINNER PROGRAM** Saturday 12-6pm / Sunday 12-5pm November 18-19

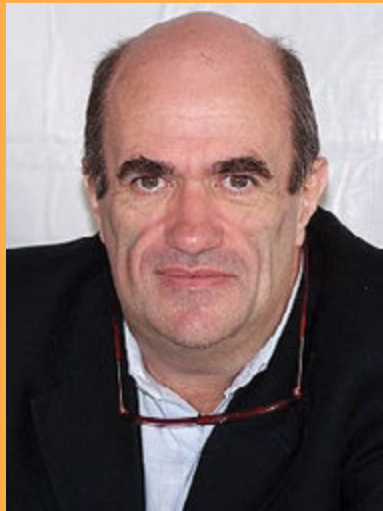


Celebrate the best in Irish Heritage and Culture at iBAM! 15, November 18, 19 2023 as we honor our *Person of the Year*; *Mary Pat Kelly*, Literature Awardee *Colm Toibin*, Media and Journalism awardee *Eileen Dunne*, Music awardee *Jimmy Keane*, and Volunteer of the Year, *Dan Hartnett*.

Additional Awardees will be announced in **Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and Culinary Arts.** Come and enjoy the weekend program featuring authors and their books, artists and their art, musicians and their music, craftspersons, storytellers, panel discussions and special exhibits of all things Irish.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a part of this wonderful celebration of Irish heritage taking place at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave., Chicago IL 60630, please email cliff@irishamericannews.com for more information!
iBAM! is a 501 (C) (3) whose mission

is to honor and present to the public the best in Irish Culture and Heritage. Proceeds from this event benefit the Irish American Heritage Center, and other non-profit Irish organizations, and individuals who have contributed their skills to the event.



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 Ní 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.



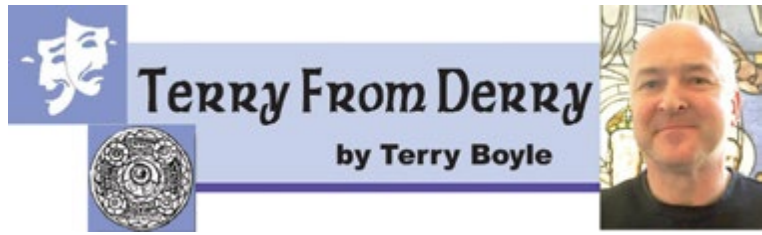
Jimmy Keane, Music

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 Seán 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.



I Think Therefore AI

When the news finally gets away from the rantings of a former president acting like a 2-year-old proclaiming his innocence when we all know he's guilty, we begin to see there are more exciting things at work in our world. If we can get beyond the tribalism of Republicans and Democrats, we might open our eyes to a world that is making quantum leaps into a new kind of future riddled with hope and danger. So, while we've been preoccupied with politics, the technological age we've become accustomed to is beginning to stretch the borders of our imagination. The automatic age that has radically changed our lives is on the brink of a new era of artificial intelligence.

For decades, the exponential growth of technology has been unsettling to most of us. At first, we feared that robots making cars would lead to greater unemployment, or that computers would eradicate the need for humans but so far that has not happened. It seems inevitable that whenever we develop some new advancement it's usually accompanied by an exacerbation of our fear of losing control, fear of self-destruction, or fear of being replaced. The development of the nuclear bomb raised the stakes of complete annihilation but it hasn't happened yet. Any new technological development begs the question if we have the maturity to handle the responsibility of such advancements.

Some suggest that we're like kids with a box of matches. Others, Stephen Hawking among them, fear that we're creating our destruction by developing artificial intelligence that could undo our very existence. I think we've always lived with the fear of destroying ourselves. We see it reflected in every movie that depicts AI as something to be wary of. From the dark moral of Frankenstein to the frightening

warning of Terminator, we're seen to be constantly anxious about our need to create combined with our collective suicidal mentality. Will we in the quest to cheat death create a monster that will ultimately destroy its maker? Will we create an artificial intelligence to protect this world that will deem us to be the biggest threat to this planet?

The tightrope towards the advancement of our species sees us balancing on the edge of the abyss. I don't think we can ever stop ourselves from exploring new ideas no matter how dangerous they are. We're curious by nature. The metaphorical Garden of Eden demonstrates how far we are willing to risk our welfare. Though, it's also possible to see that event as an example of Felix Culpa (happy fault) because the fall from grace leads to the future redemption of humankind. So, while it's good to have a healthy fear of knowledge, we cannot stop ourselves from being curious, and curiosity isn't always a bad thing. It has led us to invent things we thought were only possible in science fiction.

We cannot imagine what it would be like to be without our smartphones. In the palm of our hand lies a computer that can do so much more than we thought possible. Robots can now perform surgical operations. Robotic advancements have made our lives easier in ways we never could've imagined had we not taken a step towards developing our technological knowledge. However, the next step into a new era comes at a greater risk. We are at the stage where we have developed computers, robots to do things that we cannot. And, even if we could do some of these things we could never do them with the speed of a computer.

The development of AI is more advanced than I thought possible. It was a surprise to me that AI can now read human brain patterns on

an MRI and interpret the thoughts of the person. The fact that AI can read our thoughts could seem alarming, after all, it's not something we can do. However, this development also means someone who is in a coma can finally be heard and understood. The possibilities for helping those who are unable to communicate their thoughts are far-reaching. But can this knowledge be misused? Yes, of course, it can. Could it be weaponized and used against us? Again, yes, it could be but this is how we've felt about every development we've ever embraced as progress.

None of us knows where the development of AI will lead us. And, while we are still quite a long way from creating a sentient lifeform, it's not beyond the realm of possibility. Are we creating our destruction or finding a new way to survive the challenges confronting us? Time, as we're often told, will tell. Time will tell if we're on the cusp of a new era of remarkable achievements to better our lives, or if we're risking expulsion from paradise for the bite of an apple. I'm fascinated by what we've been able to do thus far. The fact that we've managed to do so much in such a short time is quite amazing. The idea that we might be able to create a stronger more durable vessel to carry our consciousness is intriguing. To be free of infection and diseases, and lessen our dependence on food and water, seems impossible but what we've done already seemed impossible.

I don't want to go into this new era as a prophet of doom, nor do I want to be naïve about the possible harm we could do to ourselves and our world but I do welcome the challenge this new future brings to us. Humanity, like any other species, wants to survive; to do that, it must progress and adapt to new situations. We are changing our world by polluting it, and if we are to continue we will have to change to meet the new challenges ahead of us. AI might be the very thing to help us to find solutions to the risks we face. For all the harm we've done, maybe we can counteract the damaging effects with a technology that makes our survival possible.



2023 Texas Rose of Tralee Eden Kasprak was feted at the 2023 Rose of Tralee Annual Wine and Roses Fundraiser at Peter Kenny's Lochland's Irish Pub in Dallas, on Saturday, June 10th, where substantial attendance and fundraising was fully appreciated.

Eden was saluted as Texas's outstanding entrant to the 2023 International Rose of Tralee festival scheduled for August 18th through 22nd in County Kerry, Ireland.

Pictured is Edén receiving further congratulations from Dallas resident, Dr. Leo M. Crowley, and from well-wishers Alice O'Connell McMahon and Dallas Irish American Society President Patti Winston.



(l to r): Susan Hogan, and Cathy Featherstone, helping out at the Pat Mac Ride. The ladies sponsor Support and Gear (SAG) Stop #4, at about the 40 mile marker, located in Porter Indiana. Their theme the past 5 years or so, is an Italian charcuterie and cheese board with some Irish cheddar in the offering, of course! The riders rate this stop in first place!



(l to r): Susan Hogan, Cathy Featherstone, Arlene Tengel, Shay Hogan. Over \$271,000 has been raised so far, closing in on last years record of \$280,000 raised. Lend a hand if you can! <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/PatMacRide>

Cavan's Own Leona Maguire - Golfin' in LA

Last month, Cavan-born golfer Leona Maguire was in Los Angeles, taking part in the inaugural JM Eagle LA Championship at the par 72 Wilshire Country Club.

The Hollywood sign was visible in the distance during play, and a mini-Hollywood sign was alongside the practice putting green, but being in famous golfing locations is nothing new for Maguire, 28, who was competing alongside 143 other players, including some of top-ranked ones in the world.

Maguire, who only turned professional in 2018, made her biggest splash so far in February last year, when she was the first Irish woman to win an event on the LPGA Tour, coming in first at the Drive On Championship in Fort Myers, Florida.

Leona had played in the 2020 and 2021 events at the WCC, and despite the total purse this year being a blockbuster-sized \$3 million (and the past four winners being among the 144 players), Leona said she looked forward to every event she competes in.

"One of the best things about golf is the variety that it offers, no two courses are the shape and weather and playing conditions can vary so much from day to day and even from hole to hole."

After a successful amateur career that began when she was barely 10 years old, Leona moved to the US in 2014 to attend Duke University in North Carolina:

"It was one of the best decisions I ever made. I was in class during the day surrounded by future NBA players, Olympians, people that were trying to cure cancer, people that were going to be Supreme Court Justices and lawyers and doctors. You were just around that culture of excellence, so everybody seemed to be achieving something great."

At the WCC tournament - or any other she competes in - Leona has a routine. "I always have 10 tees in my pocket, seven long and three short," she says, but then admits to also carrying charms: a lucky shamrock or a Duke ball marker.

During her time at Duke, she would travel out LA to play the first event of the Spring at Palos Verdes Country Club, and these trips would usually include visiting at least one different tourist attraction like the Hollywood Sign, or the Santa Monica Pier. LGPA events mean another trip or two as well, and she confesses that her personal highlight is "trying new restaurants each time!"

Her training depends on whether golf is "in season" (roughly April-November) or not.

Off-season, she spends more time in the gym, getting stronger and building up more swing speed in order to gain more yardage off the tee.

"I also spend some time with my golf coach, working on certain aspects of my technique, to make my swing more consistent and my ball flight more accurate for the upcoming season," she explains.

During the season, gym work focuses more on maintaining the strength that she has built up, though she continues to work on generating more and more swing speed throughout the year:

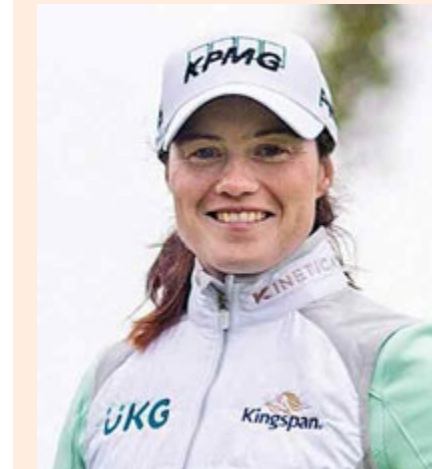
"Because every extra yard off the tee helps!"

Pilates, swimming and physio help her stay flexible and prevent injuries, because during the season she can be playing three to five tournaments in a row before getting a week off.

Even then, during that week she works on "fine tuning, and I usually spend the majority of my time practicing my short game and putting, playing games against the other pros to keep us all sharp."

Despite that schedule, Leona is happily able to get back to her home town of Ballyconnell quite often - maybe as often as every six weeks during the height of the season - and a trip home often means a GAA match.

"Growing up, myself and (twin sister) Lisa went to every match with my Dad - both club and county. I really miss



not being able to go to as many Cavan games as I used to, but he always calls me and gives me the play-by-play."

Talk of the GAA reminds her of one of her favorite golfing memories so far:

"I was at my first professional event in New Jersey, and some of the relatives of my Mam came out to watch me play - and they were wearing Cavan jerseys! No matter where you are in the world, it always great to see the cue that reminds you of home and makes you feel as though you aren't halfway across the world."

There is another thing that she misses too:

"My granny makes the best scones, and the smell of them baking in the kitchen is just incredible. She always makes a big batch of them when I'm home, and I look forward to them every time, slightly warmed with butter and jam.

Songs by U2 brings back memories too, as does "Paint the Town Green" by The Script:

"That one that really does it for me. I actually had the chance to meet (accordion/fiddle player) Sharon Shannon for the first time last year down in Australia at the Irish Embassy, and then I went to her concert later that week. It really can be a small world at times!"

Off the course, a perfect day for Leona, who now lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, is spent with her dog Simba:

"I take him on long walks in the countryside, and around the golf course! I also love playing or going to watch other games or matches with friends - I don't care what sport it is. I have got into hikes more and more too, especially over here in the US. Some of the places that we get to travel (on the tour) have such amazing trails and hikes that lead to incredible views so we always try and take a day or two in each place to explore."

A glance at the WCC program showed that another competitor was Northern Ireland's Stephanie Meadow:

"Yes, she and I have been great friends for many years, dating back to our early years of playing junior golf for Ireland. We play practice rounds together, and we often share Airbnb's on the road."

While they may be rivals on the green, Leona says that they both realize they are role models for young girls in Ireland:

"We want to show what can be possible if you follow your dreams. When we were younger, there were no Irish players on the LPGA, so we looked up to the great players in the men's game like Pdraig Harrington and Paul McGinley, but now hopefully there'll be even more Irish players on the LPGA in the future."



Moving past a worldwide box office take of \$680m, the latest Fast & Furious movie Fast X follows the successful recipe of fast cars and high-energy action. Eye-catching autos are the order of the day, so perhaps it's no surprise that, even though they're not officially in production yet, the producers managed to snag one of the new DeLorean Alpha5s for the current outing.

The iconic Irish-built DMC-12 is already world famous due to Back to the Future of course, but director Louis Leterrier knew a modernized version of the 1980s classic wouldn't fit with the movie's passion for showcasing the latest sportscars - so he set about getting an Alpha5 prototype.

He explained that the idea came when a photo of the weaponized muscle "cannon car" that John Cena's character was going to drive leaked onto the internet:

"People went crazy, and they thought that after going to space (in the last movie), we were going to do time travel. And then I was like, "Oh, I will have people go crazy by having the DeLorean pull up with shoes that look like futuristic shoes come out - just have fun with it all."

The sleek silver car is seen for just a few seconds at the beginning, driven by Charlize Theron as "Cypher," and you can still see the movie in some theatres, plus it's available on streaming too.

Also streaming is ex-James Bond actor Pierce Brosnan on Netflix in his new movie The Out-Laws. He stars alongside Pitch Perfect's Adam Devine, Nina Dobrev, and Ellen Barkin, playing the future father-in-law to Owen (Devine).

Owen finds out something very unusual about the parents of his new girlfriend Parker (played by Dobrev) - that they are the "Ghost Bandits" who recently robbed the bank he works at. So, when Parker gets kidnapped by her parents' enemies, he of course teams up with them to rescue her. It's directed by Tyler Spindel from a screenplay written by Evan Turner and Ben Zazove, and can be streamed from July 7.

You might remember how The Quiet Girl was recently the first Irish language film nominated for an Oscar, but came home empty-handed. Well, it's still picking

up awards elsewhere, including two at the recent Celtic Media Festival in An Clochán Liath, Co Donegal.

The Quiet Girl tells the story of 9-year-old Cáit, played by newcomer Catherine Clinch, who is sent away from her overcrowded, dysfunctional family to live with foster parents for the summer. Based on the novel Foster by Claire Keegan, it's also now available to stream at home.

Do check it out, as it's a beautifully shot and acted tearjerker that's enchanted audiences since it opened in some select cities in the US in February, and had grossed over \$1.2m.

The filmmakers behind the Irish movie that did win at the Oscars - Belfast-born Ross White and co-director Tom Berkeley - are again collaborating on a project about Irish siblings following that success with An Irish Goodbye.

While An Irish Goodbye focused on 2 brothers, their upcoming short The Golden West centers on 2 sisters. Set in 1849, 4 years after the potato blight hit Ireland and follows the 2 women who go to Wales in search of gold (there was a minor Gold Rush in N. Wales at the time).

The sisters attempt to make their fortune by mining in the mountains, but with winter fast approaching and nothing to show for their efforts, their age-old feud threatens to become deadly...

In Ireland, 3 world premieres and 3 Irish premieres have been announced for the 35th Galway Film Fleadh, which will open with The Miracle Club.

Fresh from taking its bow at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York, The Miracle Club comes from award winning director Thaddeus O'Sullivan and follows four generations of women in working class Dublin of the 1960s, who take a bus trip to Lourdes. The stellar cast include Dame Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates, Laura Linney, Agnes O'Casey, Stephen Rea, and Mark O'Halloran, and will screen on July 11 at the Town Hall Theatre in Galway.

On July 16 the Festival closes with Cyndi Lauper documentary Let the Canary Sing. Lauper, the LGBTQ icon and singer/songwriter behind Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, Time After Time and True Colors, and Tony Award-winning musical Kinky Boots - will be there in person to see her life and career explored before the audience.

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