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photo by Cathy Curry Carlson Story page 22



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Heather Humphreys, (pictured) has emerged as the frontrunner in the Irish presidential race that will be decided on October 24th. As Fine Gael's nomination for the Irish presidential race, to many Humphreys represents conservative, rural Ireland. Radicalism is the last thing that voters associate with Fine Gael. Nevertheless, in many ways Humphreys is a radical candidate and one who could play a role in reshaping perceptions of the country at a crucial stage of its constitutional evolution.

Humphreys has described herself as 'a proud Ulsterwoman, a Protestant and an Irish republican'. Wolfe Tone's United Irishmen movement and rebellion was exactly that in character (with emphasis on men rather than women, granted). Humphreys appears an improbable heir to that quashed rebellion two hundred years ago.

When Humphreys uses the word 'republican' there is a present and even future tense implied. Profound splits in the Irish republican tradition arising from the partisanship that has accrued to it has made the term republican contentious in Ireland. Rather than focus on those splits and the various appropriations of the republican tradition that followed in their wake,

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Humphreys is focused on what a republic means, and could mean, in the 21st century.

But was Irish republicanism historically not always Janus-facing, deriving its authority from the past (for example the Easter 1916 Rebellion) and fixated on a fulfilment of an all-Ireland republic free from any link with Britain? All true. Yet there is a key difference. That was a republicanism of rigidly predetermined

outcomes, which scanted the possibility of its assuming novel forms, of taking new directions. Humphreys' identification with republicanism of today and tomorrow is one that is open to radical re-evaluation of what the term means. John Hume once argued that extreme nationalists in Ireland had 'stolen the word' republicanism, and travestied the ideals promulgated by Tone – to unify 'Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter' – through their wedding the narrative of republicanism in Ireland to violence. Could Humphreys' election as Head of State form part of a renewal and restitution of the term? Humphreys need not focus on Irish unity as a theme in her presidential campaign since she already embodies it. That a woman of her background has embraced republicanism is resonant of a more broadly acceptable republicanism.

So far, so rosy. Humphreys is culturally and politically an ecumenical candidate who does not need to explicitly position herself as such. She also chimes with Ireland's constitutional position today, with its capacity for constitutional evolution in the future.

Yet there is a nettle that must be grasped here. When Ireland was partitioned, the people of Humphreys' village on the border, Drum in Co. Monaghan, went to bed one night British and woke up the following Irish. Naturally, national belonging cannot change like the seasons. It took a very long time for national

identification with Ireland to broadly take root in Drum, which was historically entirely Protestant in composition.

The people of Drum have experienced the trauma of 'losing' a nationality. They also gained another over the course of a century. That presents a model from which others could learn. It starts with embracing an identity based on what Ireland is today.

There are complex reasons why some constituencies in Northern Ireland are so wedded to images on murals depicting victories in the 1600s. One is the terror of confronting their contemporary reality. Part of that reality is that unionism is dying. Its demise is not due to a lack of drive to preserve the union, but to the objective weakening of the union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A rather limited affirmation of identity is available in glorifying a past in which the evangelical and political will of England validated unionism's project. That retrospective focus is simultaneously a reminder of the absence of Britain's affirmation today.

Last summer I visited Drum and noticed something remarkable. The only Irish language sign in the village was An Post, the post office. The name of the national post service must be accepted if a village is to have a post office. Besides that, nothing. There is no bilingual sign for 'Droim' (meaning 'ridge') on the way in or out. It may be the sole example of a village, town or city in the Republic of Ireland that does not display the Irish language variant of a place name.

As part of her campaign, Humphreys has said: 'I passed Irish in my Leaving Cert and, like a lot of people in this country, I went out to the world of work and didn't use Irish...I promise that if I am elected as president, I will return to the Gaeltacht and I will learn Irish'. Humphreys' pledge to learn Irish is qualitatively different from, say, Mary McAleese's to do the same when she became president. Humphreys' embrace of the language could demonstrate to some people from her background who remain sceptical about the language that it belongs to them as much as to anyone and augment a new attitude to the language in the country that is important to secure a shared vision of Irish national cultural heritage.

Kneecap is the first band to bring hip hop to the world in the Irish language. By doing so, it is focussing less on recovering the Irish language (an inevitable reaching back towards something lost) than creating new ways for it to grow in the future. The loss-recovery dynamic has been swapped for a create-cultivate one. That shift not only rejuvenates the language, but it also offers a new way of perceiving it.

Kneecap and Heather Humphreys appear at first glance to be extremely odd bedfellows. Yet they have something crucial in common, something Ireland needs today. They have a proven ability to move two key aspects of Irish heritage – language and republicanism – from a retrospective to a progressive vision. And a progressive vision is needed: the next Irish president might be in office when unity referendums are held in Ireland.

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Third Might
Be the Worst

Imagine someone has a gun to your head. Hypothetically, if this person told you that you had the choice between picking your least favorite amendment in the Bill of Rights or biting the bullet, which would you choose? Under that kind of pressure, one would be hard-pressed to think of any part of the Bill of Rights



worth doing away with. Still, the Third Amendment would be my pick. “No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.” Yep, you read that right.



The Third Amendment prohibits the federal government from forcing property owners to house soldiers during peacetime, and only allows for it during wartime when done so in a lawful manner. While the Third Amendment may seem strange to modern eyes, its origins are sensical. During the pre-Revolutionary colonial period (and, historically speaking, for hundreds of years prior), European governments had relied on the local populace to keep their armies supplied, fed, entertained, and sheltered. The Quartering Act of 1765 forbade the quartering of soldiers in private homes but required American colonists to pay for the living expenses of the Redcoats or else to house the soldiers in “inns, livery stables, ale-houses, victualling-houses” and similar establishments. The Act contributed to rising tensions between American colonists and the motherland. These tensions reached a tipping point after the Boston Massacre occurred in 1770. In response to growing colonial unrest, Parliament passed the so-called “Intolerable Acts,” including the Quartering Act of 1775. This Act further empowered British soldiers to seize uninhabited houses, outhouses, barns, etc. for the purpose of quartering soldiers. Thus, when the Bill of Rights was being drafted, and with the Revolution fresh in the mind of colonial governors and delegations, the Third Amendment seems almost quaint in comparison to the juggernauts that are the First, Second, and Fourth amendments. The meaning of the Third Amendment has rarely been litigated in Court, simply because the issue of quartering has not come up very often in our nation’s history (with the possible exceptions being the Civil War and the War of 1812). Militarily, it doesn’t make a whole lot of sense to have a widely dispersed and demobilized army spread across entire towns and neighborhoods, especially now when military bases are small cities in and of themselves. Interestingly, however, the Third Amendment has been cited as a basis for arguing that the Constitution guarantees the right to privacy

to some extent. In Griswold v. Connecticut, the Supreme Court case that guaranteed an individual’s right to access contraception, the Court cited the Third Amendment as an example of the Framers’ intent to protect the private interests of American citizens. Nevertheless, the Amendment is little more than a footnote in modern legal times. And the extent that it affects pop culture and American citizenry is limited to short TikTok videos of people shutting the door as their roommate in ROTC returns home from physical training. Such is the harmless fun folks engage in to “protect their Third Amendment rights.” Next month, we’ll be discussing judicial warrants and the right to be protected from unreasonable searches and seizures! May the Fourth be with you until then.

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IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB PLANS 125th ANNIVERSARY

The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago is planning a 125th Anniversary Celebration for September 17, 2026. For over 125 years, the Irish Fellowship Club has been supporting the Irish community of Chicago with fellowship events and providing significant support to Catholic High Schools and Irish cultural organizations.

The event will be hosted at Theater on the Lake and feature a cocktail party with heavy hors d’oeuvres provided by local Chicago restaurants.

The Club invites all of Irish descent to save the date! More information coming soon.

IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB 2025 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Tickets will be on sale for the **DECEMBER 5, 2025** Irish Fellowship Club Christmas Luncheon will be on sale on October 15, 2025 through our website: www.irishfellowshipclub.com.

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Game On! By Chris Wheaton



The recently contested USGAA North American Championships produced some well-deserved accolades for two Chicago teams as the Michael Cusack's triumphed in Intermediate Hurling and after a 12-year wait, St. Mary's Camogie Chicago

2013. This season marked not only a return of the club but also the first time it fielded both Intermediate and Junior A teams—a testament to its growth and ambition. Of the 32 girls who travelled to Philadelphia, 31 had joined

or Ali and Roisie's tenacity in the tackle. Together, they shut down some of the best forward units in the country.

At midfield, St. Mary's showcased their engine room Zara Ryan & Ashling O'Callaghan (Co-Captain) - covering every blade of grass and linking defense to attack. The pairing brought pace, power, and relentless work ethic, ensuring the team always had momentum going forward. In the forward line, the

and keeping the tempo high whenever they were called upon. A critical turning point in the championship came when several standout Junior A players were called up to bolster the Intermediate panel for the final, having just showcased their talent in the Junior A semifinal. Alyssa Kortz, Emily Keane, Georgia Manning, Ellen Convery, and Carolyn Maloney answered the call with poise and passion.

For a team once uncertain of its future, this title marks

more than just a trophy—it represents the rebirth of a club that now stands stronger than ever. For many of the Irish girls, it was a home away from home; for the American players, it was a celebration of heritage.

The victory was not just about lifting a cup—it was about reviving a legacy and showing the camogie world that Chicago is once again an extremely formidable foe and has a chip on its shoulder that is going to be tough to knock off.



reclaimed championship glory, winning the Intermediate title. St. Mary's who has a long history of success last won a title in 2013 but from all indications they are "back" and will be a force to be reckoned with for many years to come. This recent championship marked a true turning point—not just for the club, but for camogie in Chicago.

Rejuvenated in 2024 after six years of intermittent activity and recruitment difficulties, St. Mary's returned to competition with a renewed spirit and a committed panel of 25 players. From the first training session to the final whistle, there was a palpable sense of purpose.

Historically, St. Mary's has been a dominant force in American camogie, with senior and junior titles in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and

within the last year and a half—many with no camogie experience whatsoever.

The 2025 panel featured a dynamic mix of homegrown talent and experienced Irish players who brought flair, skill, and leadership to the squad. In goals, Meath native Caoimhe Slattery was a rock between the posts. Her booming puck-outs consistently reached the forward line, turning defense into attack in seconds along with her communication. Calm, clear, and commanding, she orchestrated a formidable back line that rarely put a foot wrong.

The defense was anchored by Roisie Bannon, Leslie Kasten, Ali Greene, Casey Troy, Francesca Mifsud. Each brought their own strengths, whether it was Francesca's tight marking, Casey & Leslie's interceptions,

scoring threat was ever-present. Kate O'Flaherty (Co-Captain) was clinical from placed balls, converting frees with calm precision. Beside her, Alanna Reynolds was a constant menace to defenders. Her ability to beat her marker time and time again made her a driving force for St. Mary's, consistently breaking lines and making her mark on the scoreboard.

Ciara Bridges, Rachael Greaney, and Norine Maloney, rounded out a potent forward division, setting up scoring opportunities and the intensity of the forward line press.

Depth was another strength of this year's team. Off the bench, St. Mary's had talent that could seamlessly slot in. Leah Cummins, Eabha Martyn, Laura Pendergast, Niamh Murphy, Sinead Ryan, Cristin Monaghan all played pivotal roles throughout the championship campaign, stepping up in key moments



Co_Captains (L to R) Ashling O'Callaghan (Co. Armagh) and Kate O'Flaherty (Co. Galway)

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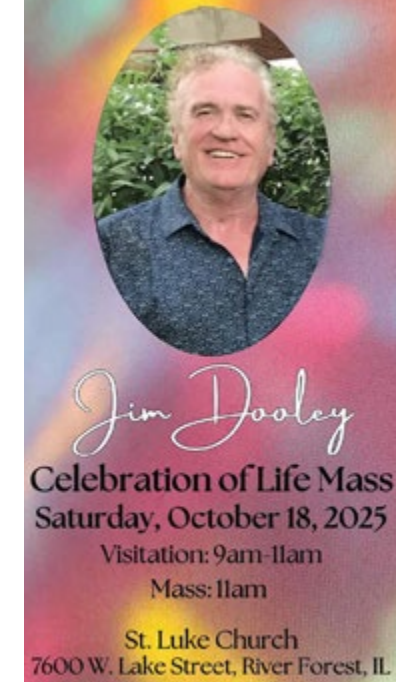
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Jim Dooley Celebration October 18 in River Forest

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Liz Livingston Howard Drives Impact in Her Work and the Chicago Irish Community

To trace Liz Livingston Howard's Irish heritage by bloodlines, one must travel back in time for seven generations and traverse the island of Ireland -



Leitrim, Galway, Clare, and Limerick, to name a few of the places that her ancestors called home. And yet, for all the time that has passed since her distant relatives left Ireland for the United States, Liz lives her Irish heritage every day in the work she does, the organizations she supports, the communities she serves, and the lives that she has touched.

"My Irish heritage is as much cultural as in-born," Liz acknowledges, and nowhere is that more pronounced than in the impact she has made on Irish organizations throughout her career, most recently in her current role as the Executive Director of Center for Nonprofit Management at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

A native of the northern suburbs, Liz

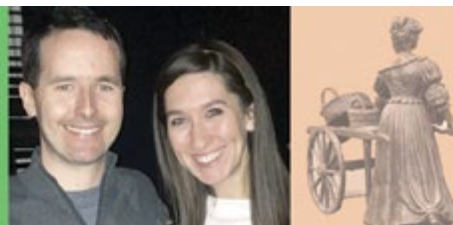
attended Regina Dominican High School, the all-girls Catholic school in Wilmette, before matriculating at Northwestern, thus beginning a lifelong connection with the institution.

During her time as a student on the Evanston campus, Liz became immersed in several extracurricular activities, focusing on volunteering and community development; in this way, she was carrying on the legacy of her Irish family in Chicago.

"My grandparents on both sides were involved in civic Chicago," Liz recalls, specifically calling out her grandmother who sat on the Chicago School Board and grandfather who served as chairman of First Chicago Bank. "My family was very invested in giving back, volunteerism, and civic leadership. I grew up hearing these conversations at our dinner table and saw that this was how the world worked. I saw first-hand people who were close to me being engaged in their community."

After graduating from Northwestern as a history and political science major, Liz returned to Regina to take on the role of Director of Development, thus beginning her career journey in advancing the cause of impactful organizations and institutions in the Chicago area. At the ripe age of 22, she found herself on the senior leadership team at Regina, where she gained first-hand experience in understanding the inner workings of the institution, from fundraising to marketing, admissions, and finance. Ever one to acknowledge the importance of mentors in her

IN Your Business!
By Katie & Emmett Fitzpatrick



After years of service to the YIFC, Liz "graduated" to the Irish Fellowship Club, where Executive Director Kathy Taylor encouraged her to serve on its board; she now serves as Secretary. Through

her involvement at the Fellowship Club, she met several Irish Consuls General, who in turn asked her to develop and lead trainings centered on building leadership capacity for staff and board members of Irish organizations and festivals around the Midwest. Chances are, if readers have served on a board of a local Irish organization, they have participated in a training that Liz has led.

Beyond the Fellowship Club and her leadership development trainings, Liz

career, she credits Sister Ann Fallon, Regina's president at the time, for demonstrating leadership qualities and practices that she would eventually help other organizations instill in their executives and boards.

Liz would spend four years at Regina before moving onto the Chicago Tourism Council, a public/private partnership where she worked under Mayor Richard M. Daley, before taking a job at the fundraising consulting firm Charles Feldstein & Company.



Nick, Cate, Jack, Liz and Mike

Again, Liz is quick to point out the importance of learning under an impactful mentor in Charles Feldstein, who she describes as the "dean of Chicago fundraising." In this role, she focused on capital fundraising campaigns, working with Chicago institutions like the Lincoln Park Zoo, Shedd Aquarium, Lyric Opera, and Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

After her time in consulting, she returned to an "in-house" fundraising school to take on the position of Assistant Dean of Development at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, where she would also earn her MBA in the school's evening and weekend program. She stayed at Kellogg for her next role within the school's Center for Nonprofit Management, becoming Executive Director in 2021.

The Center for Nonprofit Management provides executive education for leaders in non-profit management, offering in-person and online training for senior leaders to help them lead more efficiently and effectively. Liz describes her work, and the work of the Center, as "bringing the Kellogg education to the nonprofit sector in a way that supports those organizations to successfully deliver on their mission."

Along the way of her impressive career journey, Liz also immersed herself in the Chicago Irish community.

"It all started with the Young Irish Fellowship Club," Liz fondly recalls, calling out Jack Hartman's role in inviting her to join the organization's board and remembering how she chaired the epic Forever Green parties of the 1990s. The YIFC also played an integral role in Liz's personal life; after all, she met her husband Michael through the club after two of his friends who served on the board with her brought him to the club's events, and the rest was history.

has served on the Host Committee for the Irish American Partnership's St. Patrick's Day Breakfast since its inaugural event for 35 people, and she credits CEO Mary Sugrue for her efforts in growing the event to its current heights.

Reflecting on what has made her so successful in her professional life and impactful in her community involvement, Liz calls out her Irish identity as a critical pillar of who she is.

"The Irish are known for our hospitality and welcome, and that has been a hallmark of my family and the organizations I've served. The opportunity to be part of the YIFC and IFC has been a way for me to engage with my heritage and support the community in which I'm a part, which was ingrained in me from a young age. All these organizations are committed to helping those coming to our city, embedded with that spirit of hospitality and welcome that's intrinsic to who I am, as a professional and person of Irish descent."

Harkening back to the lessons she learned from her ancestors at the dinner table during her childhood, Liz remains dedicated to her work and serving the Chicago community; as she puts it, "I'm not going anywhere." As she considers her own legacy, she returns to the theme of family, and more specifically, her three children, who she proudly notes are all college graduates with "terrific" careers who are also committed to giving back.

"No one does what they do alone. I've been fortunate to have mentors and great friends, and many of them have come from the Irish community. I treasure that as a family member, mother, friend, and leader. All that connectedness and support that I got from that village has been integral to me as a person."

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Bingo Gets a Spooky Twist at the Heritage Center Friday October 24

Halloween isn't just about trick-or-treating anymore. On Friday, October 24, the Irish American Heritage Center is giving the holiday a new spin with Ghouls & Games - Halloween Bingo II, a night where costumes and cards go hand-in-hand.

The Erin Ballroom, at 4626 N. Knox Ave., will open its doors at 6 p.m., with the first numbers called at 7. Organizers promise an evening filled with laughter, suspense, and just a hint of Halloween mischief. Players will compete for cash and raffle prizes, with costumes earning more than just stares—each one comes with a free raffle entry. Last year's debut



brought out witches, vampires, and even a handful of homemade oddities that made the costume contest a highlight of the night. This year, the stakes are even higher with a \$500 grand prize up for grabs, alongside eerie-sister awards for the best costumes and plenty of smaller raffles sprinkled throughout the evening.

While the games themselves may be the main draw, the real spirit of the event is community. "It's a way to celebrate together, to bring people out in the fall for something that feels both festive and familiar," one organizer shared. The event is



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open to adults 21 and over, and with its combination of costumes, camaraderie, and chance, Halloween Bingo has quickly become one of the center's most anticipated fall traditions. <https://irish-american.org/event/%F0%9F%91%BB-halloween-bingo-2025> or call 773-282-7035 ext 10.

The Prince and Princess held hands as they stood on the balcony while the Queen and Queen Mother and the Duke of Edinburgh joined them.

Suddenly, the prince leaned over and kissed his bride on the lips. It was exactly what the crowd wanted and with the final wave, the royal party disappeared inside the palace and the massive crowd began to move away.

One woman remarked: "I hope they live happily ever after. God bless them. Later on the press was notified a 200-pound, five tiered English fruit cake, made with rum had been completed by the pastry shack of the Royal Naval School of cookery, and Britain was readying herself for a royal wedding.

Television executives expected the wedding of Charles and Diana to be one of the biggest events in British history. It was estimated that more than 756 million viewers around the world would watch the Royal Wedding.

Meanwhile thousands of journalists, photographers and television crews from around the world began arriving in London. The British Broadcasting Corporation revealed it would spend \$935,000 for 34 hours of live coverage.

Ironically it was broadcast that several guests invited to the wedding did not attend. They included Patrick J. Hillery, President of Ireland, and Rev Ian Paisley, militant Northern Ireland Protestant clergyman and Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien.

By there way, the bride's dress was made from silk worms produced at a farm in Dorset and designed by David and Elizabeth Emanuel who were secretive about the design.



Roaming in the Gloaming
By Estelle Shanley

As it so happened recently word got around by a group of new friends that I was a journalist and often wrote articles for British folk to read.

I immediately rushed to correct that error since I write for *Irish American News* published in Chicago. Before long my friends invited me to a luncheon inquiring if I would talk about my writing life.

I attended their luncheon several days ago and they were awed as I reported I covered the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana. I had plenty to talk about and decided to charm them about that wedding. Incidentally when I learned back in the day that my newspaper was sending me to London I was one of the first to send my credentialed.

When the wedding started to move in an open carriage drawn by horses from Buckingham Palace to the church I was provided with the best spot to watch it all!

It reminded me of a Royal Fairy Tale. The open gold carriages drawn by horses, and guards entered in gold armor was simply amazing. A Queen Mother, dressed in light green, smiling proudly and happily. Her majesty Queen Elizabeth from an open carriage. It was regal.

Everything connected with a royal wedding is magical fantasy. The pomp and splendor, the pageantry is the stuff of fairy tales. The British were determined to celebrate the culmination of a modern day love affair, a day when the heir to the throne finally gave

up bachelorhood at the age of 32 to Mary Lady Diana Frances Spencer, a beautiful 20-year old kindergarten teacher. Her photo adorned every store window, every post card and poster for months as the city of London and Buckingham Palace braced for one of the biggest celebrations since the coronation in 1953.

The Princess of Wales, the official title for Lady Diana now that she's married, has a shy smile. Although she had a title before marriage she was transported to St. Paul's Cathedral that morning as a minor, riding with her father in a closed carriage, accompanied by only several police and royal regiment.

But when she returned, in an open coach with she was royalty and treated as such, her marriage flanked by several dozen mounted guards, her carriage drawn by four Whitehorses.

They were a dashing couple. Serene, conservative, and formal.

When the Prince and princess returned to Buckingham Palace for a small private breakfast party, the crowds immediately moved off the wedding route and in an unbelievable demonstration of police maneuvering, were escorted in an orderly fashion to the palace. There the cheering continued.

The crowd, a sea of red, white, and blue chanted they wanted their Charlie and within minutes the royal couple appeared on the palace balcony smiling and waving. The crowd was delighted.

Then came the bride's



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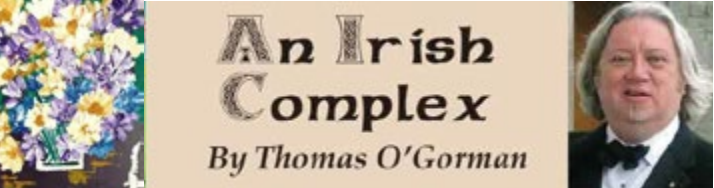


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“Bet the Jockey, and Not the Horse.”

My knee is having quite the recovery. After five days in bed with the knee raised and heavily Ace-banded, I am enjoying full use of the leg. Somewhat. There's still some residual discomfort, but at least I'm moving around. However, I will give up my use of a grand

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antique Black Thorne stick, Tipperary fashioned. I've watched too much Britbox. Fearful, now, of picking up a central London accent, I've taken watching more RTE, of course.

While doctoring the knee, one of my newspaper colleagues said I should get some homeopathic ointment for my residual knee pain. From Merz Apothecary on Lincoln Avenue. Chicago's oldest. BALMX CBD. Made from cannabis. I told my sister about it. She said its expensive. My bro in law used it and had a lot left. So they brought it down to me.

Now my house smells like a college dorm. Looks like Vick's. Smells like pot. I'm rubbing this analgesic into the knee four times a day. So far, no munchies. Some relief. What a strange journey I'm on. But I need to remind myself, it's never wrong to reach out to nature. You will always be healed. The arthritis has, ironically, disappeared from my right hand. An unintended result.

As I write this, I have a large soup pot on the stove with a chicken in it, conjuring up some outrageous soup. I'm not sure what to call it. Originally, I was going to split the whole chicken in half and roast it in olive oil, fresh herbs and lots of garlic cloves. But when I heard the rain pelting the house as I awoke, I

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knew only a great chicken soup could lift the chill from this Labor Day weekend. It's a recipe I pilfered from the late Desmond Guinness' cookbook. So far I've tossed in red onion, oyster mushrooms, Baby Bella mushrooms, celery, shredded cabbage, bundles of fresh herbs tied by their stems. Thyme, Rosemary and Sage. A teaspoon of Cayenne Pepper. A tablespoon of Allspice. Two big tablespoons of smoked paprika. No salt. And some wonderful fresh English peas to add at the end.

Three hours so far on a low, rolling boil. I always taste it at the two hour mark. Spicy. Savory. Engaging for a Sunday Supper. Should I do noodles or dumplings? I swear it almost tastes medicinal. That's how restorative chicken soup should taste. Such soup was meant to spread itself across the shelf life of the holiday. Reviving. Soup is the meal. I have some of that incredible homemade bread from Club Lucky in the freezer. Perfect to sop up the exotic brew. It's important to listen to your taste buds and let them lead you. More Mother Nature.

I never tire of discovering life lessons from my friendship with the late fabulous Rose Marie O'Neill.



Rose Marie O'Neill

Such lessons raise their hearts when you least expect it. Over the years Rose and I have added thousands of miles to our air travel around the world. We seem to always be intertwined in some project of historic Irish significance. Festivals for the O'Neill Clan in Rome, or Paris, or in their ancestral home at Shane's Castle. All an easy reach from Rose's Dublin house in Ballsbridge in Central Dublin near the canal.

Many mornings you could clock us in at Dublin Airport boarding the 5:30 AM flights to cities of celebration. Most just an hour or two away. The two of us have tracked a lot of history and art. And we have discovered some remarkable eateries. Often with



Rose entertaining Ireland's diplomats in those capitols. We've had great adventures. Now transformed into grand memories.

But nothing beats the horse racing we have seen across Ireland and throughout Europe. Rose really knew her horseflesh. She was the daughter of a skilled longtime equine racehorse breeder. She always had easy ways around any racetrack. Always knew just where to step in the paddock. She's always been eternally lucky with the horses. But that's because she has the secret. She always said, "I don't bet the horses. I bet the jockeys."

Whether in Florida or at the famed Galway Races, or at the ancient Celts Curragh, Rose did her homework and handicapped the riders. The mounts. I remember some years ago when she was on fire handicapping the Kentucky Derby. She was a big winner. Her money was on "Attraction." But she would only talk about "Johnny Valesquez." Attraction's jockey. We watched the race at Erie Cafe. We lived it. Rose had bets with 3 nephews who then had to pay up. But what a brilliant concept. Bet the jockey. Not the horse. I've been stewing on that. Mulling it over and over in my mind. Maybe it's a lesson we can all carry away with us in our summer endings in 2025. Maybe we've been looking at things askew. We need a heavy dose of nature.

Maybe betting the jockey is a way for us toward better survival. Or at least more tranquil living. Life isn't such a long shot. Or unsure bet. Maybe its like rubbing CBD on your sore knee. Only to discover that the arthritis in you hand has eased. Maybe betting the jockey is a way to refocus our vision. Or to listen to our tastebuds. And create the perfect autumnal soup. Could it be an encouragement to a "back to basics refresher?"

Maybe it's a way to reinvent ourselves during this time of uncertainty. Maybe it means taking a hint from Miss Marple, another of my favorite detective stars on Britbox. From her rose covered cottage in the village of St. Mary Meade, I think she'd understand the delight in alterations to the pain of everyday arthritis. And delight in the savory zest of the homemade soup. And I am almost certain she'd never waste a shilling on her knowledge of a horse in any race. But she'd find contentment in a study of what makes jockeys tick or successful in a nail biting finish to a race. Once she was able to analyze that, she'd bet the jockey of her choice with ease. Maybe that's all any of us can do.

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Driving the Green

How golf in Ireland and the U.S. is reshaping the game through sustainability.

This October, as conversations around climate action and sustainability take center stage across world, the game of golf is emerging as an unexpected but vital player in the global green transition. With deep ties to the natural environment, golf has long been scrutinized for its resource use. Yet new initiatives from Golf Ireland, the DP World Tour, and industry leaders worldwide show that the sport is poised to become a model for how tradition and sustainability can coexist.

In September, Golf Ireland and the DP World Tour hosted the first-ever Sustainable Golf Forum in Dublin, bringing together club reps, environmental experts, and industry innovators. The message was clear: golf cannot afford to sit on the sidelines of climate action. From rising temperatures and flooding, to biodiversity loss, the challenges facing courses mirror the broader crises in our communities. The forum highlighted practical solutions already underway—solar-powered clubhouses, efficient irrigation systems, biodiversity corridors on “out of play” land—and set the stage for an industry-wide commitment to accelerate progress.

This gathering underscored golf's unique position. With nearly 400 affiliated clubs across Ireland, the sport collectively manages more than 20,000 hectares of green space. That scale creates both responsibility and opportunity: responsibility to reduce emissions and conserve resources,



By Anne Marie McIntyre M.S.

and opportunity to foster biodiversity, sequester carbon, and offer healthier landscapes for local communities.

The Green Plan
The Sustainable Golf Forum builds directly on Golf Ireland's ambitious “Drive the Green” action plan, unveiled last year. At its heart, the framework revolves around four pillars: Fostering Nature, Conserving Resources, Strengthening Communities, and Taking Climate Action. Under these themes, clubs are asked to commit to practical steps: reducing pesticide and fertilizer use, transitioning to clean energy, managing water responsibly, and creating space for wildlife habitats. Golfers themselves are invited to play a part, from taking the Sustainable Golf Pledge to joining biodiversity projects at their local clubs.

Golf Ireland is gathering data, issuing annual sustainability scorecards, and promoting club success stories to reshape the public perception of golf. No longer should the sport be seen as an environmental laggard; instead, it can be a showcase for climate resilience and responsible land stewardship.

The Irish initiative reflects a broader trend across the golf world. According to industry analysis, 2024 marked a turning point in how the sport embraces sustainability. Many clubs have shifted to electric mowers and carts, cutting

changing, with architects incorporating natural wetlands and grasslands instead of imposing artificial landscapes.

Perhaps most importantly, sustainability has become a draw for players and sponsors alike. Consumers expect businesses—and sports are no exception—to demonstrate environmental responsibility. Companies that back tournaments or clubs now view sustainability credentials as essential. This cultural shift means that investing in biodiversity or renewable energy is no longer just “good PR”; it's a business imperative.

For Irish Americans, many of whom play the game on both sides of the Atlantic, these developments carry particular resonance. As U.S. clubs face their own climate challenges—from drought in California to flooding in the Midwest—the Irish example provides a roadmap. Just as Golf Ireland works with partners like The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and GEO Sustainable Golf Foundation, American clubs can lean on networks such as the U.S. Golf Association's Green Section.

The USGA Green Section, founded in 1920, advances the science and sustainability of golf course maintenance through research, expert consulting, education, and data-driven tools. Every year, its programs—such as on-site agronomy consulting, educational outreach, and data tools like DEACON® and GS3™—deliver an estimated \$1.9 billion in savings to U.S. golf courses, by reducing inputs and optimizing resource use. By combining university-backed research and practical guidance, the Green Section helps ensure both environmental

both emissions and noise pollution. Irrigation systems are increasingly designed to use reclaimed or rainwater, reducing strain on local supplies. Course design itself is

stewardship and financial efficiency in golf course care.

Several U.S. golf clubs are also charting a sustainable path. The Vineyard Golf Club in Massachusetts is the nation's only fully organic golf course, operating without synthetic pesticides or herbicides to protect the island's aquifer. In Florida, Collier's Reserve Country Club became the world's first Audubon Signature Sanctuary, restoring native habitats while conserving water and reducing chemical inputs. Meanwhile, the PGA TOUR has integrated sustainability across its tournaments, prioritizing energy efficiency, waste diversion, and carbon tracking to show that even large-scale golf operations can go green.

October is a fitting month to reflect on golf's sustainable future. Globally, it includes observances like Sustainability Day (fourth Wednesday) and World Cities Day (October 31)—reminders that no sector is exempt from the urgent need for greener practices. For Golf Ireland, the launch of “Drive the Green” is only the beginning. The plan is designed to evolve, with annual reviews and new goals to match the accelerating pace of climate action

As Paul Haran, Chairperson of Golf Ireland, put it: “Sustainability is not just a goal; it's a responsibility we all share.” This October may that responsibility inspire golfers, clubs, and communities across Ireland and the US to keep driving the green— finding everyday ways to protect both the game we love and the environment we share.

Sources Golf Ireland - Drive the Green Sustainability Plan (2024)

Golf Business News - Golf Ireland and DP World Tour Deliver First Sustainable Golf Forum

Harlestons - Sustainable Golf: How the Industry Has Gone Green in 2024

The Bigger Ball - Top 5 Sustainable Golf Courses in the U.S.

Golf Sustainability - How the PGA TOUR Is Leading the Charge in Sustainable Golf

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Tomorrow Is Yesterday

It is 1975. I'm a youngster of 16, sitting in a Scottish classroom. My teacher of English, Tommy Church, is in his twenties; handsome enough that some female pupils have a crush; with enthusiasms that are infectious and a teaching style that is addictive – and he is talking about freedom of speech.

Across the Irish Sea, Paddy McMenamin – 21 years of age; future neighbour; already a member of the Irish Republican Army – is incarcerated in Long Kesh as a political prisoner. He is editing papers that cover an eclectic range of subjects. Practising freedom of speech in a place where freedom is gone.

Tommy Church wants us to be able to debate instead of swing our fists, if we can. In typical Mr. Church fashion, he is getting our attention by tying this in with how strangely Time moves; how

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

what is considered freedom today will change with Time; and, as he often does, is about to use a lyric from David Bowie's work to illustrate it...when, in 2025, a single shot rings out.

In America, in Utah Valley University, a man who has also been lecturing to students, is hit in the neck. He slumps to the left, blood coming out in a startling gush. Freedom of speech is left badly wounded; the man is left dead. Immediately – without anything but

the most surface attempts to process what has taken place – social media swings into action. Many of the online

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utterances are staggeringly vile, covering neither side of the wider-than-ever political divide with glory. Both behave shamefully, with – it must be said – some more shamefully than others.

Tommy has gotten the quote from his beloved Bowie that he's been looking for and it's from the album 'Alladin Sane':

Time, he's waiting in the wings/
He speaks of senseless things/
His script is you and me...

It is August 2025. My friend Paula and I are having lunch in the surroundings of a fish restaurant called Moran's on the Weir, situated by the oyster beds outside Galway. We're in the charming company of Pierre Joannon and his wife Annick.

Among his many other accomplishments Pierre has been



Charles Brady

In its own humbling way, it all reminds us of just how small and at the same time enormous we really are. A limited, often mean and ridiculous species - yet capable of great things.

In Queen Margaret Academy it is 1973 – the year that Pierre Joannon will become Consul General to Ireland, based in the South of France, since 1973. The conversation is tremendous, ranging easily across decades of Time. The laughter is often. I think how very lucky I am to be at this place in my life.

It is August, 1977. I'm eighteen years old and sleeping on a beach in North Africa. Money is running short and I wonder how the hell I'm going to get home. But the following week, back in Spain, in a small artificial town called Puerto Banus – soon to grow and transform into a tourist nightmare – I pick up work crewing on private yachts. It's another happy time in my life.

In 2025 Pierre regales us with wonderful stories and is a natural yarn-spinner. Years ago, he wrote a biography in French of Michael Collins. And when film director Neil Jordan was preparing his own picture on the subject, spoke at length to Pierre. I'm fascinated to hear that Kevin Costner was intending to make his own version at one stage. In my mind it joins the Library of Never-Made Films that include 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' starring Tom Selleck as Indiana Jones and 'Superman', directed by Sam Peckinpah.

It illustrates once again to me, what a plastic thing is Time: moving at different speeds and drawing together disparate strands from across the decades.

In the mid-70s and through '76 Paddy McMenamin manages to smuggle out the writings of himself and other prisoners. But it's not just that: almost mystically, he has reached through a hole in Time; and fifty

years later, by a natural alchemy he has turned those same cheap papers into priceless historical documents, the words of which will reverberate through an entirely new century. University of Galway Archivist Dr. Barry Houlihan has helped gather together the journals and photo albums and in September 2025 they are now digitised for all to look up, presented in conjunction with a new book, 'Voices from Inside'.

I attend the launch. It is a moving and strangely profound experience, almost the transformation of paper into gold. Words battered out long ago on an old typewriter by a youngster using just one finger: gravel into light.

Political IRA prisoner in 1975; historian and educator in 2025. And now – who knows? – with a body of work waiting to be stumbled upon in 2075 by some future historian. And perhaps inspire that young person in their life's direction.

Charles Brady



Photo shows members of the team winners of the Chicago Divisional Title in 1974. (l to r) Front: Frank Spellman (Galway); Joe Quinn (Galway); Jack Talty (Clare); John O'Brien (Kilkenny); Captain Ned Campbell (Galway); Bob Kellam (Chicago); Simon Grace (Tipperary) Back row: Sean Quigley - Manager (Tipperary); John Egan (Galway); Pete Ward (Galway); Joe Quirk (Tipperary); Seamus Quinn (Tipperary); Pete Foley (Cork); Jack Lynch (Galway); John Landers (Waterford); and Sean Silke (Galway).



The Harry Bolands Hurling Club Celebrating 100 Years in 2025

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Harry Bolands Hurling club.

The club was founded following the visit of Harry Boland to America in June 1919. He accompanied Eamon deValera and played an exhibition/fund raising hurling match in Chicago with a Chicago selection.

It was three years later in August of 1922 that Harry, like his buddy Michael Collins, was a casualty of the Civil War.

In his memory some of the hurlers who played in that match founded a GAA Club in Chicago, The Bolands

For many years the great Pat Hennessy wrote for Irish American News and others, and was our Chicago Correspondent.

Pat was an important member of the Chicago Gaelic Park and the Bolands.

Past members of the Bolands are looking to accumulate memorabilia, especially pictures. They are looking for anything from our Irish American News archives having to do with any pictures or articles we may have regarding The Bolands. We have an extensive archive of back issues, but unfortunately we don't have every single one.

Irish American News is asking our readers help with this as well, so if you have pictures or copies of pictures or anything you might think the Boland members might like to have, contact cliff@irishamericannews.com or call 312-498-1337.



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The Universal Language
by
Dr. Christine Lawless



‘Session City’ Part 3
Which Sessions Feature Traditional Irish Singing?
Over the past few months, I’ve been covering the magical Traditional Irish Music sessions scattered throughout Chicagoland: Irish Musician’s Association at IAHC with Sean

join sessions regularly may be aware of a passive aggressive dynamic floating between those who primarily primarily play Irish instruments, and those who primarily sing. Let’s face it, musicians want to play their instruments, and as traditional singers most often sing



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Cleland, Thursday night trad session at 5th Province Pub with Jim Conway and Mike Austin, and Sunday evening

unaccompanied, there might be an uncomfortable pause for musicians as the singer presents their unaccompanied



trad session at Chief O’Neill’s with Pauline Conneely. These sessions cater to Irish instrumentalists of all ages and ability. And on occasion, singers may be able to do a song or two.
Although I would like to say otherwise, not every session in Chicagoland is “singer friendly.” Those who attend or

song. As some sessions have over 15 musicians attending, it can be quite the competition to perform within the two-hour session window.
Today I’d like to dedicate my column to Chicagoland’s Irish singers, and where a singer might go to sing. Chicago (and this might be true for all of North America) appears

to have two general types of Irish Singers: those singers trained in classical, pop, rock, jazz or musical theater who perform some Irish Songs, and those singers who study the tradition, and perform old Irish Traditional songs in Sean Nos style unaccompanied. It’s easy for the first type of singer to learn a few Irish songs, and sing them well, but not necessarily according to the Irish Tradition. It is far more difficult for the second type of singer to find proper coaches and role models. I refer to the second type of singing as “Traditional Irish Singing.”

In 2023, Traditional Irish Singing in Chicago appeared to be at a low point, with only a scant number of singers and even a smaller number of qualified teachers from whom to learn the tradition. I went to three coaches before I realized I had to go outside Chicago to find a coach who could tutor me in the Traditional Irish Singing. Ultimately, I found an all-Ireland singing champion in St Louis MO named Eimear Arkins, under whose watchful eye I began to build a traditional repertoire and learn ornamentation and Sean Nos style. Traditional Irish Singing is the singing you hear at the All-Ireland Fleadh. This difference between the

in October 2023. Although established as a community of people with an interest in Traditional Irish Singing, it has now grown to over 250 people on the mailing list, and 40 singers who regularly perform as the “Chicago Irish Singers.” The performance team does shows at pubs, libraries, retirement homes, private events and fundraisers. They perform at IAHC pub and special events, and Gaelic Park Irish Fest. The performance team shares Irish song in all its forms- the old songs in both the Irish language, and English language, sea shanty songs, rebel songs, and pub songs. Recently, the team hired Choral Director Liz Vasiljevic, known for her conducting work at Holy Name Cathedral. Liz is taking Chicago Irish Singers performance team to the next level, by conducting us in 4-part harmony arrangements of Yeats and Joyce poetry set to music. Luke McLoughlin serves as associate choral director and provides piano accompaniment. Luke has written an arrangement of the Irish National Anthem in 4-part harmony, and to our knowledge, Chicago Irish Singers is only group performing this original piece in the Midwest.
Chicago Irish Singers Club

leader keeps everything in order and keeps a list of who will sing next. These 2 sessions are a low-key way to get started in your Traditional Irish Singing journey. You will meet like-minded singers who will inspire you.
For those who want to learn Traditional Irish Singing technique and develop a repertoire in Irish singing, Chicago Irish Singers sponsors group classes at both of the cultural centers on Thursday nights. They just started on 9/25 at Irish American Heritage Center, and begin on 10/2 at Gaelic Park. One can register at both cultural center websites. The singing classes teach Traditional Irish ballads, lively Irish songs, and pub songs. Students are also taught introduction to liltin. Students who have attended these classes have now learnt 18 Traditional Irish songs over the past year. Between these classes and special workshops with All-Ireland champions, Chicago Irish Singers Club has instructed over 100 singers in Chicago to learn Traditional Irish Singing. Many of these students perform solos at our shows and with our performance choir.
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Celtic Woman: Nollaig - A Christmas Journey

Experience the magical sound of Celtic Woman this holiday season.
In the stillness of winter, as the world quiets, familiar melodies drift like snowflakes; gentle, timeless, and full of wonder.

Celtic Woman’s album is a reflection of that magic.
Encompassing tradition and newness, and capturing the spirit of Christmas in its most delicate form, each song is a window into a winter’s evening; some familiar, some reimagined, all wrapped in a feeling of joy.
Celtic Woman’s brand-new album Nollaig - A Christmas Journey features some of your favourite Yuletide classics: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Little Drummer Boy, Silver Bells, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas & more, along with brand-new composition Nollaig na mBan and some Irish songs & tunes with a Christmas twist.

The word Nollaig is the Irish word for ‘Christmas’. It is also the name for the month of December, and a given name for many people born within the month of December. For Celtic Woman, it epitomises the spirit of the entire Christmas season.
Newest members Caitríona Sherlock and

- 5. Codail a Linbh (3:21)
 - 6. Silent Night (4:16)
 - 7. Wexford Carol (4:06)
 - 8. Little Drummer Boy (3:05)
 - 9. Don Oíche Úd i mBeithil (2:24)
 - 10. Silver Bells (3:45)
 - 11. In the Bleak Midwinter / Goin’ Home (4:34)
 - 12. The Bells of Dublin / Christmas Eve / Navan in the Snow (3:38)
 - 13. Auld Lang Syne (4:50)
- See Celtic Woman’s Symphony Christmas Tour - Dec 2-22, 2025
Celtic Woman is the most successful all-female group in Irish history, with a legacy of 12 Billboard number ones, over 10 million album sales & 3 billion online streams to date.



Ciara Ní Mhurchú make their Celtic Woman debut on Nollaig - A Christmas Journey. Sean-Nós singer Caitríona and fiddle player Ciara join sopranos Mairéad Carlin & Muirgen O’Mahony, along with fiddle player Tara McNeill, on this 13 track studio album produced & arranged by Golden Globe-nominated composer Brian Byrne.
Drawing from our rich heritage of Irish female musical talent, Nollaig - A Christmas Journey also features a guest appearance by Sean-Nós singer Sibéal on 3 songs, and award-winning multi-instrumentalist Tara Howley joins the Celtic Woman band playing Uilleann Pipes & Whistles.
Celebrate the holiday season with Grammy-nominated multi-platinum Irish singing sensation Celtic Woman.
1. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (2:29)
2. Nollaig na mBan (4:45)
3. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas (3:00)
4. River (4:59)



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Brutal Civil War

As a result of ongoing tensions and animosity between Pro-treaty and Anti-treaty sides, the Civil War commenced on the 28th of June.

Battle of Dublin June 1922

With the encouragement (treat) and supply of arms from the British authorities the Free State Army opened fire and shelled the Republican garrison stationed in the Four Courts on the Quays in Dublin. After heavy bombardment the Republicans were forced to abandon their position and retreat towards Sackville St. (O’Connell St) under the command of Cathal Brugha (Easter Rising veteran and former Minister of Defence) After holding out against superior forces, he ordered his men to surrender but refused to do so himself. Guns drawn, he confronted the Free State troops, receiving wounds that were to prove fatal. Brugha was held in such high esteem as a patriot that his funeral was attended by Republican troops, Cumann na mBan and Free State soldiers. Such a gesture was never again repeated during this period of Irish History.



Cathal Brugha - gave up his own life in an attempt to stop Civil War

When I spoke to Prof.Cathal McSweeney Brugha, why his grandfather refused to surrender he explained “not only did he refuse to be bullied into rejoining the British Empire, but he expressed the hope that one prominent death, casualty would be a loss worth having if it woke either, or both sides to the harm, tragedy and disaster of Civil war”

When I suggested, ‘The Michael Collins’ film, unfairly demonized Brugha because of his stance in opposing Collins he agreed saying the late Alan Rickmann who played Dev in the film told him “He was embarrassed about playing such a dreadful, untrue, denigrating role”

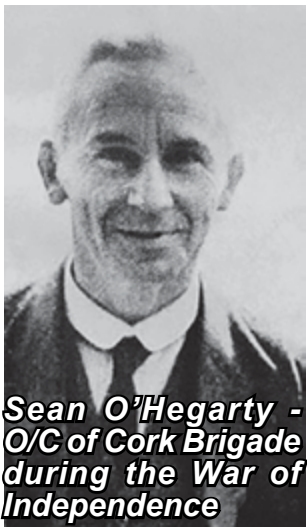
Recall President Lincoln quote “History is not history unless it is the truth”.

The shelling of the Four Courts triggered Republican Forces nationwide to retaliate.

It split families, friends and former comrades. For the Hegarty family there were no divided loyalties as they all took the anti-treaty side, determined to continue the fight for a 32-county Republic.

Change of Command in Cork

In Cork, Sean O’ Hegarty with other officers stepped down taking a neutral position. Hegarty traveled to Dublin to meet Dick Mulcahy (Minister of Defence, later served as National Army Commander -in-Chief after the death of Michael Collins) trying



Sean O'Hegarty - O/C of Cork Brigade during the War of Independence

to broker a deal, Mulcahy was not interested and even called him a coward. Mulcahy’s uncompromising attitude is summed up in his quote “the only way to end the war is to fight it to the end”.

Hegarty’s leadership and exploits during the War of Independence, (including masterminding the capture of the Upnor) would deny any cowardice.

He did not want to do the work of the British by killing his former comrades.

Tipperary Brigade

James Leahy was in Cork when the attack occurred, on his way home from his honeymoon and meeting his brother Michael (Cork Officer) Sean Hegarty and others. When word came of the attack he returned to Thurles & mobilized the Republican troops in the County. Dan Breen issued a strong Appeal to his Old Comrades now in the Free State Army not to do the work of the British saying” Will you again stand with me as my comrades in arms, or will you continue to fight with England against me?

The Laurels continues as a place of refuge

When Hegarty stepped down, he was replaced by Tom Crofts as Cork’s O/C. Crofts, a principle in the capture of the Upnor, had access to all its ordnance. He continued using The Laurels as a base and meeting place for the remainder of the war.

During this period John Joe continued his intelligence work, which now proved invaluable that Sean Mitchell ordered



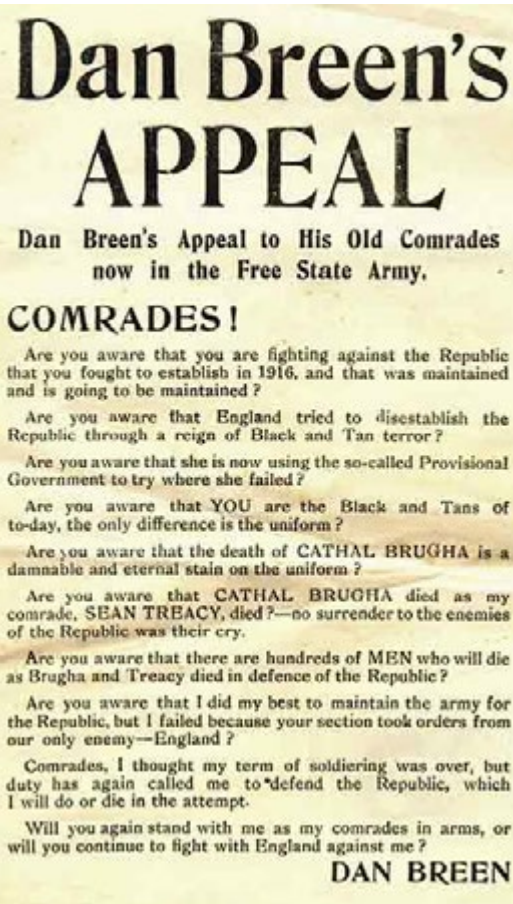
Tom Crofts- O/C of Cork Brigade during Civil War.

him not to return to the column as his information could be relied upon. This was no easy task as the whole area was bitterly hostile. He was more useful in the city than in the country. Building up his arms dump was becoming more difficult, but he continued making bombs and mines.

Nan and her parents took care of the men on the run who used it as a safe house when going to and from the columns. She also continued carrying arms and dispatches around the city.

Mamie was doing similar work from her home in Greenmount, when the nearby Barracks in Elizabeth Fort was attacked, she brought the arms back to the supply dump at The Laurels.

The Laurels continued to be raided, but now it was the Free State troops, some of whom were familiar with the family. Apart

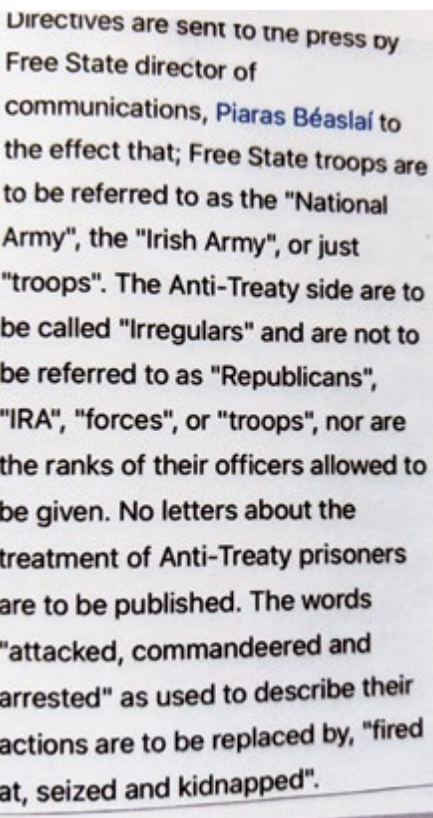


from confiscating a motorcycle (which was never returned) nothing was ever discovered, nor did the family’s spirit break.

1922

In August, Free State Troops avoiding the roads sailed to Passage West resulting in heavy fighting taking place, in particular the Rochestown area forcing the Republican men to

Directive below from Beaslai - during CW that still has not being addressed. (I am on to all the main parties for this to be reconciled so hopefully will get a result as pushing an open door / was raised in the Dail with positive feedback)
Jim Hegarty



withdraw. During the retreat six injured men made their way to Mamie's house in Greenmount where she treated their wounds before escorting them out of the city to Ballincollig. The landing was part of Michael Collins plans to

seize control of his native city from the Republicans which succeeded. Within weeks he was shot and killed at Beal na mBlath ambush. The arms used in the ambush probably came from the Upnor ordinance.

In December John Joe’s luck ran out and he was arrested, charged with being an IRA officer, questioned about Sean Mitchell (who was staying at the Laurels) his bomb factories & arm dumps.

He was to be executed but was recognized by a Free State officer who arranged for his release. It may have been this action that influenced his belief in reconciliation for the rest of his life.

Burning Of Barracks

It was the custom of retreating Republican to burn all Barracks as they vacated them. The one major exception was Templemore in Tipperary. James Leahy sought permission from Dev making the case “better that Tipperary have the Barracks than it be lost”. Today it is a world-renowned Garda (Police) College.

In October at the height of the War, Piaras Beaslai, Communications Director for the Free State issued several directives, including that henceforth anti treaty side were now to be referred to as ‘Irregulars’ and were not ‘Republicans’ ‘IRA’ ‘Forces or ‘Troops’ nor were the ranks of their officers to be disclosed.

This order was never rescinded but now over 100 years later hopefully this can be revisited resulting in all anti- treaty volunteers and their officers being reinstated as ranking Irish soldiers and officers that were earned during the struggle for a free and Independent Ireland. These brave men and women who fought for their country’s independence went to their graves without this injustice being rectified.

War Ends

In May 1923 the order not to surrender but to lay down arms came from Frank Aiken. This after the death of Liam Lynch (Chief of Staff) while he was on the run in the Tipperary Knockmealdown Mountains. He ordered his comrades to save themselves after he was shot by Free State Soldiers

Lynch’s dying wish was to be buried in Fermoy next to his friend Michael Fitzgerald who died on hunger strike. There is no accounting for the bitter atrocities committed during this short war. The effects of which lasted for generations. In today’s terms many would be deemed War Crimes, executing prisoners as retaliation of actions committed by others. It is recorded that 77 anti-treaty men were executed because of Mulcahys orders.

It is accepted and well documented that the worst atrocities were carried out in Co. Kerry where men were tied to mines and blown to pieces. A few survived to report these heinous crimes.

Post War Aftermath -

America Beckons

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Source; *The Hegartys of the Laurels -A Story of Unsung Heroism*



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Following up earlier, similar projects in England my wife, Linda, and I completed a 14-county photo expedition from one end of Ireland to the other, capturing evidence of Ireland’s prehistoric past. Some may have heard or seen pictures of the Poulnabrone dolmen in Clare or the stone age Newgrange passage tomb in Meath and to be sure they are not to be missed. But away from the tourist bus, Ireland has a wealth of other, less crowded Bronze Age, Neolithic Age, prehistoric monuments such as standing stone circles, dolmens (some say cromlechs), portal /passage tombs and stone forts that will tease you to imagine the lives of those who created them and left them for us to ponder. Standing alone and in the quiet, it is easy to open yourself to the magic and meaning of these sacred spaces.

Wherever in Ireland your next trip takes you, take time to see which of these mysterious treasures may be just around the corner. Ordinary GPS and Google Maps can help you find them or at least get you close. I also suggest downloading the what3words app https://what3words.com/products/what3words-app which will get you within 9 meters should the other apps leave you sitting next to an open field with only a friendly sheep or two for company. Our next few years’ version of the annual “The Ancient Stones of Ireland” calendar will highlight some of our favorites. Before your next trip feel free to email me drpaul@drpaulpowers.com

and I’ll be glad to offer a suggestion or two. For holiday gift-giving the annual “Ancient Stones of Ireland” calendar available from Amazon. If you pre-order it from us at www.pocassetpress.com/calendar/ we’ll ship it for free!

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(l to r): Steve Cochran, Mike Toomey, Tim Benker

with two shows at 5 and 8pm Tickets are \$36; and \$66 per seat for VIP Tables on the stage. For years, Chicago drive time radio legend Steve Cochran, WGN-TV’s Mike Toomey and the hilarious Tim Benker have been killing it on radio, TV, podcasts and in every comedy club from Chicago to Poughkeepsie. Cochran and company sold out their past Copley Theatre shows and they will do it again. So don’t sit on this chance to enjoy Men of a Certain Age. [Ticket Link below](#)
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Clancy Brothers fame) and continues a legacy handed down from his grandmother, the legendary source singer Sarah Makem. Rory pulls the songs of the worker, the sailor,

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Friends of Naperville Irish Fest - Survey

To everyone who joined us for this year's Naperville Irish Fest... thank you! It was a fantastic event, and we're already excited to begin planning for next year.

Whether you were able to attend or not, we'd love to hear your input. Your

and your insights will make a big difference. Take the survey now

Thank you for supporting Naperville Irish Fest and the mission of West Suburban Irish. We're grateful for your time, your thoughts, and your continued support. Sláinte,

The Naperville Irish Fest Committee
www.wsi.org. or try this:
Surveys - West Suburban Irish



feedback will help us understand what worked well and where we can improve as we plan for and promote the 2026 Naperville Irish Fest, returning to Central Park in downtown Naperville on September 18 & 19, 2026.

This survey takes just 1-2 minutes,



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A Visit to the County Arms Hotel Surrounded by the Beauty That is Ireland

By Grainne McCool
Irish Correspondent,

Nestled in the centre, or rather the heart of Ireland, you find the quaint, traditional, heritage town of Birr. It's a town where everyone welcomes you and you find the best of Irishness at every turn. The town is free of large shopping centres and instead boasts a selection of independent shops and boutiques, cafes, galleries, a theatre, library and traditional pubs. It's also home to renowned singer Mundy. Birr offers Irish hospitality at its finest, and none more so than that at The County Arms Hotel. Just a short walk from the town centre you find this four-star hotel which combines old world grandeur alongside contemporary design. With its welcoming driveway and magnificent gardens, it oozes personality before entering. Built in 1809 as a private

his grounding here initially. He went off then and got experience in 4-star hotels around Ireland and says that now 'it's nice to be back home.' Barry tells me, 'We've an awful lot to offer here, both at the hotel and in Birr town itself.

The hotel was closed during the pandemic and refurbished at that time also. It reopened in July 2021 with a 'skeleton staff', said Barry. 'It had a lot of new staff who hadn't worked in hospitality before. It was a challenging time. A

120 weddings per year. Many weddings in today's world are a civil ceremony, and we continue to grow our facilities to accommodate this.' When you visit the walled garden you can see why one might choose to have their entire wedding

team of staff here. I found this on every occasion I've visited in recent years- with family in the town I visit often. As Barry told me, 'We've grown from 62 staff to around 160. Many of the staff are based locally and a small few travel from outside the area.' Barry tells me, 'this is really important to me that we are employing local people. A good 70% of our customers are local (including weddings) so we like to ensure that we give back to this community with local staff.'

In terms of what this hotel has to offer the American and other tourists, Barry assures me they have much to avail off on a visit to The County Arms. First and foremost he says, 'Birr is a heritage town with some fabulous buildings. Guests are always telling us that the town is just lovely. The hotel is perfect for special events. We currently have 70 bedrooms and are presently building on another 11 rooms with some extra staff areas. We are creating more family rooms also.'

Back in the 1800s Barry told me "The Hackett' family built the original family house here, so we have rebranded 'Hackett's Eatery' for dining. We have 'Bar 62' which is very busy. We have the Springs Leisure and Wellness Club which is very popular with guests and regulars. We offer swimming classes which are very popular."

The hotel is also very active in supporting the numerous festivals which happen throughout the year in Birr.

Your stay at The County Arms in Birr will allow you time to indulge in everything this 4-star hotel has to offer, but it will also allow you time to indulge in the surrounding area which has equally much to offer, and it never disappoints. Birr Castle is nestled right in the town and will take you amidst stunning gardens and grounds there. This site spans 120 acres of stunning parklands and gardens and features over 5,000 species of trees and plants, wildlife and scenic trails, along rivers and waterfalls. There is something spectacular around every corner as you walk. It is home to the Great Telescope, the Lunar Heat Machine, one of the world's oldest darkrooms, welcome videos, a wonderful playground (with a very fun castle slide) and Ireland's' Historic Science Centre. And of course, you can get a coffee and snack on route too.

There's a great established day here. It really is exquisite. And as a visitor/guest at the hotel it's a beautiful place to walk around and just sit and watch the world whizz by, or rather gently float by from this beautiful place.

There's a great established



family home and named Moorpark House initially, this gorgeous Georgian home first opened as a refuge for weary travellers to Offaly in 1962. Ever since this has been an integral part of life in Birr, welcoming visitors to the town, allowing the local community to gather and meet, and offering a wedding to remember to all who choose it as their 'wedding venue'.

On the morning I visited in mid-September I was welcomed in reception with a stunning wedding floral display. They were preparing to host their second wedding of that week with a third the following day.

Barry Kennedy, General Manager, a Birr local, met me that morning and told me all about the modern day 'County Arms'. He told me how he had previously worked for 7 years through college and got

I came back here in August 2021. During the pandemic the hotel changed ownership. It's now owned by a local family, the Garry family, Eoin and Carol. Eoin and I grew up near each other and know each other really well.

lot of work has been done physically to the building.' The County Arms is set on 9 acres of land and the walled garden has been completely transformed and now lends itself to their wedding market. 'We now host approximately



County Arms allows you the opportunity to explore many miles of wandering waterways, meadows and forests, bogland and astonishing mountains, hills and valleys. Discover the charismatic and quaint villages and cities of Irelands midlands. And if you play golf, you have the lovely course right here in Birr also. And as Barry reminded me you are just 'an hour from the K Club, and Shane Lowry's home course is just a short drive up the road.' Based here also you are just an hour from Shannon Airport. You really won't be disappointed in what this area has to offer.

Whatever your excursion, you always return to the luxury and warm welcome of The County Arms Hotel. An important part of Irish hospitality is the people. You will find the best-of-the-best right here in Birr, and most especially at The County Arms Hotel. I was made welcome on this day, but on previous visits also when I came here to dine. I vividly recall the effort, the vitality, the dedication of all staff I encountered. And well the food I have sampled is certainly such that I recommend to all who visit the area.

The County Arms Hotel is located in the very heart of Ireland, Birr, and it has the warmest welcome that only a real heart can offer. It really is a warm, welcoming wonderland of a hotel.



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On the Law
Matthew Gannon, John Scanlon, Martin Healy, Jr. and Kevin Veugeler
HEALY SCANLON VEUGELER GANNON
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 a law firm comprised of eight trial attorneys and four "Of Counsel" attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 161 N. Clark Street, Suite 2200, Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312-977-0100) (overlooking Daley Center). www.HSVGLaw.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.

Intoxication & Litigation: The Legal Buzz around Dramshop Acts

Many states, including Illinois, have enacted so-called "dramshop acts," which are laws that hold establishments liable for serving alcohol to patrons who become intoxicated and later cause harm. Dramshop acts provide legal remedies for personal injury, property damage, and loss of society that result from the acts of an intoxicated person.

The Illinois legislature enacted the Dramshop Act because serious—often catastrophic—consequences can flow from excessive alcohol consumption, especially when combined with operating vehicles or heavy machinery.

The Illinois Dramshop Act (the "Act") reads, in relevant part, "Every person who is injured within this State...by any intoxicated person has a right of action...against any person, licensed under the laws of this State...to sell alcoholic liquor, who, by selling or giving alcoholic liquor...causes the intoxication of such person." 235 ILCS 5/6-21(a).

So what does this mean? The Dramshop Act creates liability those who are licensed to serve alcohol and those who own or rent property with knowledge that alcohol will be sold on the property. For liability to attach, an injured plaintiff must prove three elements: (1) a gift or sale of alcohol by a person licensed to sell it, (2) intoxication of the person by the consumption of that alcohol, and (3) a physical action by the intoxicated person that causes an injury.

This means that a defendant, usually a bar or restaurant with a liquor license, must have caused a patron's intoxication, and not merely served them an insignificant amount of alcohol. The Illinois Supreme Court has stated that the phrase "caused the intoxication" is not meant to be a technical, legal term but that it must be given its ordinary meaning.

You might be wondering, "What if I host a party at my home and serve alcohol to my adult guests? Can I be liable under the Act." The short answer is generally "no." In Illinois, social hosts cannot be held liable for serving alcohol to adult guests who later cause injury due to their intoxication. This principle dates all the way back to at least 1889 when the Illinois Supreme Court held that a cause of action under the Dramshop Act "is not intended to be given

against a person who, in his own house, or elsewhere, gives a glass of intoxicating liquor to a friend as a mere act of courtesy and politeness."

However, Illinois law does impose criminal penalties on adults who knowingly furnish or allow minors to consume alcohol on their property. In addition, adults who knowingly permit underage drinking on their property can be held civilly liable for any harm caused by a minor's intoxication.

While the Act may seem especially tough on the alcohol and liquor industry, it provides limits on the amount of compensation that injured plaintiffs can recover from establishments held liable under the Act. The Act requires that, each year, the state comptroller determine that liability limits for causes of actions brought under the Act. As of January 20, 2025, recovery involving persons injured, killed, or incurring property damage is limited to \$88,051.76. Recovery involving loss of means of support or loss of society resulting from the death or injury of any person is limited to \$107,618.82. Additionally, establishments who serve alcohol can insure themselves against loss.

In sum, the Illinois Dramshop Act intends to protect and compensate innocent individuals against establishments that overserve patrons, while also providing limits on how much they can recover.

By Timothy J. Ganshirt
Timothy J. Ganshirt, a former law clerk and now incoming associate at Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon, is a recent graduate from DePaul University College of Law. He was a staff member for the DePaul Law Review and was on the Dean's List.



County Galway is Offering StoryMaps for Visitors to Enjoy



Pictured with the 2025 Ireland eGovernment 'Open Data' Award, left to right, are Bridin Feeney, GIS Officer, Galway County Council, and Giles Newsome, CEO of iConnect101 and a member of this year's judging panel. Credit Noel Hillis.

Galway County Council's innovative StoryMaps project, which has digitised the heritage of communities across County Galway into interactive online experiences, has been named a category winner at the 2025 Ireland eGovernment Awards.

The project received the Open Data Award, having been shortlisted alongside the National Cancer Registry of Ireland.

Galway County Council's Heritage and GIS sections, working in conjunction with community groups and academia, have so far created over 40 town and village StoryMaps showcasing the rich heritage of the County's towns, villages, and townlands.

In addition, historical information relating to 1,000 townlands has been digitised, providing a valuable resource for communities, schools, heritage groups, Tidy Towns committees, academia, and the public.

By integrating mapping technology with text, images, and multimedia content, StoryMaps delivers location-based stories that can be accessed on any internet-enabled device, from desktop computers to tablets and phones.

Introduction: This StoryMap follows part of the Milltown Heritage Trail. The Milltown Heritage Trail follows the Milltown "Slí na Sláinte," route. The route is situated in scenic countryside and incorporates the River Clare and several sites of historical significance. A concise and detailed description of these sites is available at the Galway Community Heritage site here.

For safety, and to avoid damage to the habitats and disturbance to sensitive wildlife, it is advised that walkers stay on available tracks/viewing points at all times. Disturbance to wildlife is not permitted. This includes disturbance to wildflowers, which are protected and should not be picked. Due to the nature of the site, toilets and bins are not available. All litter should be taken home. The StoryMaps project is available by going online at Galway County Heritage trails and type in Story maps

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The Irish American Heritage Center celebrates community, culture, and connection this September with a lively lineup of events. Whether you're a longtime member or a first-time visitor, there's something for everyone—music, festivals, food, and traditions that bring us together.



OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 | 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Step inside and explore! The Irish American Heritage Center is proud to be part of Open House Chicago—a free citywide festival giving you behind-the-scenes access to more than 170 sites across 20 neighborhoods. Tour our library, museum, art gallery, Mayfair Theatre, Fifth Province Pub, and more, with volunteers on hand to share stories and insights. On Sunday, be sure to stop by the Jefferson Park Farmers Market in our North Lot from 10 AM – 2 PM. Come discover the history, culture, and community of the IAHC during this one-of-a-kind weekend.



HALLOWEEN BINGO NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 | DOORS 6:00 PM | BINGO 7:00 PM

The Irish American Heritage Center presents Ghouls & Games – Halloween Bingo II on Friday, October 24, 2025, in the Erin Ballroom at 4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago. Doors creak open at 6:00 PM with bingo running from 7:00–11:00 PM. Dare to join us—if you're feeling lucky—for a frightfully fun evening of bingo, boos, and big prizes, including a \$500 cash grand prize, free raffle entry for everyone in costume, a costume contest with eerie-sistible prizes, and additional raffles throughout the night. Admission is \$30 per player or \$175 for a table of six, and this event is strictly 21+—no tricks, just treats for the grown-ups! So, gather your ghoulish gang, throw on your spookiest costumes, and get ready for a killer night of laughs, luck, and lantern-lit fun.

TICKETS \$30 per Player | \$175 for Table of Six



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TICKETS \$30 Adults | \$25 Seniors (65+) | \$15 Children (12 & under)



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TICKETS \$30 Adults | \$15 Children



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— Richard Casey



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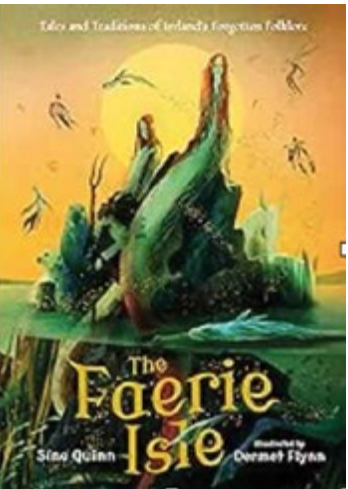


By Sheryl O'Sullivan

The Faerie Isle

Welcome back to the enchanting land of Tir na N'Og for books. With Halloween just around the corner, this month we will look at two children's books that have to do with ghosts and goblins and faeries, oh my!

The forward to this book is written by the current Laureate na nOg, Patricia Forde. She encourages readers to read this book in daylight and to be brave. This is good advice because the stories in Faerie Isle



are sometimes very spooky. The faeries in this book are not the cute little winged Tinkerbells we have come to know.

Author, Sine Quinn, has written a beautiful examination of the tales of mystical folklore of Ireland. She did extensive research using numerous ancient sources to tell her readers about such beings as mermaids, changelings, pookas and leprechauns. Altogether there are 16 supernatural creatures represented in this book, and the author gives a

Tales of Wisdom and Wonder

Tales of Wisdom and Wonder, retold by Hugh Lupton and illustrated by Niamh Sharkey is a collection of seven wisdom tales from around the world. Only the last tale, "The Shepherd's Dream," is from Ireland, so we will focus on



this tale. The book as a whole, however, would fit nicely into any Halloween reading you are doing. The book is beautifully illustrated, but each story has many words and few pictures making this book also appropriate for older picture book lovers.

The story of "The Shepherd's Dream" tells of two shepherds who sit down by a stream to rest. One falls asleep and has a fabulous dream. The other shepherd stays awake and follows the course of this dream through the meanderings of a white butterfly. When the one shepherd awakes, the two share their different stories, and the reader is left wondering which one made the more magnificent journey. The tale, according to the notes at the end of the book, comes from a very ancient source and is included in Sean O'Sullivan's The Folklore of Ireland.

Niamh Sharkey's illustrations are engaging and lovely. She

uses primitive shapes to mirror the primitive tales she is illustrating. Sharkey is a very prolific Irish illustrator, and one whose work is always exciting. She often illustrates folk tales,

Dirty Linen by Martin Doyle

A personal, intimate history of the Troubles seen through the microcosm of a single rural parish, the author's own, part of both the Linen Triangle - heartland of the North's defining industry - and the Murder Triangle - the Badlands devastated by paramilitary violence.

Paperback - September 2024 ISBN: 9781785375248

Martin Doyle, Books Editor of The Irish Times, offers a personal, intimate history of the Troubles seen through the microcosm of a single rural parish, his own, part of both the Linen Triangle - heartland of the North's defining industry - and the Murder Triangle - the Badlands devastated by paramilitary violence. He lifts the veil of silence drawn over the horrors of the past, recording in heartrending detail the terrible toll the conflict took - more than twenty violent deaths in a few square miles - and the long tail of trauma it has left behind.

Neighbours and classmates who lost loved ones in the conflict, survivors maimed in bomb attacks and victims of sectarianism, both Catholic and Protestant, entrust Doyle with their stories. Writing with a literary sensibility, he skilfully shows how the once dominant local linen

such as The Gigantic Turnip and Tales of Old Ireland.

That's it for this month. Hope you enjoy these traditional Irish tales and that your Halloween is sufficiently spooky.

industry serves as a metaphor for communal division but also for the solidarity that transcended the sectarian divide. To those who might ask why you would want to reopen old wounds, the answer might be that some wounds have never been allowed to heal.

Praise for Dirty Linen
'Dirty Linen is a powerfully affecting read, an encapsulation of the terror,



the trauma, the hatred, the injustice, the terrible sadness and loss. But there is also the bravery and courage, and the very human struggles in these stories of individuals living their everyday lives. It's a kind and personal book, bringing it right down to the individual and hearing their voice and their truth. I underlined so much in it. The writing itself is wonderful, full of compassion and intelligence and revelation... facing up to the reality of pain and yet bearing hope as well.' - Anna Burns

'This is the finest memoir of the conflict I've ever read.' - Fergal Keane

'Dirty Linen is shocking, riveting, and compassionate.' - Roddy Doyle

'Brilliantly written, fully human, hard to read and harder to put down - everyone should read this book.' - Anne Enright

'Superb, a really important and moving work that brings the reality of the Troubles to life and restores the human tragedy to its proper place in public memory ... a vital, potent and moving piece of work.' - Fintan O'Toole

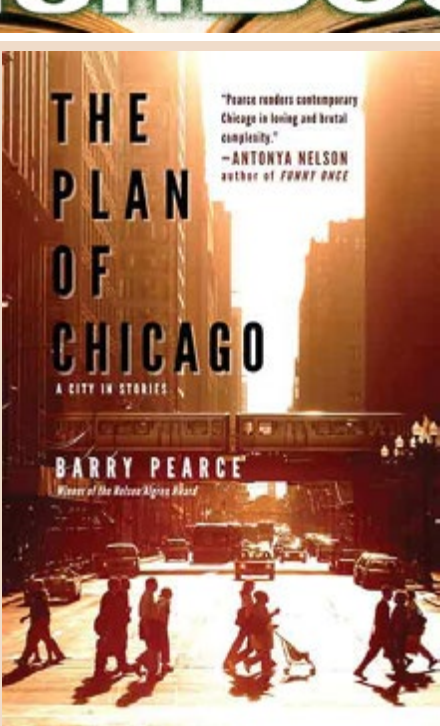
ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Martin Doyle is the Books Editor of The Irish Times. A former Editor of the Irish Post, he has worked in journalism for over three decades and is a regular contributor to the media and arts programming.

The Plan of Chicago

Synopsis: The Plan of Chicago has an unusual structure - nine linked stories set in nine Chicago neighborhoods - and unusual range. The characters - half men, half women - include immigrants from Poland, Mexico, Ireland, and Somalia. They work as housepainters, taxi drivers, sketch artists, and scam artists - often exploited by or exploiting others to make it in an unforgiving city. Chicago features heavily in these characters' plans, though the plan of Chicago - shaped by divisions of race, class, gender, violence - often forces them apart. Buy: online at Amazon, Bookshop.org, BarnesandNoble.com, as well as various bookstores, and at my book release on Nov. 15.

Despite that division, incongruous lives intersect here in unexpected ways. An Irish tradesman in a

THEIRISHBOOKCLUB.COM



changing neighborhood struggles with the complications of befriend

an African American coworker. His boss's self-absorbed wife, a Polish immigrant, learns to count people in new ways working for the U.S. Census. A Romanian boy who helps his father fake accidents tests the limits of filial loyalty, and the insurance



claims adjustor investigating his case confronts dark baggage when his partner works with rape victims. Through these varied characters -

Black and White, straight and gay, wealthy and working-class - Pearce captures the breadth and character of the city that sits dead center in America and perhaps better than any other, can reveal its promise and flaws.

Bio: Barry Pearce's parents immigrated from Ireland and settled on the South Side of Chicago, where he grew up with six siblings. He won the Nelson Algren Award Grand Prize for fiction in 2019. His work has been published in The Chicago Tribune, Colorado Review, Cimarron Review, and elsewhere. Pearce lives in Chicago, where he ghostwrites nonfiction books and occasionally teaches.

More at www.BarryPearce.com.
BOOK RELEASE: 1-4 p.m. on Nov. 15 at Martrys', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. Reading, music by The Boils & Friends, book sales by The Book Cellar.

Sean McPhilemy...Every Journalist's Dream
by Sabina Clarke

When *The Committee*, a sensational documentary revealing the existence of a secret terrorist organization in N. Ireland aired on Channel 4 in London in 1991, its impact was staggering. The documentary unearthed a secret loyalist organization whose existence was totally unknown to the public; an organization whose membership was drawn from prominent members of the loyalist business and professional community, Loyalist paramilitary groups and the highest ranks of the locally recruited security forces - the Royal Ulster Constabulary, RUC.

Its findings confirmed that a 'hidden hand' was guiding the escalating and unsolved killing of Catholics; corroborating speculation of collusion between the police and loyalist terrorists—proving that collusion did exist and that it was routine, widespread and institutionalized. The RUC was corrupted at the highest level.

The Ulster Loyalist Central Coordinating Committee , the 'Committee' ran a campaign of political and sectarian violence from the late '80s to the early '90s planning and executing with ruthless clockwork efficiency the cold-blooded calculated assassination of Catholics.

Former BBC producer and author Sean McPhilemy boldly names members of the 'Committee' and offers a myriad of impressive details about how many of its victims were murdered. His riveting account will take your breath away. It is a brilliant and unswerving piece of investigative journalism rendered with chilling effect.

When McPhilemy, the executive producer and founder of Box Productions and his young researcher Ben Hamilton began their journey into these murky waters, little did they know that their lives would be changed forever - that they would be immersed in years of controversy and litigation; that their reputations would be sullied and their production company virtually destroyed.

Little did McPhilemy realize that he was embarking on the biggest story of his professional life, "I had no idea what I was stepping into when early in 1991, I began to investigate

the escalating Loyalist assassination campaign in Northern Ireland. It never occurred to me that I was embarking on a project that would, between then and now, turn my life upside down and virtually destroy the successful production company I had formed in 1986. Back in '91, I would certainly have refused to believe what I now know to be the truth—namely, that most of the murders of Catholics and Republicans committed in '89, '90 and '91 -crimes that in '98 remain officially unsolved, were in fact sanctioned and organized by senior police officers belonging to the Royal Ulster Constabulary."

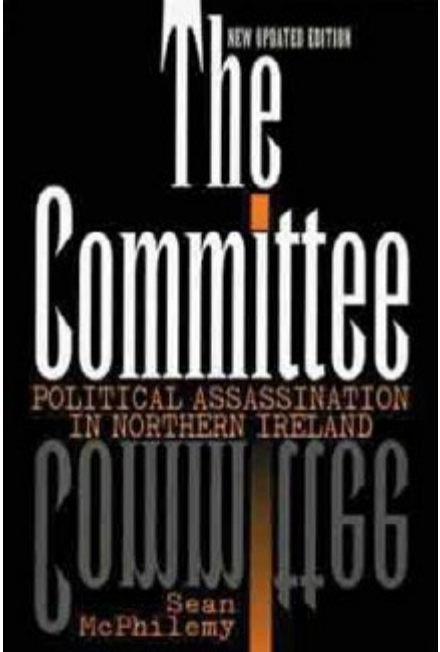
After the Program aired, his life was threatened his telephone tapped, and he was followed by Royal Ulster Constabulary, RUC agents.

Immediately following the broadcast, he gave a dossier to the RUC containing the identities of 19 key members of the 'Committee' and details of 5 separate Loyalist attacks in which 16 people were murdered. The RUC did nothing. The dossier was also given to the British Conservative Government. They did nothing. Then came the lawsuits, the official inquiries and dirty tricks campaign to discredit the Program -waged by the RUC and the 2 major London Sunday papers: The *Sunday Times* and The *Sunday Express*.

Consider the following: McPhilemy counter-sued and won the libel suit against *The Sunday Express* in '96 - the paper settled out of Court. In 2000, he won his libel suit against The *Sunday Times* with a jury awarding him \$145,000 in damages after determining Royal Ulster Constabulary, RUC officers,

Protestant businessmen, clergy, and loyalist paramilitaries colluded to murder Catholics, was not a "hoax" as claimed by The Sunday Times in a '93 article. The newspaper's appeal was dismissed in 2001, with judges rejecting their case in a notably dismissive manner, and the total costs including damages were estimated to reach \$5 million.

By May '93, The Committee had become the most controversial and



costly documentary program in Channel 4 history. The RUC managed to contain the scandal and suppress the truth that was partially exposed in 'The Committee.'

Channel 4 withdrew from the foray and decided against commissioning further programs on the subject despite

Books Under Review
By Sabina Clarke

being vindicated by an independent inquiry.

Roberts Rinehart, the publisher of The Committee ceased to exist as an independent entity due to legal and financial challenges from a libel suit. They faced a \$100 million dollar libel suit and settled for \$1 million.

Ben Hamilton, the young researcher who worked on the program with McPhilemy came out of hiding when it was safe to do so and continued his work as a television researcher.

Sean Mc Philemy pledged to go on pursuing the truth no matter how elusive it may be and despite his legal woes and the loss of his company, Box Productions.

Since he began his investigation some doors closed and his original source recanted his story and people who may have talked from prison like The Jackal and King Rat are dead. Although he never expected any Committee members to talk, he was on a mission to expose what they have done. This is a book you won't forget, McPhilemy is someone you don't often encounter.

Reporter's Note: As of today, Sean McPhilemy has kept a low profile. He is 78 years old now and resides in England with no known address. There is no known residence for Ben Hamilton his assistant and young researcher at the time. The project took a toll on both their lives and they have retreated from public life.

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Does the Missing Silver Box Hold all the Secrets of the Village?

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Jimmy, the half-crown man, is busy selling his usual wares, but rumours start spreading about the extras he is offering. Elizabeth, the newly widowed pub landlady, is besotted with Dominic, the glamorous new curate in the parish. Her friend Marion warns her that all may not be as it appears with him.

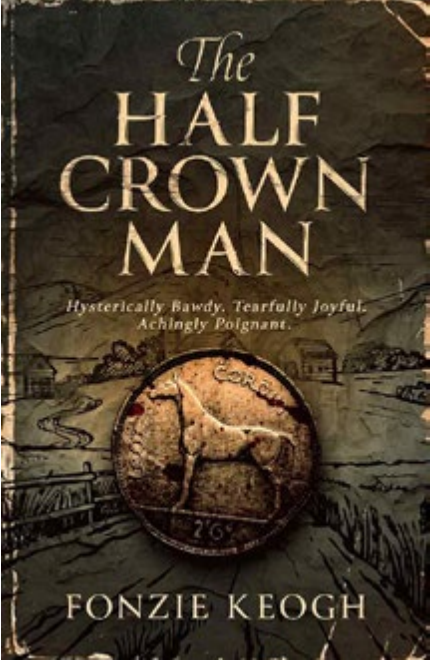
Mulcahy the old, bitter and jealous parish priest reaches for his final shot at glory and drags two altar boys into a tricky situation. When the lads approach Archie the gravedigger for help he seizes his chance to settle an old score with the priest.

An unsigned note arrives at the pub offering a reward for a missing silver box. Maneen the scheming librarian swears it contains all of the answers to the troubles assailing the village.

A body is found, a confession

is made and the village begins to breathe again. But then a shotgun goes missing. Love, sacrifice and revenge drive this engrossing tale to its utterly surprising and shocking conclusion.

https://www.amazon.com/Half-Crown-Man-Fonzie-Keogh-ebook/dp/B0FCSKJWJZ



I'm a Big Boy Now

by Eamon O'Leary

Life was simpler then.

Your passport to an Irish boyhood in a less frantic, more adventurous age, reliving a time of skinned knees and home-made go-karts, clean dirt, Saturday night baths, and the kind of sweets that'd nearly cost you your teeth. Back when it always seemed to snow at Christmas, the summers were long and golden, and the friendships were forever.

Eamon O'Leary gives us a glimpse

I'm a big boy now



of uncomplicated childhood in I'm a Big Boy Now.

Order your copy of I'm a Big Boy Now on Amazon

About the author

Eamon lives with his wife, Ruth, in Carrigaline, County Cork on the edge of the Wild Atlantic Way. The proud father of Susan and Lynn and granddad to Theo, Lennon, Archie and Harley. Nothing gives him greater pleasure than helping the grandkids get into mischief they haven't even thought of yet!

Eamon's humorous vignettes make him a regular broadcaster on the national airwaves, as a contributor to A Word in Edgeways on RTE Radio1.

Reviews

"The writer that Eamon's work calls most readily to mind for me, but I think too for anyone else who reads this is the mighty John B Keane, which is really as high a compliment as I could ever dream of giving anyone.

Like John B, and rare enough even still in the field of Irish writing, Eamon has deftly mined the lives and circumstances of ordinary people - not the high-falutin Ireland Joyce and Beckett wrote about, but the one most of us know and can more easily relate to." Billy O'Callaghan, award winning novelist

"Better than any tonic."

GUINNESS: A Family Succession

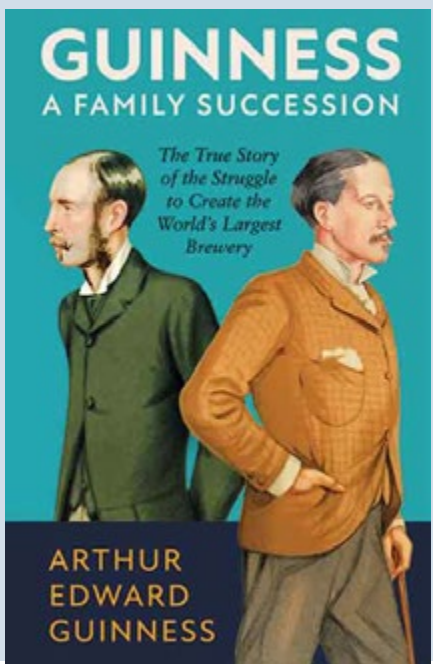
Hardcover \$26.95 978-1-78551-609-2

Arthur Edward Guinness, the 4th Earl of Iveagh and head of the Guinness family, explores the immense legacy of his extraordinary family in this narrative nonfiction book, published to coincide with a major Netflix television series titled House of Guinness.

Guinness draws on family letters, archives, and photographs to tell, for the first time, the real story of how four generations of Guinnesses, starting from humble origins in Ireland, created the world's largest brewery and perhaps the most iconic beer ever. The earl explores the contrasting personalities of his forebears and the story of the Guinness family succession in the Victorian era, and explains how they made a difference in Ireland, Britain, and far beyond.

This is the inside story of one of the

great families of Ireland and Britain in its formative eras—a generational saga encompassing family drama, business innovation, public works, and charitable endeavors.



The Bass Player by Stephen Travers

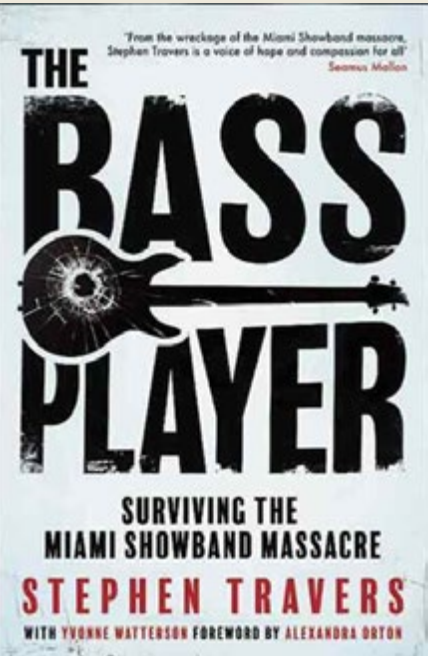
Stephen Travers has lived two lives. His first was as a young bass player, immersed in music, friendship, and the thrill of gigs on the road with The Miami Showband. But on July 31, 1975, that life shattered on the A1 road at Buskhill in County Down when a Loyalist gang ambushed the band, murdering

three of his friends in an attack that would become one of the darkest moments of The Troubles. In the quiet aftermath, in a nearby field, Stephen awoke to his second life—as a survivor.

This second life led him down unexpected paths: as an author, composer, producer, and international speaker on peace and reconciliation. Over decades, he worked to support other survivors, challenge suspected state collusion, and seek justice in a landmark case against the British Ministry of Defence. Yet, despite these achievements, Stephen found himself drawn back to that field, revisiting the young man he had been moments before the massacre—searching for closure, a reunion with his former self.

Now, fifty years later, he has written The Bass Player, a love letter and eulogy for that first life. This book is both a deeply personal reckoning and a song for all those silenced by conflict, offering a path toward healing and, finally, peace.

Available in Ireland and UK not in America yet Ireland Link

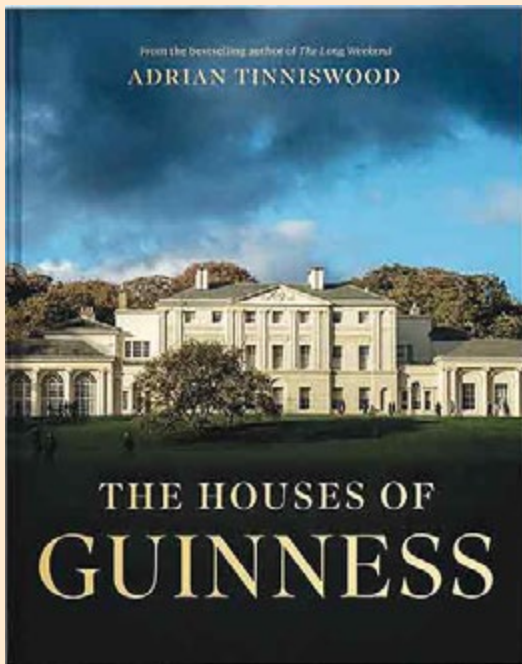


The Houses of Guinness

November 2025 / Hardcover / \$40.00 / 978-1-78551-607-8

Best-selling author Adrian Tinniswood tells the histories of the legendary Guinness family of brewers, philanthropists, and socialites through their mansions and town houses. His tour opens the door to Irish palaces like Farmleigh (where the Edwardian ballroom is said to have a floor made from barrels brought from the brewery) and Luggala in the Wicklow Mountains. British houses featured include Elveden in Suffolk, the 17,000-acre estate bought by Edward Cecil Guinness, 1st Earl of Iveagh, in 1893 and Robert Adam's

Kenwood on Hampstead Heath, which Lord Iveagh saved from destruction and bequeathed to the British nation. Unraveling the stories of more than a dozen great Guinness houses, Tinniswood reveals what life was like for a dynasty that rose from ordinary beginnings in Georgian Dublin to become one of the most powerful families in the British Isles. This engaging history is abundantly illustrated with archival photographs and paintings as well as specially commissioned photographs



of the key properties.

Adrian Tinniswood, OBE FSA, is a chronicler of the country houses of the UK and Ireland, having published nineteen books on social and architectural history. His many acclaimed titles include The Verneys: A True Story of Love, War and Madness in Seventeenth-Century England (yeartk), which was shortlisted for the BBC/Samuel Johnson Prize, and The Long Weekend: Life in the English Country House Between the Wars (yeartk), a New York Times and Sunday Times best seller. He is professor of British Cultural History at the University of Buckingham and lives in the west of Ireland.



As fall approaches, thoughts often turn to hearty stews, roasted meats, and the comforting flavors of apples, pears, squashes, and pumpkins. Yet, the lingering sunshine and abundance

essence of summer. Whether eaten fresh, tossed in salads, blended into purees, or baked into desserts, peaches are wonderfully versatile.

This time, I opted for a peach

resist bringing a few home. To me, peaches, alongside watermelon and berries, are the

1 teaspoon of baking powder
¼ teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
2/3 cup sugar
½ cup vegetable oil
2 large eggs
¾ cup sour cream or plain Greek yogurt

Zest of 1 lemon
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
½ teaspoon almond extract
Three large peaches, cut into 3/8-inch slices

2 tablespoons brown sugar
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon ground ginger
2 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons ground pistachio nuts (optional)
Confectioner's sugar, for dusting
Vanilla ice cream, for serving

PREPARATION

Step 1: Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Butter and flour a 9-inch springform pan, shaking off excess flour. You can substitute a Bundt cake pan, cast iron skillet, or a fluted deep-dish quiche pan with a removable bottom like I did

Step 2: In a large bowl, combine the all-purpose flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.

Step 3: In a separate bowl, whisk together vegetable oil, eggs, sour cream (or Greek yogurt), vanilla extract, almond extract, lemon zest, lemon juice, and sugar until the mixture is thick and creamy.

Step 4: In a medium bowl, toss the peach slices with brown sugar, cinnamon, ginger, and 2 tablespoons flour until evenly coated.



cake dessert that bridges late summer and early fall. The result is a simple, elegant treat, reminiscent of a clafoutis, with layers of peaches baked in a tender, lemon-scented cake. Serve it warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream for a truly heavenly experience.

I hope you enjoy this recipe with friends and family.

Ingredients
1.5 cups of all-purpose flour

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A Cháirde:

October is here, and that means that we can enjoy Flights & Flannels, one of the signature events presented by Young Gaelic Association (YGA). As I write this, tickets are still available for a great evening featuring tasters from local breweries, a custom event glass, food trucks and live music. The YGA looks forward to seeing you there, and they always are happy to welcome new members.

With cooler evenings, our 2025 beer garden days will come to an end before November, and the Carraig Pub will be moving its operations, including live music with no cover charge, to its cozy home indoors.

I'll also recommend that you save the date for the Family Halloween Party at the end of this month and the Gaelic Park Players presentation of "Big Maggie" in November, and that you start training for the Carraig Pub 5K Challenge. Thank you to the GAA Hall of History Committee for all the work they've been doing on its project, which is very meaningful and important to Gaelic Park. And thanks to the Golf Outing Committee for a very enjoyable event and congratulations to all the winners!

Le gach dea-ghuá,
Bill O'Sullivan - President of the Board of Directors

Save the Date - August 21-23, 2026



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CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

6119 W. 147th St. Oak Forest, IL 60452 - (708)687-9323 - ChicagoGaelicPark.com

CGP Event Calendar

Visit chicagogaelicpark.com for more information.

October 2 -	IRISH SINGING CLASS
October 3 -	DISCO CIRCUS
October 5 -	GAELIC PARK BOOK CLUB
October 12 -	MONTHLY MASS & BREAKFAST
October 17 -	FLIGHTS & FLANNELS
October 19 -	TAILGATE AT THE BEER GARDEN
October 26 -	FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY
November 2 -	AN IRISH HEARTBEAT: TRIBUTE TO VAN MORRISON
November 14 -	OPENING NIGHT GP PLAYERS

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Music at The Carraig

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October 2 -	TRAD THURSDAY
October 3 -	JOE MCSHANE
October 4 -	LIAM DURKIN
October 5 -	JOHN STAUNTON
October 10 -	KIERAN BYRNE
October 11 -	KEVIN ROWAN
October 12 -	GERRY HAUGHEY
October 16 -	TRAD THURSDAY
October 17 -	BERNIE GLIM
October 18 -	O'LEARY'S LANTERN
October 19 -	MULLIGAN STEW
October 23 -	SMILEY TILMON BAND
October 24 -	ELROY ACOUSTIC
October 25 -	RAY GAVIN
October 26 -	THE CHANCERS
October 30 -	JOHN DEVLIN & SUSIE J



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Gaelic Park Players Presents Fall 2025

Big Maggie

by John B. Keane

Fridays, November 14th
and 21st - 8:00 PM

Saturdays, November 15th
and 22nd - 8:00 PM

Sundays, November 16th
and 23rd - 3:00 PM

Director: Maureen Weber
Assistant Director: Liz Tinley

Follow us on Facebook: Gaelic Park Players • Website: www.GaelicParkPlayers.org
Big Maggie is presented by special arrangements with the Drama League of Ireland

Monthly Mass & Breakfast

October 12 - November 2 - December 14 - January 11
February 8 - March 8 - April 12 - May 10



Chicago Gaelic Park Monthly Mass is once a month from October-May. Mass at 10:00am followed by Irish breakfast in the Emerald room. \$15/adult. \$10/child

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- Official Home of the Chicago GAA
- Our Lady of Knock Rosary Procession
- Monthly Mass and Irish Breakfast
- Mother's Day Buffet/High Tea
- Gaelic Park Players
- Heritage and Harvest Day
- Children's Irish Cultural Camp
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SUPER FUNDRAISER

Grand Drawing - Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 7:00 pm
1st Prize: \$100,000 - Seller of Ticket: \$10,000
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3rd Prize: \$5,000 - Seller of Ticket: \$500
4th & 5th Prize: \$2,500 - 6th thru 10th Prize: \$1,000
Top Ticket Seller Prize: \$10,000

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Early Bird Drawing - Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 7:00 pm
Early Bird Prize: \$2,500 - Seller of Ticket: \$1,000

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Friday, October 17



Sunday, October 19



Sunday, October 26



Sunday, November 2



Fri-Sun, January 23-25

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New Mosaic Mural Adorns West Kitchen Wall at the Irish American Heritage Center

By Sherry Avila

Q. How did the idea of the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS outside of the IAHC building originate?

A. Because of planned work on the parking lots in recent years, we were unable to do much planting or other work in the community garden, but we still wanted to do something meaningful for the space even if we weren't able to actually do any gardening out there!

Q. Where are the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS located on the outside of the IAHC building?

A. The mosaic is right in our community garden on the west side of the building next to the kitchen and the outside doors to the Mayfair Theater.

Q. Why are the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS located outside on that particular part of the IAHC building?

A. The mosaic is part of a community garden that we started working out about 4 years ago so that's why it's located where it is. In years to come we're hoping to increase the amount of planting we can do in the garden and use the space to host more gatherings and programs. But we need more volunteers!

Q. Where did you get the Funding for the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS project?

A. Given that we were unable to do our regular planned programming in the garden for about three years, we used the funds that would otherwise have been spent on plants, equipment, and supplies, to pay for the mural costs little by little.

Q. Where did you find the official trained artists for the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS project? And, who are they?

A. We worked with a wonderful nonprofit arts organization called Greenstar Movement. Several years ago, I was a volunteer with an organization that worked with Greenstar to complete a beautiful mural and that's how I learned about them and their work. You can find out more about Greenstar here:

<https://greenstarmovement.org/>

Q. What groups and companies were involved in the creation of the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS?

A. Irish Community Services managed the project. The Greenstar Movement built the majority of the mosaic but we did host three community build days where community members were invited to help build the pieces. There were two community listening sessions where we asked people what they would like to see represented in the mosaic, and the Irish American Heritage Center was supportive of creating a home for the mosaic.

Q. What materials were used for the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS?

A. This is a mosaic so it's made from tiles that are

One panel features the Celtic tree of life stylized to look like the Irish Community Services logo. And the final panel shows hands embraced in support symbolizing the support and care of the Irish community to both our own people and the many others who make up this country. This panel also includes a candle which represents the candle that is lit and placed in the window in the home of the President of Ireland that is a beacon to Irish people and communities all around the world.

Q. Who were IAHC and ICS staff and volunteers involved in the creation of the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS?

A. ICS staff worked to manage this project—Paul Dowling and Kathleen Howlett mostly—scheduling community listening session and community build days. The heritage center graciously supported the project by offering a home for the mosaic. Community members participated in the listening sessions and build days. It was a community effort!

Q. How long did it take to create the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS located on the IAHC building?

A. From first reaching out to Greenstar to grouting the finished mosaic, it took about 15 months. This included community consultation, design, building, and installation.

Q. What were the procedure/steps of the assembly, creation, and the installation of the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS?

A. Community Listening sessions to learn what we wanted represented in the mosaic. Greenstar did two initial designs. One was selected and tweaked and modified.



adhered to special plasterboard panels. The tiles come from Italy!

Q. Where did you get the materials that were used for the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS?

A. Greenstar Movement handles all of the materials—they are the experts!

Q. Who and how were the Irish subjects chosen for each section of the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS?

A. We hosted two community listening sessions where we asked the community what they would like to see represented. Unsurprisingly, people wanted to see the performing arts represented, as well as Irish words, images from Ireland, and Celtic designs. Some of the panels are more symbolic of Irish values - such as mother jones and the panel that shows hands supporting one another.

Q. What are the Irish subjects and the symbolic meaning of each section of the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS?

A. Two of the panels are very direct representations of Irish cultural practices featuring an Irish dancer, instruments, and Irish words.

One panel features a figurative depiction of Ireland including a round tower and fields separated by stone walls.

One panel features Mother Jones and symbolizes the positive impact the Irish have had on this country.

Greenstar did the outlining and much of the build at their studio in West Loop.

The panels were brought to the IAHC for the community build days. We held three.

The panels were screwed to the wall outside and the last of the tiling work was completed.

The mosaic was grouted.

Q. How did you move/transfer the IRISH MURAL MOSAIC sections from the 3rd floor to the outside?

A. The mosaic was created on relatively light plasterboard panels. The outlining work and much of the build was done at Greenstar Movements headquarters. Then we did the community build days in Room 302 before the panels were moved downstairs and mounted on the wall with the finishing touches of tile work completed when the mosaic was on actually on the building.

Q. How were the IRISH MURAL MOSAIC sections attached to the brick walls?

A. The tiles are adhered to panels using a bonding putty. The panels are screwed to the wall. Grouting was the last step and that was done when all the panels were fixed to the wall and the tiling completed.

Q. When is the official ribbon cutting/opening reception for the IRISH MURAL MOSAICS?

A. We don't know.

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Chicago Hooley 2026 - A Crosstown Celebration of Irish
Dance & Music January 23-25 at Gaelic Park & Heritage Ctr

Chicago Hooley 2026 is set to energize the Windy City January 23rd -25th with a full slate of Irish music and social dance. This exciting collaboration between Chicago Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center promises a weekend of top entertainment and welcoming community!

Learn from a Dance Legend
The weekend features a rare stateside chance to learn from the leading figure in the Irish social dance world. Gerard Butler, a nine-time All-Ireland Dance Champion who hails from County Roscommon, will lead country jive workshops and a set dancing workshop. Whether you are a seasoned dancer or an aspiring beginner, this is an instruction opportunity not to be missed.

A Musical Lineup to Remember
The weekend’s music schedule will surely keep your toes tapping. Award-winning performer Stuart Moyles and rising star Clodagh Toghher, both from County Mayo, take the stage on Friday at 9 p.m. at Gaelic Park. On Saturday, again at Gaelic Park, Moyles and Toghher will be joined by local favorite Declan McShane for an 8 p.m. show. Renowned button accordion player Jack Kinsella, who is from County Offaly and currently living in Chicago, will perform at the Irish American Heritage Center on Sunday evening with Moyles, Toghher, and McShane.

For a cozier vibe, head to Gaelic Park’s Carraig Pub,

where Evin O’Riordan (Friday) and Gerry Haughey (Saturday) will be performing your favorite Irish tunes. It is the perfect spot to enjoy a pint, a bite to

CHICAGO HOOLEY 2026
2 VENUES TWO VENUES: CHICAGO GAELIC PARK & IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTRE
Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th January 2026

Friday January 23rd - Chicago Gaelic Park
6pm Carraig Pub at Gaelic Park - Music with **Evin O’Riordan**
8pm **Jive Workshop** with **Ger Butler** including
9pm Emerald Room: **Stuart Moyles & Clodagh Toghher** - \$20

Saturday January 24th Chicago Gaelic Park
3pm - 5pm **Jive Workshop - Ger Butler** \$20
6pm - 8pm Carraig Pub at Gaelic Park
Music with **Gerry Haughey** **Declan McShane**
8pm **Declan McShane - Stuart Moyles - Clodagh Toghher** \$25
10pm **WALTZING CONTEST**

Sunday January 25th Irish American Heritage Center
1pm **Set Dance Workshop - Ger Butler** \$20
4pm **Mixed Céilí: Jack Kinsella & Declan McShane**
Stuart Moyles, Clodagh Toghher \$20

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eat, and a singalong.

Saturday Waltzing Contest
New to the Chicago Hooley this year is a waltzing contest, taking place during Saturday evening’s show at Gaelic Park. Showcase your moves for a chance to win a cash prize and the coveted bragging rights! Hooley organizers encourage everyone to participate-celebrating our shared love for dance in a fun, friendly competition.

Sunday Céilí and Farewell
The weekend wraps up with a rousing mixed céilí at 4 p.m. on Sunday at the Irish American Heritage Center following Butler’s set dance workshop. Moyles, Toghher, McShane, and Kinsella will provide the live music. “Irish social and set dancing is all about community,” said event organizer Brendan Houlihan, “The mixed céilí is a beautiful way to end the weekend-coming together and enjoying the music and dance as one Irish cultural community.”

Tickets, Travel & Info
Weekend passes are available for \$95, with individual event tickets sold separately. A special hotel rate is available at the DoubleTree by Hilton Alsip, making it easy for out-of-towners to join the festivities. Reserve your spot today at tickets.chicagogaelpark.com or irish-american.org. For more information, please contact Chicago Gaelic Park Director Brendan Houlihan 708-280-8753. or email: houlihanb@icloud.com.

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POETRY IN MOTION
By Randall Stephen Hall
I lit a candle this evening
It burned brightly this night.
Almost a contradiction in terms
And yet I’m one of those Presbyterians
Who has no quarrel with candles.
Who has no time
For political traditions.

If I have any ambition
It would be to rhett out this place.
Of dark political ambitions
Religious antipathy
And the ignorance of the many
Uninterested in education.
In thrall to their mobile phones
Upwardly mobile
In a world turned upside down.
I lit a candle for my dad this day.
A Presbyterian partly educated
At Blackrock College, Dublin.
Uncomfortable at Coleraine Institute.
A day Border in weekly digs
In from Armoys, just a boy
Where his father managed the bank.
Looking for something better
But not a go getter. Just a decent
bloke, from a bygone age
Of decency, manners, grammar
And the beauty of a broad vocabulary.
With each word enjoyed and launched
From a gentle tongue.
I miss him still, I always will
This son of Donegal.
www.randallstephenhallsongs.com

LINEAGE
By Mckenna Byrne
My name is Una Daffodile, a girl of highest class,
In hand-made shoes of leather with two buckles made of brass
I’ll Arabesque or French Gavotte and given half a chance
Swirl ‘round in circles like a Dervish when I dance.

The rings upon my fingers are of platinum and gold
Inherited from Grandma, gone at ninety-five years old;
Expired beneath her lover who in desperation drear
Then hanged himself with antique chains from Grandma’s chandelier.

A romantic youth of twenty-three was the handsome gay
Pierre
Who brought this tragic grande finis to Grandma’s last affaire;
They laid them out together in a boudoir in Versailles
With her hand reclining on his heart and his upon her thigh.

The lineage from which I spring and which I versify
Came through a set of parents who both personify
The qualities of Grandma plus a singing talent rare
That quite startled Pavarotti in “Der Rosenkavalier.”
They sang duets in Germany, in Italy and France
And fell in love performing in “The Pirates of Penzance,”
They both had slight affairs d’amour but still together, they
Now sing in Casablanca at the bar in Rick’s Café
I was born in Paris but reside in Old Calais
Where I promenade each evening with a low decollete;
With britches straining at the seams, the men follow me
But I disdain the passions of the petite bourgeoisie.

The world may smile and speculate upon my lofty air
Or criticize the heritage that I so proudly bear
But I’m the rarest creature that old Europe’s ever seen
As my mother was a duchess and my father was a queen.

We Get Letters
Looking for Shanley’s
Estelle, I found your name in IAN along with your interesting piece on the “Irish Bogs.”
I had read Seamus Heaney’s poem on the Tolland Man some years before.
Thank you for your additional reflections and the reference to the Bellaghy Bog.
Didn’t Heaney refer to Bellaghy in another poem?
What I really wanted to quiz you about is your surname - Shanley - as it is mine as well.
Is this your married name or family name?
Have you or your husband perhaps even researched the location in Ireland where your family originated?
I’ve done some searching and found a number of Shanleys in the 1900 census records.
My ancestor - Michael J. Shanley was borne in 1833, location unknown. I found him, his wife, and oldest daughter in Manchester in 1861 census.
He was working in a foundry and gave his age as 25. His daughter was 6. Next daughter was born in New York, 1864.
My grandfather was born in Whitewater, WI, May 1890. They went to Chicago c 1880. Now buried in Whitewater, WI.
They were members of St. Patrick’s Parish in Whitewater where my grandfather was baptized, and two small children were buried.
They may have come from Leitrim, around Carrick on Shannon?
So really I’m asking if any Shanley are interested in comparing histories? Roamin in the Gloaming? I’m 81 years old, a retired social worker.
Thank you for your consideration and perhaps reply. Peace to you, Michael

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GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



While looking after my godson and his sister, they brought over some books for a school project coming up to Thanksgiving. I'm so glad they love reading and history. Growing up in Ireland, books were our best friends along with the big black piano and guitars and inherited from my sisters boyfriend who was in a band. Here is what our afternoon reading consisted of—it was very interesting.

The Real North Americans Were Indians, and Many States are Named After Their Tribes

Half of all U.S. states—25 to be exact—are named after Native Americans. Here are some of them, in alphabetical order, along with the meaning of their names. Many of these are places my husband and I traveled through this year. He was born here then raised back home and though I did the trip 36 years ago, I wanted to share it with him.

1. Alabama: Named after the Alabama tribe, or Alibamu, a Muskogean-speaking tribe. Sources differ between the meanings “clearers of the thicket” or “gatherers of herbs.”

2. Alaska: From the Aleut word alaxsxaq, meaning “the mainland.”

3. Arizona: From the O'odham word al ṣonak, meaning “little spring.”

4. Connecticut: From the Mohican word quonehtacut, meaning “place of the long tidal river.”

5. Hawaii: From the original Hawaiian word meaning “homeland.”

6. Illinois: From the Illinois word illiniwek, meaning “men.”

7. Iowa: From the Ioway tribe, whose name means “gray snow.”

8. Kansas: From the Kansa tribe, meaning “people of the south wind.”



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9. Kentucky: Possibly from the Iroquoian word Kentake, meaning “in the meadow.”

10. Massachusetts: From the Algonquin word Massachus-es-et, meaning “big-hill-little-place.”

11. Michigan: From the Chippewa word Michigama, meaning “big lake.”

12. Minnesota: From the Dakota word Minisota, meaning “white water.”

13. Mississippi: Named after the river, from the Choctaw word meaning “big water” or “father of waters.”

4. Missouri: From the Missouri tribe, meaning “those

along with nuts, wild greens, and wild rice. Along the coasts, seafood like oysters, shrimp, and fish was abundant. Plains tribes relied heavily on bison, antelope, wild turnips, and fruits.

Many of these foods were preserved for winter survival—for example, fish could be dried into jerky, and grains ground into meal for bread

Recipe We Tried: Navajo Fry Bread

This recipe is well known, though historically tied to the forced displacement of the Navajo. Despite this painful history, it has also become a symbol of resilience. Fry bread can be enjoyed with sweet or savory toppings.

You will need:

4 cups all-purpose flour

1 tbsp baking powder

1 tsp salt

2-3 cups warm water

Oil for deep-fat frying

Method:

1. In a large bowl, combine flour, baking powder, and salt.

2. Add warm water gradually, mixing until a tacky dough forms (it will be sticky).

3. Knead the dough on a floured surface until smooth and no longer sticky. Form into a ball, cover, and let rest 20-30 minutes.

4. Heat 1-2 inches of oil in a deep pan to about 350°F.

5. Divide the dough into equal portions and flatten each piece into a thin round shape. Poke a hole in the center to help it cook evenly.

6. Fry until golden brown on both sides, then drain on paper towels. Serve warm with toppings of your choice.

Delicious! The children loved theirs topped with an assortment of berries.

Today, there are many variations of fry bread. Some resemble Mexican or European flatbreads, and even Indian naan. I often make naan with flour and yogurt—because we Irish do love a good curry!

This Thanksgiving, try something different—honour our Indigenous brothers & sisters through food & history. Until next time enjoy this fine autumn weather.



who have dug canoes.”

Traditional Native Foods

Hundreds of years ago, diets varied by region but were generally a mix of wild and cultivated foods. They included game, fish, berries, and cultivated crops such as the Three Sisters: corn, beans, and squash. Foods were often dried or smoked to preserve them.

Protein sources included deer, bison, fish, and fowl,

Christmas Bingo: It's a Ho-Ho-Holy Night

One Night Only, Thursday, December 18, 2025

Did Santa babysit the baby Jesus? Why were the Three Wise Men so lost? What are some of your favorite holiday movies? The answers to these and other humorous questions are answered in the hit holiday comedy CHRISTMAS BINGO: IT'S A HO-HO-HOLY NIGHT.

audience members play bingo while also answering questions about Christmas traditions, the origin of St. Nick, where do candy canes come from, miracles in the Bible, and a clever re-creation of the Annunciation, complete with audience members in angel wings and halos.

Today's Fan, an online review site, calls Christmas Bingo, “delightful.”



CHRISTMAS BINGO will run one performance, on December 18, in the Erin Room, at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave., Chicago.

Written by Vicki Quade, one of the creators of the hit comedy Late Nite Catechism, CHRISTMAS BINGO brings together two of the best things about being Catholic: Christmas and Bingo. The show features the character of Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun and current bingo caller.

The show was selected as one of 10 holiday shows highlighted by Chris Jones, the Chicago Tribune's theater critic.

In this interactive comedy,

“You will be engaged by the show's uniquely interactive approach that involves a bingo game with real prizes. Its entertaining aspect comes from the hilarity that ensues as Quade tackles off-beat myths and outrageous facts about Christmas.”

Tickets \$40, with no additional fees. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the performance at 8 p.m. Specialty holiday cocktails and other drinks will be available at the Erin Room bar.

For more information, call the Irish American Heritage Center at (773) 282-7035, and to order tickets, go online to: <https://irish-american.org/event/christmas-bingo-its-a-ho-ho-holy-night>

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The McCarthy Family Picture names L-R are: Tom, Bridget, Hailey, John, Michelle, Robert, Patrick, Lorretta, Margaret, Michael, Traci, Flynn Austin, Aidan, Regan, and Emma



(l-r) Bros. Tom, John, Awardee Patrick, mom & dad, Margaret, Michael, & Robert, Austin, brothers

Emerald Society Honors Several at Their 50th Anniversary Gala

Over 360 people helped the Emerald Society of Illinois celebrate their 50th anniversary with a Dinner and awards ceremony at Chicago Gaelic Park on September 27th.

The 2025 Irishmen of the Year

Awards went to Mr. Patrick F. McCarthy - Secretary of Plumbers Local 130 and Mr. James M. Sweeney - President/Business Manager of Local 150 International Union of Operating Engineers.

The "Life Saving" award was presented to Cook County Deputy Sheriff Deborah Salzman, and the "Presidential" awards were presented to Meghan Guzaitis and Kirkland & Ellis - James Zangrilli. Congrats to all!

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Celebration of Giving Keeps Gift-Giving Alive

Ten years ago, when I was a caseworker in refugee resettlement, I was asked to deliver bags and bags of toys that were generously donated and assembled by volunteers. It's a week or two before Christmas, and I have a million things to do. I trudge up three flights of stairs in one apartment building, hauling up huge bags of toys to an Iraqi Christian family. The mom opened the door and told her five-year-old, "Marie has brought toys from Baba Noel [Father Christmas]."

The little boy started to cry and said, "I thought Baba Noel had died."

The family's church had been destroyed in an Iraqi bombing, and the little boy thought Santa, who had given out Christmas gifts at the church, had died in the bombing.

I realized then how much these gifts mean to these children and families who have survived traumatic events. We bring joy into their lives at Christmas. There are hundreds of stories just like this across Cook and Lake counties.

The Celebration of Giving started 77 years ago at St. Vincent's Orphanage, which today houses Catholic Charities, at 721 N. LaSalle Street. Parents who adopted babies from the orphanage brought gifts at Christmas for the children waiting to be adopted.

Since then, the tradition has grown, serving 14,000 individuals across Cook and Lake counties. In

addition to the thousands of toys collected and distributed, families also received gifts from their wish lists, including new clothing, warm coats and boots, household items, and more. Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of individual donors, parishes, schools, businesses, and organizations, and most especially, our dedicated

engage at a really festive time. Company teams join us to volunteer as their holiday party, and our warehouses are always filled with music and celebration. It's also an opportunity to learn more about Catholic Charities.

If you want to participate, we want you to join us! Donate, visit our gift registries, or volunteer at www.catholiccharities.net/celebration2025

I'm grateful for our team of volunteers, staff, donors, and other partners. I'm grateful we get to do this work together. This work is really hard, but it's only with a community that change happens.

Every Christmas, I think about that little boy, and I know our community supporting Celebration of Giving is making a difference in the lives of people just like him served by Catholic Charities.

Marie Jochum is the Vice President of Community Programs for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.



volunteers.

The ability for us to give gifts to those in need and connect that to Jesus' birth is significant. It's transformational for the families we serve and for our team of staff and volunteers, which delivers that joy.

It's also a way for us to connect during Advent, as we're all praying, waiting, and preparing to bring Jesus home.

Celebration of Giving is an easy way for anyone to

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OCTOBER CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Ireland, The Place Where Halloween Began



Left to right: Dunluce Castle in County Antrim, the Halloween Parade in Waterford City, Classiebaun Castle in County Sligo.

HALLOWEEN, THAT MOST fun-filled holiday celebrated with such creativity and gusto here in America and in countless other countries, has its origins in ancient Celtic Ireland. That's right! Thousands of years before pumpkins, costumes, and candy, there was Samhain—the Bronze Age Celtic festival of fire and feasting that marked the end of the season of light and the beginning of the dark days of winter.

Samhain is the Irish word for “the end of summer,” and, to the Celts, it ushered in a time of both death and rebirth. It was highly symbolic to them because it coincided with the end of the bountiful harvest season and the beginning of a cold and dark period that would present plenty of challenges. The Celts lived in harsh and unforgiving times. Nothing could be left to chance. Livestock had to be brought in from the fields, and the crops raised in the summer would have been carefully stored to last through to the onset of spring. It's easy to imagine ancient Irish villages ignited by the eerie glow of huge bonfires, lighting up the night and welcoming in this critical time of year.

The Celts believed that at this moment of change, the worlds of the living and the dead overlapped, allowing the spirits of their ancestors to cross into the human realm. Fearing that all manner of beings might pull them into the otherworld before their time, the Celts would disguise themselves in costumes to confuse and scare off the roaming ghosts, fairies, hobgoblins and demons. The modern practice of dressing up at Halloween is firmly rooted in these pre-Christian customs.

Lighting great bonfires was another key ritual. Clans gathered on hilltops across Ireland to kindle flames meant to ward off evil and mark the season's turning. One of the largest gatherings took place at Tlachtga (the Hill of Ward) in present-day County Meath. Archaeological evidence shows the site was used for feasting

and fire festivals more than 2,000 years ago. According to old manuscripts, the fire lit at Tlachtga was used to rekindle all others in Ireland, underlining its symbolic power. To this day the area around the Hill of Ward, and the nearby Hill of Tara where the High Kings of Ireland ruled, remains one of the centers of Irish Halloween traditions.

The Origins of Trick-or-Treating

The practice of going door-to-door for treats also began in Ireland. Known as ‘Mumming’ or ‘Souling,’ it saw children and the poor visiting houses to ask for food, money, or kindling. In return, they would sing songs or say prayers for the dead. The treat most often given was a soul cake, a small fruit-filled bread. This evolved into the modern custom of ‘Trick-or-Treating.’ In days gone the ‘trick’ part of ‘Trick-or-Treating’ was a threat to carry out a prank or do some random act of mischief to the homeowner's property. This too can be connected with ancient Ireland, where the Celts believed Samhain was a time when the fairies, and other malevolent spirits, were particularly boisterous. Gifts of food and drink were left outside homes to appease them. The famous Irish playwright, William Butler Yeats recalled being told as a child that offerings were still made on Halloween night in the slums of Dublin to secure protection against the fairies. During his childhood in the 1920s Seán O’Callaghan of Ballygrane in County Cork recalled that his mother always left a plate of barmbrack and a saucer of milk at the gate of their house on Halloween night, and that his mother believed that if she failed to leave this offering “the fairies would come in and break all the crockery in the house.”

The Jack O’Lantern Story

The beloved Jack O’Lantern, too, has Irish roots. Long before pumpkins, it was turnips and potatoes that were carved into ghoulish faces in

Ireland. The name comes from the legend of Stingy Jack, a trickster who outwitted the Devil but was condemned to wander the earth with only a burning ember inside a hollowed-out turnip to guide him. When Irish immigrants carried the tradition to America, the pumpkin—larger and easier to carve—became the lantern of choice. Today, no Halloween celebration feels complete without one.

A Living Tradition

Irish immigrants brought these customs with them when they came to these shores, and they evolved into the traditions we associate with Halloween today. Halloween is one of Ireland’s great cultural gifts to the world, and it remains one of the island’s most beloved celebrations. From village gatherings to major parades in towns and cities, the spirit of Samhain continues to inspire both locals and visitors who come to experience Halloween in its true home. Below are some of the highlights of the Halloween season on the island of Ireland. For more comprehensive listings please visit www.ireland.com .

Galway City will be celebrating with Gaillimh Ah-Boo, a festival that reclaims Samhain's ancient Celtic origins through a city-wide celebration of food, feasting and a return of the Macnas parade to myth and magic, running from October 1—November 9. Featured events include the Baboró Children's Festival, the Galway Comedy Festival, the Macnas Parade, the Food on the Edge Festival, Experience Galway Dark Tourism Tours, and Blás na Samhain (a food festival which includes eight Halloween-themed supper club events and a Gala Dinner.

The counties of **Meath and Louth** will team up to focus on the ancient stories of the Boyne Valley as the global birthplace of Halloween. This October will see a five week program of events focusing around the four major Samhain Festivals; the Púca Festival, Spirits of Meath Fes-

tival, Lú Festival of Light and Samhain Festival of Food & Culture. Púca is a spectacular, fun and otherworldly festival which reopens the pathways of reflection and celebration carved by travellers over 2,000 years ago, culminating in three nights of music, fire, feasting and mischief. The Lú Festival of Light will encompass over 100 events over 30 days. “Fun by Day” or “Fright by Night” events include Pooka Spooka, Ghosts of the Manor and Farmaphobia at Causey Farm, After Dark at Emerald Park and many more.

‘Samhain: Fire, Folklore & Feasting in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands’ is a collaborative initiative by **Longford and Westmeath** Counties, transforming Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands into a captivating cultural corridor, tracing the ancient route of An Esker Riada, from the start of October ending with Samhain an Uisneach mid-November. Noteworthy events include the Dead of Night Festival and Fire & Shadows Procession in Longford Town, the Féile na Samhna—“Mór-rioghan” Stories of The Phantom Queen in Corlea, County Longford, Samhain on Uisneach at the Hill of Uisneach, County Westmeath, and Belvedere at Halloween, a stately home in Mullingar, County Westmeath.

Visitors to **Kerry** can enjoy ‘Samhain Chiarrai: A Kerry Halloween’ centred around the Cailleach Chiarrai, the wise and wild hag of winter from October 16—November 11. This promises to be much more than a festival; it is a rekindling of dúchas, the Irish peoples’ deep-rooted sense of belonging, heritage, and place. Events take place all over the county, in Castleisland, Dingle, Kenmare, Killarney, Listowel and Tralee.’

From late September to the end of October, Fingal in **County Dublin** and partners will launch ‘Fingal Festival of Fire & Light,’ a county-wide celebration featuring many events. The Festival of Fire itself provides an awe-inspiring spectacle of music and light. The ‘Lanterns’ Interactive

Lighting Display will run from September 27—November 4 at Newbridge House, and is a custom-made, one of a kind experience.

Limerick City & County presents Limerick’s Home of Halloween Festival 2025 ‘Where Darkness Dances with Delight,’ transforming the city streets, county towns, and rural corners into a six-week spectacle of spooky enchantment, local folklore, creative exploration, and community celebration. If you’re there don’t miss ‘King John’s Castle-The Banshee’s Keep,’ a fully immersive haunted castle experience with live actors and historical horror tours. After dark, it becomes a fearsome venue for adult-oriented scare shows and interactive theatre.

Kilkenny has created a dynamic, five-week extensive schedule of events commencing on October 23, celebrating the harvest, food and the county’s spooky local lore. The Toil and Trouble Festival (November 1-9) focusses on Ireland’s first witch trial in 1324. Learn about the Chilling fate of Petronella de Meath, the first person in Ireland to be executed for witchcraft.

Derry Halloween in the city of **Derry/Londonderry** will again this year lay claim to the title of the largest Halloween Festival in Europe, and is unquestionably one of the world’s foremost destinations for this special holiday, with over 150,000 visitors expected. Indeed the ancient walled city was voted as the world’s best Halloween destination in a 2022 poll by *USA Today*. The focal point of the festival is the carnival, attendance at which unofficially requires dressing up. If you’re not in costume, you’ll be the only one!

The Irish are a nation of storytellers. How could we not be with so much history, mythology and folklore in our past? If you want the real story of Halloween, there's no better way to hear it than in the place it all started, thousands of years ago.

Ireland.com



From the original Hill of Ward in County Meath, where the bonfires of Samhain once roared, to festivals across Ireland - from Limerick and Bram Stoker’s Dublin to Derry Halloween - these celebrations are alive with history and steeped in tradition.

Wander misty village streets, trace ancient rituals through Ireland’s east, and hear the legends come alive from local storytellers. Step into the very places where Halloween began, and feel centuries-old traditions ignite before your eyes.

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