



December 2016
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*Merry
Christmas,
from Guardian
Angel Sully of
Sully's Irish Pub, &
All Your Friends at
Ohio Irish
American News*

irish american news

Editor's Corner



John O'Brien, Jr.

One of the reasons Irish music is so beloved the world over is the fact that it never rests; it continues to evolve, on its past and soon to be past, to influence and be influ-

enced, with each new master. It is probably more accurate to now call Irish music, World Music.

I had the great opportunity to spend a few days in Nova Scotia for the Nova Scotia Music Week 2016, held this year in Truro, about forty-five minutes from Halifax. More than forty Nova Scotia based music performers played before local and international fans. The Association of Irish and Celtic Festivals, of which I am a member, also sent representatives from more than forty U.S based Irish and Celtic festivals to Nova Scotia

Music Week, where we also held our annual conference.

The Truro community has adopted the event, and hopes to make Truro the permanent home. At every turn, a board member or volunteer (perhaps both) met us, drove us, escorted us, guided

us, with a smile, a ride, advice or direction.

A small-town feel, with great community support apparent at every window sign, and bartender welcome, marked our week. Festival organizers traded best practices, best experiences and the flip side of the coin, covering many burning questions inherent to most festival organizers. Then we had a nightly showcase.

The music, as always, ruled the day(s), which blended into night, which often blended into a new day. Within you will find a few pictures from the event, and in July, you will find a few of the Nova Scotia Music Week bands, at the 35th Annual Cleveland Irish Fest, too. For more pics from Music Nova Scotia Week and other events going on in and around Ohio, check our Facebook page.

Time can often seem like a runaway train. This is the last issue of 2016, and of our 10th year of the Ohio Irish American News; 120 issues that are traced by our past, and prepared us for the future, often directed by, or revealing, the diamonds and the

DNA of those that came before. Diamonds are the modern day symbol to mark the 10th Anniversary. How fitting.

I don't know how many issues are to come, but I can't believe how many have already left the station, made stops in the valleys and mountains, and whistled away. It is a challenge and a joy to create it, to reveal it, to hear feedback, much more civil than the scorched earth of our just ended election cycle. The 45th President of the United States has been elected. Whether you were with him, or with her, the election is now complete.

We don't usually pick our CEO, but then we adapt to the new leader, and either further our careers upward or resist and fight and watch our development, our place in our world, regress. At this point, who we voted for no longer matters. What we do with it, how we choose to handle it, is entirely up to us.

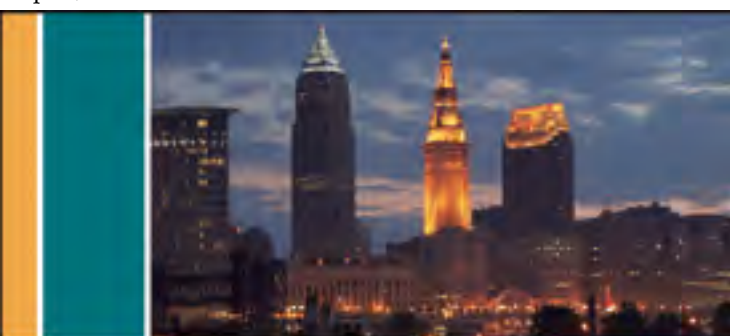
Moaning feels good sometimes. Booing feels good sometimes. The now infamous, "Don't Boo, Vote" seemed to resonate for far too few. Posting on Facebook is not engagement. The discussion that can, tho rarely does, seem to take place there, is not an action that generates results.

Since the day the American Revolution ended, there has never been a violent protest in America that generated any of the results the protestors professed to be asking for. Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result, is the very definition of insanity.

Will you continue to boo, and not vote? To take no action, then at the next presidential (or local) election, wonder why things are still so hurtful, stagnant, mindlessly, insane?

Go dtí an mhí seo chugainn, slán a fhágáil
(Until next month, goodbye)
John

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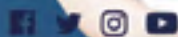
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Growing UP Irish

by Maureen Ginley



What an exciting time it is to be living in Cleveland! The Indians just wrapped up a wildly successful season that ended in a thrilling seventh World Series game, incredible plays are coming through our theatre district (another run of the Christmas story is in session throughout the month), and the Mayo Society of Cleveland hosted another



fabulous Ball on the night of October 15.

This year, the Mayo Society honored Paul Dolan, the Chairman/CEO of the Cleveland Indians, as their Person of the Year. Representatives from County Mayo – County Council Chief Executive Peter Hynes and Achill GAA player Liam Gallagher just to name two – spoke, making remarks about the exchanges our communities have made with each other, and how those exchanges are improving quality of life for members of our global Irish Diaspora.

The Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland's mission statement is "to promote cultural, charitable, scientific and/or literary exchanges between the People of the United States and the People of Ireland, with particular emphasis on County Mayo, including but not limited to research into the life and times of Irish immigration to America and the study of Irish and Irish-American history," so to hear about how these exchanges are happening in real-time was equal parts engaging and moving. I am still referring back to the Ball's program thinking about these speeches, using them as motivation for my school work, my interactions with my peers, and the time I spend with my family.

After the speeches, it was time for the entertainment portion of the evening. Dancers from Murphy Irish Arts performed a set of impressive dances, and our own Ohio Rose Kathleen O'Donnell performed a hoop routine just like the one that wowed the crowd at Rose Selection Nights in both Ohio and Tralee.

I'd like to think what happened next (some serious dancing set to music provided

by the New Barleycorn) was due to the energy these two performances gave to Ball attendees. I am not the best dancer, I will be the first to admit that, but I busted out some serious moves on the

night of October 15th. I swung the skirt of my dress around, pumping my unused hand in the air and laughing as I tried to simultaneously kick my feet forward in front of me. I spent the night spinning around the floor with Ohio Rose Centre friends, singing along (loudly and off-key) to whatever song was playing at the time. It is a memory I will cherish for years to come.

What was so special about this evening, though, is that I got to share it with my dad. His side of the family is where my Irish heritage comes from, so I knew he would enjoy the evening. And enjoy the evening, he did. We took goofy, Prom-like photos at

our house beforehand. We sat at the John Carroll table (we are both proud alums – Class of 1981 and 2014, respectively), which provided us the opportunity to share in

conversation about memories of the place we called home for four years. It was a night of endless laughter and fun, and the two of us are already looking forward to next year.



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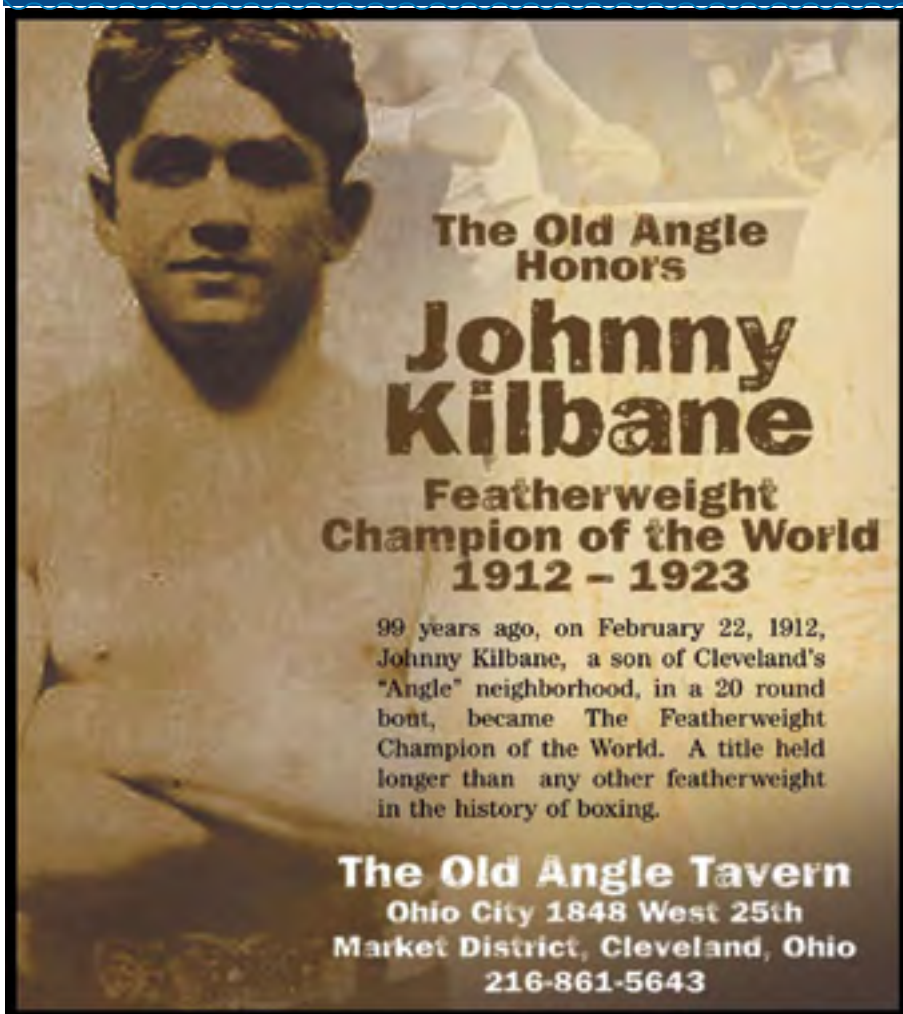
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On This Day in Irish History December 2016

6 December 1921 -Eighteen 'Articles of Agreement for a treaty between Great Britain and Ireland'- the Anglo-Irish Treaty - is signed.

11 December 1225 -Lawrence O'Toole is canonized by Honorius III. It will be 750 years before another Irish person is canonized.

13 December 1955 -Grace Gifford Plunkett, Irish patriot, dies. She famously married Joseph Plunkett hours before his execution in 1916 for his part in the Easter Rising.

17 December 1834 -The first railway in Ireland is opened from Dublin to Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire), covering a distance of six miles.

18 December 1871 -The first ever rugby international is held in Ireland. The North is defeated by the West of Scotland.

19 December 1973 -The Supreme Court in Dublin rules that a ban on contraceptives is unconstitutional. The ban had been in place since 1935.

22 December 1989 -Death of Samuel Beckett, playwright and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

27 December 1904 -The original Abbey Theatre in Dublin opens with Yeats' Baile's Strand and Spreading the News by Lady Gregory.

29 December 1937 - Constitution of Ireland comes into effect, drafted by Eamon de Valera.

MILESTONES

Congratulations to Bob & Cliff & Cathy & David & Francis & Lisa & Linda & Maury & Marilyn & Maureen & Michael & Susan & Terry & Terry and Me, on our 10th Anniversary! We will have a mighty party in January to celebrate, and we invite each and every reader, to join us!

Congrats to the Columbus Gaelic Football Club for being awarded CLUB OF THE YEAR by the United States Gaelic Athletic Association (USGAA)!

Congratulations to Speak Irish Cleveland, beginning their 5th Irish language class on January 17th, Every Tuesday for 10 weeks @PjMcIntyre's basement party room. If you would like to join us, all levels are welcome; contact John.jobrien@ianohio.com.



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Youngest Franklin County Recorder Elected

On Tuesday, November 8th 2016 Danny O'Connor defeated Daphne Hawk 57

percent to 43 percent to become the next Franklin County Recorder. At 30 years of

age, Danny O'Connor becomes the youngest elected official in Franklin County history. O'Connor, a lawyer, ran on the need to have progressive new vision for

the Recorder's office which had previously been marked with dysfunction.

Although the office primarily deals with the recording and safeguarding of real

state documents, O'Connor plans to expand community outreach. Specifically, he plans to increase the access veterans have to mental health and legal resources as well as job fair opportunities. Currently, the office only



administers veteran identification cards. Along with the community outreach, O'Connor will increase the efficiency in which documents are logged and accessible to the public. Deeds, mortgages, plats, living wills, and titles make up the bulk of documents the Recorder's office holds.

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A Green Tie Affair to Remember

Every year they assemble in the halls of the Cincinnati Irish Center, not for a romantic fling, as in the movie, but to celebrate the anniversary of its founding, a home away from home for the Irish in America, and a place to awaken the Irish within us 2nd generation and beyond



Irish-Americans.

This year of 2016, was the 7th anniversary of the Center's birth and the growth and changes are remarkable. A lovely bar-top and back bar, with carved columns and backlit stained glass, have been installed in the Pub Room. Beautiful pipe and drape scenery is printed on heavy paper and hung in the Tea Room, Green Room and Dance Room. New flooring adorns the Tea Room and Dance Room, and the entire public areas of the first floor have been fitted with air conditioning and gas furnaces, enabling one of the two the steam boilers to be mothballed. New double pane windows have been installed in the offices and restrooms along the front entry side, an elevator is under construction off the back entry side and a grant was announced at the event from the Emigrant Support Program of the Irish government that will be used to re-create the kitchen spaces in the former



44,000 square foot Civil War era building.

Of course, the Center is much more than a building – It is really its people that make the Center what it is, and that have contributed in so many ways to its growth and success!

The goal remains to preserve and promote the Irish culture, and to provide a place to do so in perpetuity and it is the 150 or more volunteers have made this venture viable. The Center is operated entirely by volunteers, has no paid staff, and yet delivers continuing programming in all the artistic disciplines, classes in Irish culture and celebrations of Irish events and holidays while maintaining adequate financing to do so.

Well Done, Cincinnati! Continue what you are doing so well, so that together we succeed in transferring our heritage to our children's children, and beyond.



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At O'Brien's (O'Brien Enterprises) website and Author John O'Brien, Jr.

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Eamon McCrystal: A Passion for Music & the Luck of the Irish Working in His Favo

By Cliff Carlson

Eamonn McCrystal, is a singer broadcaster producer and entrepreneur whose hard work and luck have landed him a three week whirlwind tour of venues across America to perform with Chloe Agnew of Celtic Woman fame from December 3 through the 20th. If you live in Los Angeles, Scottsdale, Arizona, Santa Fe New Mexico, Oklahoma, Fayetteville Arkansas, St. Louis, Memphis, Nashville, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Charlotte North Carolina, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, New York City or Boston you can catch his show.

He called us from London where he had just performed in a charity event for Children in Need to talk about his upcoming tour of the States.

Born in Cooktown, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, Eamonn knew early on that he had a love for music. With the encouragement of a great teacher he was inspired to learn to play the flute. He decided on his own to master the piano, and he was a natural born singer. When he was only 9 years old his aunt and his mother

called the producers of a popular BBC TV show, the George Jones Show that featured young talent, and told them to call her son when he got home from school. So when he walked in the door that day and the phone rang, his mother handed him the phone, and the rest is history.

Eamonn didn't have time to be scared. He took the schoolbag off of his back and he sang for them over the phone. Viewers voted for their favorite that day and it was Eamonn. That lead to him being invited To Ulster Hall in Belfast and he got to do a Christmas Concert sponsored by the BBC. He was invited back every year after that until he was 14 or 15.

At thirteen McCrystal used what he had learned being on the radio and in talent shows, and what he had earned from singing in church, at weddings and funerals, to put together his first album. "People were asking me when I

was going to record my songs, so I did, he exclaimed!"

Working for the BBC, he formed a student radio station in college to help the BBC 'grow their own talent' as McCrystal puts it. It's been very successful and has won many student radio awards. Five presenters who worked with Eamonn on the radio project are now working full time at the BBC.

He admires Daniel O'Donnell's work, and Phil Coulter's. He toured Northern Ireland as an opening act for Phil at one point, and it's the reason he did his album with the music of Northern Ireland and a PBS TV special which went on to win four Emmys. "Phil's songwriting talent is almost unmatched. The talent in this small area of Northern Ireland is amazing," said Eamonn. "Jimmy Kennedy blows my mind. He wrote songs that range from the Hokey Pokey, to Red Sails in the Sunset, to South of the Border Down Mexico Way. People don't realize they originate in Northern Ireland. We have incredible talent in Northern Ireland. It's such a tiny

place to have such talent," he mused.

In 2009 at the age of 21 Eamonn was working for the BBC. He went home from London on holidays when a friend who was a promoter in Belfast asked him if he could give him a hand. McCrystal jumped in and was the stage manager for 14 acts on a variety show, the UTV Country Fest.

Martina McBride and Randy Travis headlined the show. The promoter of the show had forgotten to arrange transport for Elizabeth Travis. McCrystal's dad had a new car, and the promoter knew it, so with his dad's permission to use the car, he drove Elizabeth to Dublin from Belfast.

Anyone who has driven into Dublin for the first time, knows what happened next. Eamonn got lost trying to find a shop Elizabeth had been in before. To help her pass the time while he drove around the one way streets looking for this place, he gave Elizabeth one of his albums so she could look at the design and artwork and



Continued on page 11



By J. Michael Finn



Mellifont Abbey

Ireland has a long and rich Christian heritage which is enshrined in its many abbeys, monasteries and churches. From the more modest to the more impressive, these sites tell us much about the religious past and the unique moments of history that often occurred within their walls.

One of these holy and historic sites is Mellifont Abbey. It was founded in 1142 on the orders of Saint Malachy, Archbishop of Armagh. The abbey sits on the banks of the River Mattock, six miles north-west of Drogheda in County Louth. Its name in Irish is An Mhainistir Mhór, (Pron.: ahn wain-is-teer vor), which literally means "the big abbey."

Mellifont Abbey was built by the Cistercian religious order. The Cistercian monks are sometimes called the Bernadines, after their highly influential member St. Bernard of Clairvaux. The emphasis of Cistercian life was on manual labor and self-sufficiency. Over the centuries, however, education and academic pursuits came to dominate the life of their monasteries.

The term Cistercian derives from Cistercium, the Latin name for the village of Cîteaux, near Dijon, France. It was in this village that a group of Benedictine monks founded Cîteaux Abbey in 1098. St. Bernard of Clairvaux entered the monastery in the early 1110s with 30 companions and helped the rapid proliferation of the order.

The keynote of Cistercian life was a return to a literal observance of the Rule of St. Benedict. That rule governed every aspect of monastic life. Believing that the Benedictines were not strictly following the Rule of St. Benedict, the Cistercian monks tried to replicate monastic life exactly as it had been in Saint Benedict's time; in fact, they often went beyond the Rule in austerity.

Cistercian architecture is con-

sidered one of the most beautiful styles of medieval architecture. Additionally, in relation to fields such as agriculture, hydraulic engineering and metallurgy, the Cistercians became a significant force of technological advancement in medieval Europe.

By the mid-12th century, Irish monastic life had become significantly less austere and even less



religious than in earlier days. St. Malachy had visited Clairvaux in France during a pilgrimage to Rome and had been so impressed by St. Bernard and his monks that he petitioned the Pope for permission to resign as Archbishop and enter the order as a novice.

This permission was refused, but on his return journey he left some of his companions with St. Bernard to be trained in Cistercian life with a view to founding a Cistercian monastery in Ireland to act a reforming influence. So, in 1140, St. Malachy invited the Cistercians to Ireland and they settled in the remote site in 1142 and began construction of a monastery in the traditional Cistercian style. This marked the first time that a monastery was built in Ireland with the formal layout used on the Continent.

Various Irish kings gave donations to assist in the foundation of Mellifont Abbey: Donnachadh Ua Cearbhaill (O'Carroll), king of

Oriel (and early name for County Monaghan), gave the land and the materials for the building of the abbey, and Muirchertach Ua Lochlainn, king of Ulster gave cattle and gold.

Some initial construction difficulties which interrupted the work were settled by St. Bernard and St. Malachy and the construction was resumed and continued until its completion in 1157. Before that date, however, St. Malachy visited Clairvaux in 1148 on another journey to Rome. While there he was stricken with fever and died in the arms of St. Bernard on November 2, 1148.

Before Mellifont's church was

even consecrated, nine more Cistercian monasteries were established in Ireland. At its height, Mellifont was the originator of 21 monasteries and Mellifont was the home to as many as 400 monks. By 1157, all the monks of Mellifont were Irish. A dispute between the native Irish monks and the French monks had led to the French monks returning to France.

Within thirty years of the founding of Mellifont Abbey, the Norman army landed in Wexford in 1169. The Normans were initially supportive of the Cistercian abbeys and as they advanced through Ireland they allowed the abbeys to keep the titles to their property. As time passed, however, they sought to use the monasteries as centers of Norman influence by having Norman monks appointed to all positions of authority and expelling Irish monks and replacing

Continued on page 21



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SPEAK IRISH

Labhair Gaeilge

By Bob Carney



Christmas time is here, along with winter weather. Our vocabulary words and phrases this month will help us this season as we send our Christmas wishes to our friends and famiyy.

FOCLÓIR (fohk-lore) VOCABULARY

sioc (shuk) frost
sneachta (shnak-tuh) snow
sa gheimhreadh (sa-ghivrah) in winter
fear sneachta (far shnak-tuh) snowman
fuar (foo-ar) cold
féirin (fayr-een) gift
Crann Nollaig (krann null-ug) Christmas tree
Lá Nollaig (law null-ug) Christmas Day
Oíche Nollaig (ee-khuh null-ug) Christmas Eve
Daidí na Nollaig (dad-ee null-ug) Santa Claus
Lá na bliana úire (law na bleena oora)

New Years Day
réalta (rayl-tuh) star
Íosa (ee-uh-ssuh) Jesus
Muire (mwir-uh) Mary
Seosamh (shoh-soo) Joseph
Aingeal (ayn-gul) angel
Cór (khor) choir
carúil (cahr-oo-il) carols
Cuileann (qwill-un) holly
drualeas (dhroo-ah-lus) mistletoe
Aifreann Meán Oíche (af-runn mahn ee-khuh)

Midnight Mass
stoca na Nollaig (sthuk-ah na null-ug)

Christmas stocking
Ciste Nollaig (kish-ta null-ug) Christmas cake
Iosaid (us-kidh) ham
Gé (gay) goose

turcaí (thur-kee) turkey
Cloigín (klegg-een) bells
cártaí Nollaig (cawr-thee null-ug)
Christmas cards
Ornáidí (ur-naw djee) decorations

FRÁSA (frah-sa) PHRASE

Nollaig Shona Duit (null-ug hona gwitch) Merry Christmas to you
Nollaig Shona Daoibh (null-ug hona yeev) Merry Christmas to all of you
Beannachtáí an tSéasúir (ban-ukh-ta un tay soor) Seasons Greetings
Nollaig faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise duit/ daoibh (null-ug fwee hayn ah-gus fwee huh-ness gwitch/ yeev) Christmas happiness and goodness to you/ all of you

Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit/ daoibh (ah-vleen fwee vosh ah gwitch/ yeev) A happy prosperous New Year to you/ all of you

Rath Dé ort (ray day ort) God bless you
Beannacht Dé leat (ban-ukht day lee-ut) God's blessing with you

There is no better way to learn Irish, than to speak Irish. We can use the phrases above all month long as we shop and visit with friends and family. We like to write our Christmas greetings in Irish in all of our Christmas cards, it's good practice and a great way to show our enthusiasm for Gaeilge.

Winter 2017 Speak Irish Cleveland classes begin January 17 at P.J. McIntyre's Irish Pub (Thank you so much Pat Campbell!). The classes run for ten weeks, and would make a fantastic Christmas gift for someone. You can see the ad in this month's issue for more information.

Make time this month to remember why we celebrate Christmas, sometimes a smile or a kind word is the greatest gift we can give.

Oíche Chiúin

Silent Night is probably one of the most well known Christmas carols. It was composed in 1818 by Franz Xaver Gruber to lyrics penned by Joseph Muhr in Austria. It has been translated into over one-

hundred and forty languages. During the Christmas Truce of 1914 during the Great War, it was sung simultaneously in English and German by soldiers on both sides of the front line.

If you are a regular reader of this column you already know that music is a great way to learn Irish. The very gifted singer Enya does a beautiful rendition of Oíche Chiúin on YouTube, featuring some stunning photography of Ireland. You can use the lyrics below to sing along with the video, you will find it easy to follow along and develop an understanding of Irish spelling and pronunciation. Before long you just might find yourself singing this, my favorite of all the Christmas songs.

*Oíche chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Cách 'na suan dís araon,
Dís is dílse 'faire le spéis
Naoín beag gnaoigheal
Ceananntais caomh*

*Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh.
Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh.*

*Oíche chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Aoirí ar dtús chuala 'n scéal;
Allelúia aingeal ag glaoch.
Cantain suairc i ngar is i gcéin*

*Críost an Slánaitheoir Féin
Críost an Slánaitheoir Féin*

*Oíche chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Cách 'na suan dís araon,
Dís is dílse 'faire le spéis
Naoín beag gnaoigheal
Ceananntais caomh*

*Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh.
Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh.*

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Duit (null-ug hona ag-gus ah-vleen fwee vosh-ah gwitch)
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Eamonn McCrystal

Continued from page 8

read the liner notes and he thought nothing else of it. She gave the CD to her hairdresser who gave it back to her and made her listen to it. She must have been impressed because the next month she signed Eamonn to a contract. He went back to London to wrap up his job, and moved to America shortly after thinking he would be here for a month or so. Seven years later he is still in America and she is his agent to this day.

He's not a country artist by any means but he's played



the Grand Ol Opry and been invited back several times. His first year in America he learned a lot by touring with Randy Travis.

At 29 he has recorded 10 albums. He loved the production process and seeing how it all came together. He likes doing theme albums. "We did a Christian album, and a Christmas album. This last one is a collection of songs that people have requested whether on twitter, Facebook, or at one of his shows.

Ever the entrepreneur, he created an internet TV station, the Eamonn McCrystal Network, a talk show format with 30 minute episodes featuring great guests, and it continues to this day.

Eamonn.net is the website. Go check it out and make some time to catch his show or check out his music.

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Maureen Hennessey

OhIAN: Maureen, you were born in Cleveland's West Park neighborhood, did you go to school there as well?

Maureen: I went to McKinley for kinder-



garten, then to St. Vincent de Paul for grade school. For high school I went to Holy Name on the eastside. After high school I went to the University of Dayton, where I earned my degree.

OhIAN: Did you become a physical therapist after graduation?

Maureen: No, I became a teacher and taught at St. Clemons first, then at St. Lukes and St. Vincent de Paul simultaneously. It was while I was teaching Phys. Ed. that a

State. Teaching and physical therapy were the two fields that I was interested in. I applied at Metro Health, I was a student there in 1985, then went back and obtained a position there in the burn unit. I worked there from

1986 to 1988.

OhIAN: That has to be a very difficult unit to work in?

Maureen: It is; you see a lot of suffering. Everyone who works with burn victims is affected to some extent. During that time I met a man named Rory Hennessey. Rory had lost his wife to cancer; he had three children at the time. When we started dating, I decided I wanted a job that was less intense. At Metro you would work night and day and usually go home late from your shift. I just wanted a little more personal time, so I moved to St. John Lutheran.

OhIAN: Were you still doing physical therapy?

Maureen: Yes, I moved

into the skilled nursing facility. The money was better at the time and I could work three days a week and be home more. It worked much better for our new family.

OhIAN: Aren't you at Metro Health now?

Maureen: Yes, I was asked back to join a research team. I thought about it quite a bit and after fourteen years, I came back to Metro. The research project was scheduled for five years and ended up lasting six. When the project ended, I moved to the



mother asked me why her child ran the way she did. I didn't have an answer but I started to research it and ended up going back to school for physical therapy.

I started at Tri-C, where I had some very good teachers, and finished at Cleveland

skilled nursing facility here and that's where I am today.

OhIAN: Are you involved in training physical therapy students?

Maureen: I'm certified to teach. I want to

Continued on page 16

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It's the Irish, Stupid

"Don't listen to her, Bob. Remember: those who can do, do; those who can't, teach." Although more consistently Man than Superman, this was the repetitive recitation I heard when I related my resolve to teach. I preferred Aunt's Irene's judicious mantra, "Can't teach what you don't know." Even Earl Manigoat's, "You reach, I teach" was a more desired educational ethos.

Every Friday in World History we relate the week's lessons to Ireland. Two Friday's past we partook in a vibrant debate regarding Alexander the Great and his inability to conquer Ireland. Ireland 1, Hellenistic culture 0.

It followed identical considerations concerning the Sumerians, Hittites and Carthaginians. The great Khans were no match for the Irish. The indoctrination of my first year students is

virtually unequivocal, although I have to wonder where I would be without cuneiform.

Aunt Irene also taught me that there were two types of people in the world. Her binary was not applicable to Friday's class. "Francis, there are two types. Those who show up to Mass on time the morning after we change our clocks and those who don't."

Perhaps hermeneutically localized, but I took it to heart. Later in life I acknowledged a tertiary type, me Ma. Fall forward and spring back. We were never an hour early nor an hour late. I should have grasped why there was no 1 o'clock Mass as we diverted to the Perpetual Adoration Chapel, and that we went to 9 o'clock only once a year.

Sunday evening Mass at the Cathedral was a passive aggressive compromise to the daylight saving conundrum. I live more of a Basilica life, but a Cathedral will suffice. This Sunday past a

young fella approached me after Mass with a Whitebread T-shirt. Appreciative of his commitment in an era of gluten free and 9 grain, I envisioned a lobster roll at the Cape or a Sugardale with Stadium Mustard. Regardless, Mass is not for T-shirts. Fortunately, Aunt Irene did not witness this behavior.

It was with much travail I re-focused on his shirt. Two "e's", no "a". Whitebread. At this point, I had begun to return his handshake. Fool me once.

He let me know that they were "organizing" and a "guy like me would be welcome." It took a moment to grasp his intent so close to offering peace. He shared that I looked like a guy who was proud of his culture. I retorted that I was in fact a proud Irish Catholic, a Hibernian who has completed his major degrees. As such, I would never join a WASP, cross burning, group of buffoons. He was shocked, but lucky he was not struck. I was confident Aunt Irene would endorse, if not initiate. Romans 12.21.

This past Friday I amended my instruction. It was still Irish Friday. I imparted semi-anonymous historicistic collective narratives. My scholars' only task was to determine the protagonist(s). We discussed immigrants who did not speak the language. Immigrants who

took the jobs of native-born Americans. Immigrants who would be termed "illegal" in the parlance of our time. Hands sprung into the air like fireworks on the 4th. "Take that England." It is the Mexicans, Mr. McGarry.

We then discussed other immigrants who were attacked because of their religion. It was thought that their allegiance was to a foreign power. These immigrants were attacked in places like Philadelphia, home of the Liberty Bell. These immigrants also fought back. A few of them were hung in the coal regions of Pennsylvania as perceived retribution. That last historical references caused a slight pause, but their resounding response was the Syrians.

Appropriately, we then discussed a movement for freedom in which these people were branded terrorists. These people were second-class citizens in their own land. They were not able to vote. They were not able to

hold political office. They were partitioned and separated from their relatives. Students were quick to answer: the Palestinians.

Incorrect, again. Slight frustration set into the rows of desks and those who occupied them. I shared stories of people being killed by the government. Shot in streets. Shot at a football match. Shot with impunity. Shot when they protested for peace on a Sunday. Before that they were victims of "hanging Judges," a term that originates in the land of their birth. They were imprisoned or sent away in numbers that would astound a current criminologist. That seemed like low hanging fruit to those in the rows of desks. Black Lives Matter, Mr. McGarry. Not so fast, my friend.

They then learned of Charles Cunningham Boycott, an English land agent in Ireland. Semi-anonymous, like I said. He was ostracized by the Irish in Mayo. Ostracized was a vocab word in our section on the Greeks, applied to those deemed a threat to democracy. As a result of the social protest and a tad bit of violence, 50 Orangemen were recruited to Mayo to harvest his crops. As a result of the history of social protest and a tad bit of violence in Ireland, we have the verb "to boycott."

Our discussion turned to quasi-encoded talks on the Penal Codes, Cromwell, Michael Collins and the IRA, Bloody Sunday, 1916, the Troubles, Hunger Strikes and Bobby Sands, and the Famine. Each topic resulted in an equally futile guess as to the historical protagonists.

Then conversation turned to the Kensington Riots and the Know Nothing Party persecution, the KKK in Texas, the San Patricios, Charles Carroll signing the Declaration of Independence as the only Irish Catholic and being barred from public office in Maryland because of that. He was an O'Carroll before the Penal Codes and in America, it was feared he served the Pope.

My students were late to lunch. They did not request to go eat. They wanted to know the answers, perhaps a more vital indoctrination. They wanted to know the truth. They were not Irish (there is a kid named James that I call Seamus, but that doesn't really count); the truth does not care. Whitebread did not want to know the truth.

It was the Irish, kids. It has always been the Irish. Have a good Friday and go to lunch. Fish; Aunt Irene loved fried cod. In a week we discuss why do schools serve fish on Fridays?



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My Guinness, My Goodness

Walking through a crowded Irish bar, I have accidentally eavesdropped on a few conversations that contained the phrase, "the best I ever had was...". To my appropriately shocked 21st century ears, I initially thought that I had overheard stories that belonged to an issue of Cosmopolitan. Rest assured gentle reader, it is Ireland after all, and the noun that the word best referred to was not a person, but rather it referenced the real love of many an Irishman, a good pint of Guinness.

While Budweiser has certainly gained in popularity in Ireland, I have never seen anyone go misty-eyed talking about it. That dewy look and hyperbolic rapture is reserved for the black stuff. Like many beloveds, Guinness has many nicknames that any native would understand. Other pseudonyms are pint o' plain, Liffey Water, Diesel and Irish Champagne.

A great pint is a work of art and like many other works of art, patience is involved in its creation. Guinness begins in fields with barley, just like other beers. The barley is made wet and sprout and dried. This is the malting process. Then it is roasted. The length of time that the malted barley is roasted is what determines how dark the beer will be, Guinness again requires some patience.

A second important element of a good pint is the pour. My husband, who is generally an easy going guy, becomes histrionic when he sees Guinness poured poorly. In the presence of a bad pour, he has sent pints back, told barmen that he would never order another pint from them and generally behaved rudely. He has finally come to an Irish

Zen, that being that he does not order Guinness any place where it looks dodgy.

One of our best pints was served in a bar in Ireland that



was once the house of the Wilde family, the house in which Oscar was born. We had tried to hitch into town on a dark and rainy night. It being dark and rainy we were not even sure that anyone in the one or two cars that passed even saw us. By the time that we arrived at the Oscar, we were wet, cold and the worse for wear.

We took two charge of two high stools and ordered two pints of Guinness. The barman took his time; tilting the glass at the 45 degree angle, topping a bit, stopping to let it settle and then filling a bit more. He topped it with a knife and then added a bit more to finish it off. Foam clung to the sides of the glass all the way down to the last drop. It was not heavy but warming and comforting the way only it is. As the incomparable Flann O'Brien wrote in the poem The Workman's Friend- "In time of trouble and lousey strife, You have still got a darlint plan You still can turn to a brighter life -A pint of plain is your only man."

The pour itself is chemistry,

nitrogen to be precise. Nitrogen mixes well with malt dominant beers like the porters. The nitrogen is what produces the multitudes of light yet sturdy little bubbles that leap from the tap and glide into a pint glass. The pint glass itself should be a tulip shaped pint glass that is tipped at a forty-five degree angle. Fill at this angle until the Guinness reaches the bottom of the tulip's bump or at the harp. Then leave it to settle until you see a distinct line between the beer and its head. At this point you top it off by holding the glass level and pouring into the middle. It should settle a second time before you drink.

All this talk made me thirsty, but only for a good one, a work of art.

I am sharing a holiday recipe using Guinness. There are all kinds of recipes out there for all kinds of dessert using a touch of the black stuff. A cup or so definitely enhances a stew, if you can spare it. The recipe below for Porter Cake is a traditional classic.

It is very like barm brack, but instead of tea, Guinness is the wet ingredient. The recipe calls for wet into dry, but you could soak the fruit in the porter

for a bit if you choose. This is also a cake that is better a day later. The flavors need a bit of time to settle into each other. Just like everything to do with Guinness, it takes a bit of time.

Enjoy and Happy Holidays to one and all!!!!

Porter Cake

Ingredients

- 3 1/2 cups (450g) all-purpose (plain) flour
- 1 teaspoon grated or ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice (mixed spice)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 1 cup (225g) butter
- 1 cup packed (225g) light brown sugar
- 1 pound (450g) golden raisins (sultanas) or raisins or a mixture of both
- 3 ounces (75g) chopped candied peel, store-bought or home-made
- 2 eggs
- 1 (12-ounce/330ml) bottle porter or stout

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C/Gas mark 4). Line the sides and bottom of an 8-inch (20 cm) high-sided round cake pan (the sides should be about 2 3/4 inches/7 cm high) with waxed (greaseproof) paper.

Sift the flour, nutmeg, spice,

baking powder, and salt into a bowl. Rub in the butter, then stir in the brown sugar, raisins, and candied peel.

Whisk the eggs in another bowl and add the porter. Pour into the dry ingredients and mix well. Pour into the prepared pan.

Bake for about 2 hours. If the cake starts to brown too quickly on top, cover it with aluminum foil or waxed (greaseproof) paper after about 1 hour. The cake is done when a skewer inserted into the center comes out clean. Allow the cake to sit in the pan for about 20 minutes before turning it out and cooling it on a wire rack.

Sources: Mansfield, Stephen. (2009) The Search for God and Guinness. Thomas Nelson Inc. Allen, Rachel. (2013) Porter Cake. Epicurious.com website

*Lisa O'Rourke is an educator from Akron. She has a BA in English and a Master's in Reading/Elementary Education. Lisa is a student of everything Irish primarily Gaeilge. She runs a Gaeilge study group at the AOH/Mark Heffernan Division. She is married to Dónal and has two sons, Danny and Liam. Lisa enjoys art, reading, music, and travel. She enjoys spending time with her dog, cats and fish. Lisa can be contacted at

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Maureen Hennessey

Continued from page 12

make sure the students are comfortable with what they're doing when they come to me. Not many therapists have worked in burn units. I learned so much from that experience. Everyone, including those that worked in housekeeping, are part of the team in burn units. My faith was strengthened because of my time there and my experiences with so many of the patients I worked with. This a ministry, I think I'm doing what God wants me to do.

OhIAN: Besides work and family, you're involved in a few other things, how did you become active in the Rose of Tralee Festival?

Maureen: When I was younger, I was given an application to become a Rose from a family that lived near us. The Rose of Tralee Festival was started at a time when

tourism was down in Ireland. A group of businessmen got together and started this annual event which brings young women of Irish descent from around the world back to Ireland. Roses from all over travel to Ireland where one is chosen to be the Rose of Tralee. These young women become ambassadors and have traveled to different countries, recently to Africa to work with children there, and have even met the President. It's a great opportunity for these young women to experience a variety of things.

OhIAN: Have you been involved all this time?

Maureen: I was one of the last Roses from Ohio for about twenty-five years. When it did start up here again, I showed up at a meeting and found some of my friends there and became active in promoting this great festival. For more information on the Ohio

Rose of Tralee you can visit www.ohiorose.com or you can apply at www.roseoftralee.com. The deadline for applying this year is Dec. 31 2016.

OhIAN: Tell us about the John A. Gannon Memorial Golf Outing.

Maureen: "Jack" Gannon was my father. He was a Cleveland firefighter for thirty-some years. The Burn and Trauma Center at Metro Health is named for him. During his time as a firefighter he campaigned for health coverage for firefighters and police.

It used to be if someone was hurt on the job, people like my father would be in the hospital waiting room telling the hospital staff they would raise the money somehow to pay the medical expenses for their colleague. My father made many trips to Columbus, lobbying for the coverage they eventually received.

He became vice-president of the union, and then was elected president from 1980 - 1988.

Metro Health knew of my father, and asked for his help when they were expanding. They knew he was able to help them be compliant with new and upcoming fire and safety codes. After that he was asked to join the Board of Trustees for the hospital. Presi-

dent Carter asked him to be on the committee for the National Council for Disabilities. His passion was to help people.

My dad loved to golf, and when he passed it seemed like a natural thing to put on a golf outing. We held the first one Sept. 16, 1998 and so far we have raised over \$770,000.00 for the Burn and Trauma Center. Jack Gannon was all about the community.

OhIAN: So it seems is his daughter, Maureen Hennessey.

Since it's beginning, the Burn Care Center at MetroHealth has treated both pediatric and adult patients. It started with two beds in enclosed rooms within the surgical center. In 1987, The John A. Gannon Comprehensive Burn Care Center at MetroHealth Medical Center opened, with 14 inpatient beds, five of those dedicated to burn intensive care. It has grown since then and is widely recognized as the regional burn care center.

To date, the center has had over 8,000 admissions and has an overall survival rate of 97 percent. MetroHealth provides medical and support services to more than 3,000 trauma and 1,700 burn victims each year. If you would like to help support them you can find more information about the golf outing at www.metrohealth.org

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Ireland Ends the Year in Seasonal Cheer

This winter so far has been one of contentment across the sporting environs of Ireland. When totting up on the abacus of achievement, it is difficult to remember a time when Irish sport was in as good a place and it has been a wonderful few weeks for the soul; for it's been great to cheer and witness these accomplishments through green-tinted glasses.

When life is going this well, it is important to cling on to these moments with a tightened grip, for it is inevitable that such a marvellous perspective certainly can't last forever. Last month the Irish rugby team defeated the All-Blacks for the first time in a whirlwind game of twists and turns on a bright Soldier Field in Chicago that will linger in the memory. This much sought-after victory against the perennial rugby superpower had been a long time coming and the manner of the triumph made the wait all the more worthwhile.

Playing a brand of rugby where Ireland attacked wide and at speed, Irish rugby coach Joe Schmidt caught his native land unawares. The men wearing green refused to kick away possession for long periods and carried with intent throughout. Just as impressive as the attacking patterns was the Irish front five earning domination at the scrum, while providing Ireland with an attacking lineout maul that had the All Blacks under pressure throughout. Ireland took a prominent 22-point lead when Simon Zebo scored a try not long after half-time, only for New Zealand to score three second half tries to reduce the gap between the sides to four points with 15 minutes left to play. For every Irish supporter there was a tangible fear that another gut wrenching defeat could be in the stars only for Robbie Henshaw to crash over for the insurance try that helped see out the victory.

In the end, the scoreline read 40-29, with New Zealand tasting defeat on the international stage for the first time in two and a half years. For the many in attendance, it was an occasion that won't ever be forgotten and the 15 that started and all the impact replacements, this first victory against New Zealand will be a significant annotation in their



Joe Schmidt

sporting careers.

For the Irish sporting public it was a joy to behold and a deed to savour. If it seemed that sporting life in Ireland couldn't get much better, the following weekend saw further Irish sporting successes of note on the international stage.

Connor McGregor made UFC history when he became the first fighter to hold two World Titles at different weights at the same time, when he mercilessly took apart a very credible opponent in Eddie Alvarez at Madison Square Gardens in New York. There were a number of UFC aficionados who thought prefight that Alvarez has the wrestling aptitude to overcome McGregor, who startled even the most fervent of his travelling support with the unmitigated control he displayed from the start to win with a second round stoppage, without much difficulty. Such has been his emergence in Mixed Martial Arts; McGregor is transcending the sport and in doing so could very well become the best paid sports star on the

planet in 2017. Soccer: Although it would not have made the back pages of newspapers outside of Ireland, the national soccer team is also currently riding on a crest of a wave. The Boys in Green finished the year at the top of a very competitive World Cup qualifying group, after they beat Austria 1-0 in an away fixture in what could be a very significant result in Ireland's hopes of qualifying for the most prestigious soccer tournament for the first time since 2002.

As it stands, Ireland are out in front in Group D on 10 points, two ahead of fourth seeds Serbia, while Euro semi-finalists Wales and the aforementioned Austria reside at six and four points respectively after four games. Manager Martin O'Neill and his assistant Roy Keane have managed to continue in the vein that brought a huge lift the country over the summer when they beat Italy to reach the knockout stages of the European Championships.

Martin O'Neill has a squad of players that are leaving everything they have on the field and so far they have taken advantage of the breaks that have come their way. Against Austria, James McClean scored his third goal of the campaign to break the deadlock after he ran onto a terrific through-ball by Wes Hoolahan and blasted through the goalkeeper's legs for the goal that secured the three points.

What makes the Irish position even more encouraging is that Ireland have played both Austria and Serbia away from home and will welcome the pair back to Dublin next year. The next round of qualifiers will see Ireland play a pivotal home match against Wales at the Aviva in March followed up by another home game against Austria in June. A win for the Irish would considerably scupper both opponents' chances of occupying the top two placings in the group.

Another feather in O'Neill's cap has been his willingness to introduce new blood into the squad and the first eleven. Eunan O'Kane came on as a substitute in the win over Moldova while Harry Arter, who has been

impressive form all season with Bournemouth in the Premier League, saw his first taste of competitive action for Ireland when he started against Austria in Vienna. Such is Arter's form it is likely that he will, barring injury, hold his place in the side.

O'Neill also included two players from the Irish league in an international squad for the first time in his tenure when he added Dundalk's Daryl Murphy and Andy Boyle after they impressed in their club's Europa League campaign.

However, the one area where Ireland are still lacking depth is upfront, and it is rumoured that Brentford striker Scott Hogan will be approached to play internationally for Ireland. Hogan has been in good goal scoring form for the Championship and his teammate John Egan, who hails from Cork and plays centre-half is another who could make the step up into the national squad during the coming months.

For now, Irish sport is full of hope and optimism. Pray it continues over to 2017.



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A Tale for Christmas

Morning light streamed through the stained glass window illuminating Father Colm's roll top desk. This window was a particular favorite of the pastor. Brightly colored panes depicted Jesus encircled by a ring of children holding newborn lambs.

Father Colm laughed to him-

self, "Sure, could you imagine the Corrigan twins, Paddy and Petey, disruptin' this peaceful scene with Blarney, their new spotted spaniel?"

Paddy and Petey Corrigan never meant any harm, but mayhem seemed to pave their paths.

Father Colm's young seminarian Francis Fahey knocked lightly at the door.

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"P-Pardon me interruption Father Colm," stuttered Francis. Francis was a kind young man who had an uncanny way with animals. His own collie Wren saved many a child in Rock Strand from harm.

"Francis, no need to rap on my oak. Now, what brings you here so early this fine morning?"

"Father, the Widow Margaret asked me to bring you this hot pot o' tea and these warm currant buns."

"Ach, my belly is callin' with the hunger and Margaret's currant buns do be the answer to his prayers. Why the long face lad, did ye' not get your share of the buns this morning?"

"Why, no Father. I mean yes, Father. Sure, I had a buttered bun, but the widow does seem a bit out of sorts. Even Wren noticed it. When the Widow Margaret offered him his daily black puddin', didn't he tuck his nose into his paws and look up at the widow with concern in his blue eyes?"

"Now Francis, I do think you are lettin' your kind nature get the best of you. Surely wasn't Margaret hummin' her favorite Christmas hymn, the Wexford Carol, last night as she polished the floors with pine soap, and decked the altar with sprigs of holly from McCracken's field? But now that you say it, she didn't seem to sing with the same vigor as normal. I see that now, as I ne'er once needed to cover my ears with me woolen scarf," chuckled Father Colm.

Though the Widow Margaret loved her music, she could not quite wrap her vocal chords around the high notes.

"Can you think of any other reason besides Wren's reluctance and the widow's own lack of melody that would give reason for her mood?"

"Why yes, Father. She made the remark, not that unkindly mind, that the good Father Colm ought to enjoy his buns now because he won't be havin' them with his tea this Christmas. Sorry sir, but she did seem to hint that you were the cause of her foul humor," apologized Francis.

"How could I have forgotten! Didn't the Widow Meg, her own dear sister who moved from Killarney back to Rock Strand near a year to the date, ask me to discuss

a change in Christmas plans with Margaret?"

With a start, Father Colm nearly dropped his currant bun at the sudden ruckus coming from the front vestibule of the church.

"Francis, hurry lad, and see if it is a saint or sinner at our door!"

"Shoo boys, get that dirty animal out of this church!" scolded Widow Margaret.

Father Colm and Francis stopped short at the scene. There stood Paddy and Petey Corrigan, mud caked past the top of their Wellingtons and Blarney the spaniel pup chewing at the offertory baskets.

"Petey, Paddy! See here lads, oughten you be in school? Mrs. Honor will surely be lookin' for ye both in the front row of the choir room. Isn't Christmas but a week away?" queried Father Colm.

"Y'see Father, w'all due respect, didn't our spaniel Blarney follow me and Petey to school? Well, Mistress Donohue near blew the bun clear off her head and I don't mean one of the Widow's famous currant buns," explained Paddy.

"As sure as the day is short at Christmastide, Mistress Donahue was going to spell us straight from school. No amount of my beautiful singin' would get us out of that quandary," whistled Petey.

"So Mrs. Honor tried to save the day by tyin' Blarney to the tree outside the choir room, but didn't that pup chew straight through the rope and set a racin' after Wren for a bit of a play," continued Paddy.

"And so we chased Blarney through the blackberry brambles. He's a bit daft you see, and followed Wren here. Mrs. Honor was shouting for our safe return and the Mistress Donohue was wagglin' her stout finger at us," finished Petey.

"Tis' true," replied Paddy.

All three adults could barely contain their laughter at the blessed sight of the boys and the two dogs at play. Even the Widow managed to forget her earlier troubles.

After the boys had been given a jar of black currant juice and warm buns, Francis and Wren brought the boys back to school, where they begged forgiveness for their Blarney. Meanwhile, Francis and Wren continued on to the Corrigan farm to deposit the wayward spaniel with the twin's sainted

mother Maeve.

Order again restored at St. Patrick's Church, Father Colm thought it time to explain Meg's plans for her Christmas tea.

"Margaret, I was most remiss in not telling you that your sister Meg came to me wringing her hands about a change in plans for Christmas," Father Colm explained gently.

"Sure, it's not your fault Father. I was just a bit upset when Meg told me that she was going back to Killarney to have Christmas tea with her beau, the Widower Charlie. I was delighted to finally have Meg's company at my hearth for Christmas tea this first year that she moved back to Rock Strand from Killarney. The winds do seem to howl a bit more now that I am moving on in my years," explained Margaret.

"Indeed I do appreciate sharing Christmas dinner with you, and of course dear Francis, but this year were to be different. I been decorating the house with McCracken's holly, I have the Christmas cake doused with brandy, and that dote Petey Corrigan was going to sing the Wexford Carol at my hearth. You know how I do love that hymn."

"I understand Margaret. Perhaps there is a way that we can all have a happy Christmas," said Father Colm with a wink in his eye.

After a week of choir practice and school pageants, Christmas day finally arrived in Rock Strand. On Christmas Eve morn, Widow Margaret wished her sister Meg a joyous holiday, and Meg assured her that she would be on the early train and back at their hearth in time for the arrival of the wren boys on St. Stephen's Day.

"Tis' fine sister. I have made an extra pudding of porter cake for Father and my Christmas tea. Sure we'll be grand."

As all those who spend a Christmas in Rock Strand know, there is always a miracle to be had, and this Christmas proved to be no different.

"Petey, come here. Da and I have arranged a surprise for the Widow Margaret," whispered Paddy.

"But Paddy, I am already to sing for the good widows on St. Stephen's Day. Sure they think I

Continued on page 27



Out of the Mailbag ... Comes Songs & Stories

By John O'Brien, Jr.

Twenty Years a-Growing: The Prodigals' Ninth CD, "Brothers"

Around 1995, we added Celtic Rock to our lineup at Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival. We found The Prodigals and their irrepressible sound, passion and respect for the Irish heritage were a master fit in introducing for the first time this new element to our attendees – pleasing both traditional music purists and their kids, cousins and the kaleidoscope that is Irish music across the Irish Diaspora; world music may now be the best description. I believe the evolution has been going on since the dawn of man, and is self righting.

20 years later, the Prodigals are still thriving and their music, tinged by life, is just as impactful. To celebrate, they have just released "Brothers".

Prodigal's founder and foreman, Gregory Grene: "It has been six years since our last CD. During those six years, a couple of events happened that meant that making new music was just not possible for a while; most particularly for me, my twin brother [Andrew] was lost in the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, where he was working with the United Nations. There are initially no words for this kind of loss, and for a while it seems impossible to write anything that can convey one's truth; and at the same time, to write about anything else feels impossible too, and untrue to the point of feeling wrong.

"Time moves on, and though the loss is no less, we find a way – I hope – to honor a soul whose beauty lit my world. Two songs in this are dedicated to the memory of Andrew: 'Snow Falls on Derrycark', which was actually written before the event, but was performed after in memory of both my father and my brother, and was as close as I could get to expressing something of what I felt at the time.

"The second one was written for him, 'Candle'. This song is about returning to Ireland, where he was buried, to spend our first birthday apart, together. I brought with me a bottle of his favorite Scotch, Bowmore, and a Haitian rum, Barbancourt, as a sort of libation - he wasn't a big drinker,

but he loved the joie de vie. And I brought also a cake that my mother had baked for our birthday.

"This is a song about that night. As much it is as a song of missing him, it is a song of love and gratitude for the person that he was. The second verse references songs that he sang, beautifully: 'Bridget O'Malley', 'Sweet Thames, Flow Softly', and 'Whistling Phil McHugh'.

"He was, truthfully, one of the finest singers I've heard: when he came in to sing at Paddy Reilly's, our local, the bar would fall silent with the beauty of his singing. May he rest in peace and love, and his memory live on with those of us who were so fortunate to know him.

"The school we built in his name in Haiti always feels to me as though it is something of a gift he left for me for healing, and last year when I was teaching there, a student thrust a crumpled note into my hand, which I unfolded and read: 'Andrew n'est pas mort; il vit en nous.' "Andrew did not die, he lives in us.' It may sound like some kind of self-delusion, but I don't think so – I do believe that twin of mine continues to look down on me.

"Anyway – the CD honors, I hope, that beautiful soul; and also remembers another person who also meant so much to the band, in multiple frameworks, and that is Ray Kelly. He, of course, powered the band forward when he joined. The band will be marking its twentieth anniversary next year, and a key evolution of the band was Ray's joining. It was the magic missing piece that made the band gel in the way it did. He brought an unabashed fire that meant we all rose to the occasion – the ingredients had been there, but it was the mix of flint and steel that sparked it off. "Our roads diverged, and after a hiatus he made beautiful music with Brian Tracey in the Mickey Finns; but the two bands came together again as a supergroup in a couple of wonderful moments of alchemy, as 'Whiskey Asylum' at the Dublin Irish Festival, and in Albany, and of course at Paddy Reilly's. We mourn his passing

too, while honoring the magic and joy that he brought to so many.

"So there are two empty frames on the CD cover, one for my twin, and one for Ray. And there are those that are present in the images, Dave Fahy from Galway, and Trifon Dimitrov from Bulgaria, part of the madly eclectic family that happens in music, above all in New York City. And there is Brian Tracey, who in the extraordinary circular path of our New York Irish musical globe, has rejoined the band that he started with me twenty years ago.

"And there is our youngest member, my spectacular nephew, Andrew's son Alex, born in Belfast, but a music graduate from University of Chicago, who carries forward the musical spirit of his father. His



first musical forays were coming with his father to see Brian and me playing with Sean McCabe in the earliest incarnation of The Prodigals, on the stage of a bar long since gone, Brews on 34th Street.

"We are all a band of brothers now, and always.

The Prodigals feature Gregory Grene of County Cavan on vocals and button accordion, and Galway's Dave Fahy on vocals and guitar with Belfast native Alex Grene on fiddle, driving the melodic end of things; they are backed by a rhythm section that has been deservedly singled out as the most remarkable in the genre, with New York's Brian

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The Glorious Heresies

By Lisa McNerney
Tim Duggan Books ISBN 978-0-8041-8906-4 2015 389 pp.



Winner of the prestigious 2016 Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction, *The Glorious Heresies* is the debut novel of Lisa McNerney, one of Ireland's engaging new writers. This is a story of a very modern Ireland with drug dealers and prostitutes. It pushes the boundaries and plays as social commentary. At times, it is irreverent and at other times laugh out loud funny. In fact, there was one point where I was almost in tears laughing.

The story is about a messy murder, which affects the lives of the five misfit characters. It is set in Cork City and deals with people living on the fringe of Ireland's post-crash society. Ryan Cusack is a fifteen-year-old-drug dealer who desperately does not want to turn out like his alcoholic

father Tony, who is obsessed with his next-door neighbor. This neighbor has seduced Ryan and has threatened to ruin his family.

Then there is Georgie, a prostitute who is searching for her boyfriend, Robbie O'Donovan, the object of the murder. Jimmy Phelon, a local gangster and his mother, Maureen, round out the principal characters. The book explores salvation, shame, and the legacy of Ireland's twentieth century attitudes to sex and family.

If your looking for a book that possesses gritty realism, Lisa McNerney's will provide it. I rate it a TOP SHELF read.

*Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney and owner of Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates Co. in Rocky River, Ohio. He defends insureds and insurance companies in insurance defense cases throughout the state of Ohio. Mr. Kenneally received his Master's Degree in Irish Literature from John Carroll University and teaches Irish History and Literature at Holy Name High School. Mr. Kenneally is the President for the 2016-17 year at Holy Name High School.





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Sunday
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10am - 12pm: *Gerry Quinn's Irish Hours* WHK AM 1420
w/ Colleen Corrigan Day & Eddie Fitzpatrick
1pm - 3pm: *Echoes of Erin* WCWA AM 1230 w/ John Connolly
6pm - 7pm: *Songs of Britain & Ireland* WCPN FM 90.3
w/ Joe Nichols & Kevin McGinty
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InnerView

by Bob Carney

Linda Fulton Burke

OhIAN: Linda, how did you become interested in crossword puzzles?

Linda: After earning a BS in education from Cleveland State University, I taught second grade in the Mentor

Schools for thirty-one years and then two years at Christ the King in East Cleveland. I used to make crosswords for my students to help them study spelling and to increase their vocabulary.

OhIAN: How did you come to create them for the Ohio Irish American News?

Linda: John O'Brien, Jr. had



posted on FaceBook that he was looking for someone to do a crossword for the paper. I sent him a message that I could do it if he couldn't find anyone else (I'm still here after so many years... lol!).

OhIAN: It must be difficult to put a puzzle together; how long does it usually take?

Linda: I generally spend six to eight hours to research, write clues, and make the crossword. Sometimes I run a theme for several months. I like to use travel related themes, as well as current events, such as the Olympics,

GAA games, festivals or famous Irish people. Anything I think others might find interesting.

OhIAN: Linda also worked as secretary to the Grand Recorder of the Ohio Royal and Select Masons. She is a past president of the Irish American Club – Eastside and was selected as Member of the Year in 2009. She is married to Jim Burke and has three children and four grandchildren. Linda is a student of the Irish language and all things Irish as her puzzles prove!

Mellifont Abbey

Continued from page 9

them by men brought in from foreign monasteries.

By the beginning of the 15th century, Mellifont Abbey had become the proprietor of estates totaling 48,000 acres. The abbey had become a great feudal lord, exercising civil, as well as ecclesiastical jurisdiction in his domains and having a seat in the English House of Lords, far from their original mission as envisioned by St. Malachy.

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries ordered in 1539 by King Henry VIII, the abbey and its lands came into the hands, successively, of the Townley, Brabazon, and Moore families. Sir Garrett Moore, who lived at the abbey in 1603, was a close friend of Hugh O'Neill, and it was to Mellifont that Hugh O'Neill came to make his submission to the Lord Deputy Mountjoy at the end of the Nine Years War.

The result of the submission was called the Treaty of Mellifont. Among the Treaty's terms, O'Neill relinquished the Gaelic title of The O'Neill; O'Neill swore to be loyal to the Crown; Brehon Law was to be replaced with English law; English would become the official language; and the Irish Earls were no longer permitted to support Gaelic Bards.

Hugh O'Neill later returned to Mellifont in 1607 to bid farewell to his friend Garrett Moore before setting out on his last voyage, which was to become known in history as the Flight of the Earls. And in another historical

footnote to the site, one of Garrett Moore's successors allowed William of Orange to use Mellifont Abbey as his headquarters during the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. The site of Mellifont Abbey was finally abandoned in 1727.

The ruins of the abbey are all that remain these days. On approaching the ruins of Mellifont Abbey, the first building is a massive, castle-like structure. This is all that remains of the original gate house of the old abbey. Also still standing are four of the arches of the octagonal "Lavabo." This once housed a central fountain for hand washing before meals and stands in the cloister opposite the entrance to the refectory. On the west side of the cloister are the foundations of the lay brothers quarters. It is an interesting place to visit and reflect.

Today, there are six active Cistercian abbeys open and operating in Ireland, and the remains of 13 Cistercian abbeys, including Mellifont. One of the active monasteries is named Mellifont Abbey (Collon, Ireland), which still carries on the religious tradition of its 1142 namesake.

*J. Michael Finn is the Ohio State Historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Division Historian for the Patrick Pearse Division in Columbus, Ohio. He is also Chairman of the Catholic Record Society for the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. He writes on Irish and Irish-American history; Ohio history and Ohio Catholic history. You may contact him at

FCoolavin@aol.com.

Out of the Mailbag, Comes Songs and Stories Twenty Years a-Growing: The Prodigals' Ninth CD, "Brothers"

Continued from page 19

Tracey on drums, and Bulgarian Trifon Dimitrov on bass.

The music blends a funky and anarchic energy that is pure New York with a passion for the traditional music of Ireland. The band has headlined major venues and festivals throughout the United States, Canada, Germany and Ireland. Brothers is available on iTunes, CD Baby, and all the usual outlets, and is a highly recommended, energetic and moving, Top Shelf Selection.

Thomas MacDonagh: Poet and Patriot: His Life Told Through Music and Verse, Martin Butler and John Owens. 2016. 24 Tracks

The 100th Commemorations of the 1916 Rising have been extensive, varied and at times, humbling. We know the names of most of the heroes; the richness and variety of their stories has been raised, and begs further research to know them, and ourselves. One of the richest I have found, has been Martin Butler and John Owen's epic work, "Thomas MacDonagh: Poet and Patriot", a 24 track CD of songs, story, poetry and passion.

This CD is not a compilation of songs; it seamlessly tells the sto-

ry of Thomas MacDonagh, an Irish patriot and poet and a signer of Ireland's proclamation of Irish independence. More than \$5,000 was raised for the project via Kickstarter.

Love songs, history of course, insights and illuminations fill this wonderful work. I have listened to it a dozen times or more, and will double that, at least. I do learn a new, and am sparked, to learn a new.

Filled with a myriad of gifted guests, like Aoife Clancy, Aoife Scott, Gregory Grene, Colm O'Brien and more than 30 others,



and time again. This is a Top Shelf Selection.

The Jeremiahs 2016. 10 tracks I love getting swept away by a CD. I have more than a thou-

sand Irish music CDs decorating my home, and listen to more great music on Spotify, Pandora (less and less) and in links sent by bands and their agents, so getting swept away happens

less and left often. But it does happen. It did happen, with the wonderful self-titled CD by and called, The Jeremiahs.

The Jeremiahs are composed of Joe Gibney, vocals and whistle; James Ryan on guitar and bouzouki; and Jean Christophe Morel playing fiddle. Formed in 2012, they are based in Dublin, Ireland,

but are readily touring the world. Winners of the 2015 Best Vocal & Instrumental Album Live Ireland; Male Vocalist of the Year 2015 Chicago Irish American News; winners of the 2015 Christy Moore Songwriter Showcase; winners of the 2013 Ballyshannon Folk Festival Showcase.

The Jeremiahs are a Top Shelf Selection of pure passion and fun. Find The Jeremiahs on Facebook or at www.thejeremiahs.ie. For a taste, my favorite tracks Forgotten Son and The North Sea Holes are also on Youtube.



The Jeremiahs Colin Gillen Photography

the mix and pacing are gentle, yet passionate, poetry in word song and story that I will return to time

Achill GAA: Progress Must Never Come to an End

The Achill GAA Club was officially established and affiliated to the Mayo County Board in 1941. Although the area was not new to Gaelic games, there never existed a club as such to bring together the footballers of the numerous villages to play as one team and represent the parish itself. The junior footballers contested their first ever West Mayo Championship in 1942 and not only did they win that, they also proceeded to capture the County title.

Over the decades Achill GAA has evolved and has become a fulcrum at the centre of community activity in Achill. From the development of juvenile teams

through Bórd Ná Nóg, which support football for boys between 6 and 18 years of age, to the establishment of the ladies-GAA club who cater for girls from 9 years to adults, Achill GAA Club has continued to be progressive and inclusive.

The oldest juvenile competition in the county namely the Corn Acla has embedded a long lasting tradition of gaelic games within our schools, community and families as grandparents, parents and current generations can all claim to have participated in this prestigious competition.

The decision to develop a club grounds at Achill Sound was taken at a club meeting on the 20th October 1958. The late Martin McGinty of the Points, Achill Sound then contracting in London, provided the actual purchase price and additional funds were provided generously

by Achill emigrants and local contributors.

Approximately £4500 was spent on the development of dressing rooms and extension of the pitch, which began in 1977 with grants from Roinn Na Gaeltachta and Bord na bPáirc of the GAA.

The official opening of Páirc an Dáibhéidigh marked that development on Sunday May the 6th 1979 with the clash of Mayo and Offaly senior teams. The field which had been known as Páirc an Mháilligh or as Alice's Field was officially named Páirc an Dáibhéidigh at the Achill GAA Annual Convention of 14th January 1979.

The next phase of development of Davitt Park was carried out in 2001 under the stewardship of then Chairman Packie McGinty. This round of work included the redevelopment of



the playing field with extensive levelling, re-surfacing, and seeding carried out. Also completed were the current stand, dug outs, perimeter fencing and flood lights which were funded by a grant from the Minister for the Gaeltacht at the time, Éamon ÓCuív. The opening of the newly laid pitch and associated structures was marked by a game between Mayo Vs Dublin on the

4th of May 2002.

The Club today has 15 juvenile boys and girls football teams; weekly blitz games for boys and girls aged 6 to 12; men's and ladies junior football teams; vibrant community involvement; dedicated focus on young person development at a sporting and social level, community generated 5 year strategic plan; over

Continued on page 27

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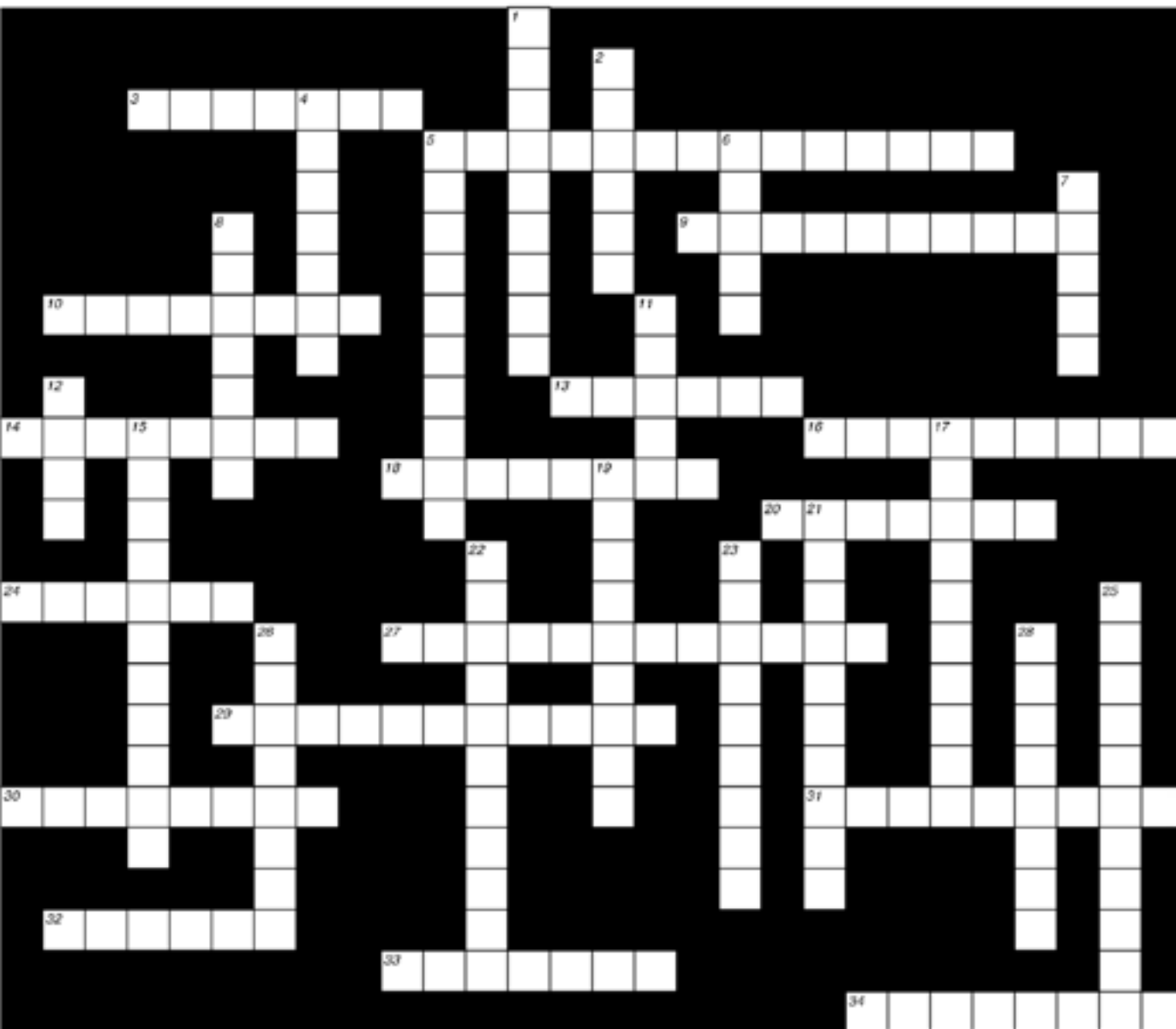
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Monastic Sites in Ireland

by Linda Fulton Burke

Answers on page 27



Irish Contributions in a Modern World

Kamm's Corner anchor West Park Barber has opened a new location just nine doors down from the barbershop, called Premier Lounge. Its concept, like its creator, is uber cool, low key, hard working, but with a touch of class and elegance, not usually seen in the male barber service. Owner Patrick Burke:

OhIAN: tell me how West Park Barber came about?

Patrick: I worked at a barbershop in Cleveland out of barber school. That is where I met (coworker) Zach. I always wanted to have a shop in my neighborhood, West Park. Zach and I left the previous shop together to open West Park Barber Shop. West Park is the perfect community; they have been extremely supportive.

You have two locations now – how are they set up?

Patrick: We do have two locations now. They are located just nine doors apart. The original shop, (17008) has nine barbers and is walk-in only at a great price for the level of talent our barbers have. The second location is by appointment only with seven barbers currently.

You have a salon too?

Patrick: Yes, we do! We started to build such an amazing clientele at the barbershop that we wanted to offer the same excellent service to the women of West Park and the surrounding areas. The salon is a full-service salon and spa.

What is the concept or goal behind the Lounge? How did it come about?

Patrick: The Lounge was made because of our amazing following. We have customers that travel to come see us. We wanted to offer a more comfortable environment,

Continued on page 21

ACROSS

- 3 _____ Monastery, Co. Kerry
 5 _____ Priory, Co. Kerry
 9 _____ Abbey, Co. Dublin
 10 _____ Abbey, Co. Galway
 13 _____ Monastery, Co. Donegal
 14 _____ Abbey, Co. Kerry
 16 Kilfane _____, Co. Kilkenny
 18 _____ Priory, Co. Cork
 20 _____ Priory, Co. Galway
 24 Cavan _____, Co. Cavan
 27 _____ Friary, Co. Kildare
 29 _____ Friary, Co. Galway
 30 _____ Abbey, Co. Carlow
 31 _____ Abbey, Co. Cork
 32 _____ Monastery, Co. Dublin
 33 Great _____ Priory, Co. Kildare
 34 _____ Priory, Co. Cavan

DOWN

- 1 _____ Friary, Co. Donegal
 2 Aghaboe _____, Co. Laois
 4 _____ Priory, Co. Galway
 5 _____ Friary, Co. Donegal
 6 _____ Priory, Co. Kilkenny
 7 _____ Friary, Co. Clare
 8 _____ Monastery, Co. Laois
 11 _____ Abbey, Co. Kildare
 12 _____ Abbey, Co. Clare
 15 _____ Monastery, Co. Galway
 17 _____ Abbey of St Mary, Co. Galway
 19 _____ Friary, Co. Cork
 21 _____ Friary, Co. Cork
 22 _____ Abbey, Co. Kerry
 23 _____ Abbey, Co. Clare
 25 Callan _____ Friary, Co. Kilkenny
 26 St, _____ ' _____ Abbey, Co. Carlow
 28 _____ Abbey, Co. Kilkenny



OUT & ABOUT OHIO

Avon Lake

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www.aherncatering.com

Brooklyn

Hooley House!
2 - the Atraxxion, 9 - Cousin Vinny, 23 - Old Skool, 30 - Disco Inferno, 31 - NY Eve Hooley Bash. 10310 Cascade Crossing, Brooklyn 216-362-7700. 1FunPub.com

Cincinnati

Irish Heritage Center
1st - Free Pub Music Night 7 PM, 7th & 14th - Arm Chair travel to Ireland Book Library 6:30-8:00, 15th - Mick & Friends Free Music night / open mic, 19th - Irish Christmas in America 7 PM Sandwiches & soup available pub before show doors open @5 PM w/ Happy Hour, 21st - Library w Tea & cookies 6:30-8:00, 22nd - Celtic Women International Meeting 7:00 open to everyone \$5 at the door.
All month: Bring a toy for tots, Learn more about your Irish family connections-- Tuesday and Wednesday Genealogy w our Detective by appointment only, free for members, \$25 non-members. Tickets already selling for the Merry Plough Boys Concert February 1. Irish Heritage Center 3905 Eastern Avenue 513.533.0100. www.irish-centerofcincinnati.com.

Cleveland

The Harp
2 - Irish Session, 3 - The Porter Sharks, 7 - Lonesome Stars, 9 - Kristine Jackson, 10 - Hurley, Custy & Taylor, 14 - Chris & Tom, 16 - Fior Gael, 17 - Rachel Brown, 21 - Lonesome Stars, 23 - Walking Cane, 28 - Chris & Tom, 30 - Chris Allen, 31 - The Auld Pitch.

Cleveland

4408 Detroit Road, 44113 www.the-harp.com

Stone Mad

Traditional Irish Session 1st Sunday of ea/month, Happy Hour Monday-Friday 4 to 7. 1306 West 65th Street Cleveland 44102 216-281-6500

Flat Iron Café

2nd - Cats On Holiday, 9th - Becky Boyd & Claudia Schieve, 16th - Donal O'Shaughnessy, 23rd - Jim & Eroc Classic Rock Duo. 1114 Center St. Cleveland 44113 216.696.6968. www.flat-ironcafe.com

Treehouse

4th - Kristine Jackson; 11th - G.S. Harper; 18th - Craic Brothers. 820 College Avenue, Cleveland, 44113 www.treehousecleveland.com

PJ McIntyre's

2nd - Mike & Brent, then Marys Lane, 3rd - Abby Normal, 7th - Monthly Pub Quiz w Mike D, 9th - Barleycorn, 16th - Craic Brothers, 17th - Carlos Jones, 18th - Customer Appreciation Christmas Party Free food & drink specials, music by Marys Lane. Also Pints & Prints 12-5. 23rd - Spazmatics, 25th - Merry Christmas to All-open @7pm, 30th - Bluestone, 31st - NEW YEARS EVE PARTY- TBA: check our Facebook/Website for details.

Don't forget T-Shirt Tues: wear any PJs T-Shirt get 15% off bill! Whiskey Wed: ½ off every whiskey in the house. Thurs - Craft Beer \$2.50. PJ McIntyre's is a Local 10 Union establishment. Home of the Celtic Supporter's Club and the GAA. Book Parties & Events in our Bridgie Ned's Irish Parlor Party Room. 17119 Lorain Road, 44111. www.pjmcintyres.com 216-941-9311.

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18th - The Wren Boys Festival 2016 A Cleveland Celebration of Christmas favorites and Tra-

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Cleveland

ditional Irish Music.

Featuring: The Portersharks, Ballinloch, Mossy Moran with Molly Moran, & The Kilroys, Ceili Dancing - Set Dancing - Step Dancing. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. A special Irish menu will also be available. \$8 Advance, \$10 Day of Show, kids 8 & under Free. 1148 Main Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113. http://www.musicboxcle.com

Flannery's Pub

2nd - Claire Stuczynski 3rd - Swap Meet, 9th - Bar Flies, 10th - No Strangers Here, 16th & 17th - Barleycorn, 23rd - Kristine Jackson, 30th - Brent Kirby. 323 East Prospect, Cleveland 44115 216.781.7782

www.flannerys.com

Euclid

Irish Am Club East Side

2 - Mad Macs, 16 - Kevin McCarthy after Club Ham & Turkey Dinner.

PUB: 7:30 - 10:30. IACES 22770 Lake Shore Blvd. Euclid 44123. 216.731.4003

www.eastsideirish.org

Findlay

Logan's Irish Pub

Trad Sessiún 3rd Wednesday. 414 South Main Street, Findlay 45840 419.420.3602 www.logans-irishpubfindlay.com

Lakewood

Plank Road Tavern

Open Sessiún Every Thursday 7 - 10. \$3 Guinness and Jamieson. 16719 Detroit Avenue, 44107

Medina

Sully's

2nd - Music Men, 3rd - Crawley & Hopper, 9th - Marys Lane, 10th - New Barleycorn, 16th - Crawley & Hopper, 17th - Donal O'Shaughnessy, 23rd - Ray Flanagan, 24th & 25th Closed, 29th - Crawley & Hopper, 30th - Mossy

Moran, 31st - New Years Eve w the Music Men. 117 West Liberty Medina, 44256

www.sullysmedina.com.

Hooley House Montrose

2 - Joshua Roberts, 9 - Laid Back & Lazy, 16 - Cousin Vinny, 23 - Joshua Roberts, 30 - Laid Back & Lazy, 31 - NY Eve Hooley Bash. 145 Montrose West Avenue Copley, Oh 44321 (234) 466-0060 www.1funpub.com

Mentor

Hooley House

2 - Post Road, 16 - Billy Likes Soda, 17 - Abby Rodeo, 23 - Big in Japan, 30 - Almost Famous, 31 - NY Eve Hooley Bash. 7861 Reynolds Rd Mentor www.1funpub.com (440) 942-6611.

Olmsted Township

West Side Irish Am Club

6th - Andy Cooney Dinner/Concert, 11th - Kid's Christmas Party, 24 & 25 - closed, 31st - Club "New Year's Eve Party"

Great live music and food in The Pub every Friday. WSIA Club 8559 Jennings Rd. 44138 www.wsia-club.org. 440-235-5868.

Valley City

Gandalf's

3rd - Prime Rib & Steak Night Music: Ed Feighan; 17th - Prime Rib & Steak Night Music: Dean James; 31st - Prime Rib & Steak Night Music: New Year's Eve w/ Sarena Tamboritz Orchestra. Join us for Brunch EVERY SUNDAY. Great food, atmosphere, staff and fun. 6757 Center Road Valley City, 44280 www.gandalfspub.com.

Westlake

Hooley House

2 - New Barleycorn, 3 - Brigid's Cross Christmas Party 3pm, 9 - the Other Brothers, 16 - Big in Japan, 23 - Schoolgirl Crush, 30 - Sunset Strip, 31 - NY Eve Hooley Bash. 24940 Sperry Dr Westlake 44145. 1FunPub.com (440) 835-2890

Columbus

Shamrock Club Events

Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com

Columbus

Tara Hall

Traditional Irish music w General Guinness Band & Friends 2nd Friday 8:00 - 11:00pm. No Cover. Tara Hall 274 E. Innis Ave. Columbus, 43207 614.444.5949.

Traditional Irish Social Dancing with the Cleveland Ceili Club

The Cleveland Ceili Club promotes the musical traditions of Ireland by providing Opportunities for adults to enjoy traditional Irish music and dance.

Set dancing lessons, Tuesdays 8-10 pm, St. Clarence Church, North Olmsted

Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Irish American Club - East Side

Ceili dancing lessons, Thursdays 7-9 pm, December 1, 8, 22 - West Side Irish American Club.

For information, contact Ceili ClubCleveland@gmail.com

Ongoing Traditional Irish Sessiúns -

Bring your instruments and play along!

Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairlawn, 3300 Morewood Dr. 7:30 p.m Wednesdays. All skill levels welcome.

Bardic Circle @The Shamrock Club of Columbus Beginner - friendly, intermediate level Irish session meeting every other Thursdays 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Briquette's - 1st Saturday of the month, 2 -4 pm. Ashtabula on the Harbor

The Harp - 1st Friday of every month, 9pm. 4408 Detroit, Cleveland

Logan's Irish Pub - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 414 S. Main St. Findlay, 7:30 pm

Oberlin's Traditional Irish Session - 2nd Monday of the month 7 - 9 Slow Train Café, 55 East College St., Oberlin. Informal all experience welcome: www.oberlin.net/~irishsession

Plank Road - Every Thursday 7 - 10. All ages and experience welcome. 16719 Detroit Road, Lakewood 44107

Tara Hall -Traditional Irish music w General Guinness Band & Friends 2nd Friday 8:00 - 11:00pm. 274 E. Innis Ave. Columbus, 43207 614.444.5949.



Memories

As we look back on this year, there are many memories for those of us living in Northeast Ohio. Cleveland became Believeland in 2016. The rest of the country was able to see why Clevelanders are so proud of our hometown.

Cleveland was on the National and World stage in July. The City was the host of the Republican National Convention, where the next President of the United States was nominated.

Sr. Rita Petruziello of the Congregation of St. Joseph was the driving force of the event Circle the City with Love held on Sunday before the convention started. That Sunday, thousands of individuals gathered on the Hope Memorial Bridge holding hands in silence to start the week with the positive message of love and justice. In the West Park neighborhood, many joined the Circle the City event on Rocky River Dr in front of St. Joseph Academy and the Center of the Congregation of St. Joseph.

During that week, I had the privilege of taking Keith Carney, a Hibernian Brother from DC, and two media interns from Ireland to lunch at PJ McIntyre's. Keith is the President of FedNet, which provides Internet coverage of the U.S. Congress. They all had nothing but good words and praise for the City of Cleveland.

This year history was made by the Cleveland Cavaliers. The Cavs brought the NBA Championship Trophy to Cleveland for the first time. This was the cities first major sport Championship since 1964, when the Browns were Champs. More than 1 million people lined the downtown

New Barbershop: A Cut Above

Continued from page 19

more of a relaxing experience. The original shop has a men's sports feel, whereas the new lounge has a vintage gentleman's feel. We have some of Ohio's Top Barbers, with award winning talent.

What makes WP Barber so unique?

Patrick: The most unique thing is the diversity the shops have. It's amazing to see the diversity of the clientele and seeing everyone respect each other with the same common goal; to get a haircut in their barbershop that feels like home.

My favorite part is meeting all the customers. It's also amazing to see generations of family coming in together; a grandfather, his son and grandson sharing a family experience at the shop weekly or monthly. Our customers really are like extended family. I think my least favorite is having to be the boss at times. There is a large staff at WPBS.

In the 11 years I have been in WP nothing seems to surprise me now – haha. I have a lot of great memories in WP; my best has probably been cutting my grandfather, with Zach and his grandfather, for our very first haircuts in West Park. And also, giving my son his first haircut at the shop.

My background is I am a very proud Irish/Italian Catholic boy, born and raised in the great WP area. I went to OLA and St. Eds before I fell into my career as a barber entrepreneur. My next goal is my own barber and beauty college.

streets and the mall to celebrate with Akron's LeBron James and the Cavs team. For anyone that was able to attend the Parade, this will be a special memory for his or her lifetime. Immediately after the Cav's Parade, a Facebook page started, to plan a Parade for the Indians.

In the fall, we were all so hopeful that another parade for the Indians would be held. The Indians became the Windians this Post Season. Friends and family gathered at the ballpark for games, watch parties, and at home or fun establishments to cheer for the Tribe.

Unfortunately, this time, history was made by the Cubs after 108 years, as they won the 7th game of the World Series. The Indians are still our team and we thank them for a great ride. Next year will hopefully be the year we win our first World Series since 1948.

As I look back on 2016, I am so grateful to have all these special memories with family and great friends. I am especially thankful for my dad, Jack Madigan, who shared his love of sports with me. He is the reason that I love sports and have made such great friends playing softball, basketball, camogie and soccer. My dad's spirit was with me this past year as his favorite Indian Jim Thome was inducted in the Indians Hall of Fame.

Watching the Induction Ceremony, I remembered that all my dad wanted for Christmas in 2001 was a Jim Thome bobblehead. That was my gift for him that year but my dad could not wait. He bought himself the bobblehead - so that Christmas he had two!

I am sorry now that one was returned; at that time, I did not know it would be our last Christmas together. When my dad was Called Home, the Jim Thome bobblehead was buried with him.

The best Christmas gifts are the time and memories that you share with family and friends.

Nollaig Shona; Athbhliain faoi she an is faoi mhaise faoi daoibh. Merry Christmas; Happy New Year to You.



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Writing on the Wall

I loved spending time with Kilmainham prisoners. Reading their written thoughts and also working with the words they themselves had written on the very prison walls that restrained them, right as historic events were unfolding all around. This experience encouraged in me a tremendous awareness of these men and women, captive in Kilmainham, leaving us their legacy of names and opinions as long as their pencil markings survived.

There is a certain purity to these words and messages. I consider the 220 year old prison building an original 'document'. Some sections of this 'document' have been badly damaged in the past, and sadly, materials used by the prisoners, thin pencil on shaky layers of plaster, will not endure permanently.

These Kilmainham prisoners secured their own place in history. Some War of Independence figures are analysed more frequently than others who appear to have just vanished. Most students of the years 1919-1921 immediately recognise Ernie O'Malley's name. Many are unaware that one of Ernie's brothers was also held prisoner by the British during the War of Independence. This brother added his name to a list of colleagues written on a Kilmainham cell wall – faded now, yet still clear enough to read: Cecil Malley. Cecil wrote himself into history.

The prisoners narrate their own story with their scribbled graffiti. Records indicate that Kilmainham was re-opened by the British during the War of Independence towards the end of 1920. Diarmuid O'Suilleabhain, another prison graffiti artist, wrote on a cell wall 12 February 1921 that he was charged with "High Treason for having a revolver and ammo on January 21, 1921". Records confirm this was the 'Drumcondra Ambush' planned to be carried out on a police vehicle. It failed due to the actions of an informer.

Three days later, on 15 February, teenaged Diarmuid further wrote on the wall of a top floor cell that he was leaving Kilmainham 'for where I don't know'. Prisoner transfers started the day after the illustrious 14 February escape of Ernie O'Malley, Frank Teeling and Simon Donnelly: all remaining prisoners were transferred to Mountjoy.

Civil War (1922-1923) prisoners also revealed their state of mind. On a West Wing ground floor cell, M Lynch from Galway



wrote a moving example of graffiti: "Dulce et Decorum est pro Patria Mori. (Sotto voce) It is in me". Little interpretation is required. Whether his thoughts were of being killed in

action, or he was referring to executions carried out by the Pro-Treaty Free State Government during the Civil War (officially numbered at 77) M Lynch informed us simply that he was ready to die. His mind-set is captured vividly on that cell wall, in his own strangely poetic manner. The name M Lynch, Galway, features on a Kilmainham Civil War prisoner list.

Other unidentified prisoners left a stony In Memoriam Card to five of their comrades executed early in 1923. Standing in their darkened cell one can read: "By their comrades of the column RIP In memoriam executed 8 January 1923". A list of names follows: "T Brady, Leo Dowling, Sylvester Heaney, O'Reilly, L Sheehy". These five men were court-martialled in Kilmainham on 11 December 1922. The immediacy and intimate evidence of those times by people directly involved transforms this portion of a Kilmainham prison wall into a breathing document.

The prisoners still correct our records. One woman amended existing Kilmainham prison lists by simply writing her name and address on a cell wall: Lizzie Fitzgerald, 28 Fishamble St Dublin. Her details are self-evident. She was listed in error as E FitzPATRICK of that same address. Her pencilled name is evidence of her presence and true identity. Civil War women may have been written out of history until fairly recently - their names on cell walls of Kilmainham were always confirmation of their participation.

A fierce anger echoes from these walls. A sub-collection of writings exists which can only be described as threatening. Scattered throughout, it contains a sense of contemporaneous urgency and an honest bitterness which suggests that any question of lies, or any possible future interpretation, was absent from the writers' minds. These statements are physical evidence of the hostility, pain and disillusionment still seeping through 93 years afterwards.

These feelings appear baldly, they are not being repeated or interpreted by academic textbooks. They simply exist in all their candour and power there on the very walls that confined the authors. Examples are: "To hell with government"; "To hell with the Free State"; "May God Above send down a dove with teeth as sharp as razors, to cut the throats of the Free Staters"; and "May the Harp of old Ireland never want for a string while there's a gut in the F(ree) S(tate)

Army". These are the Anti-Treaty prisoners' own words in their own handwriting; their own untainted evidence.

One example of graffiti illustrates perfectly the challenging reality facing the Kilmainham Jail Restoration Society. We must however bear in mind the extremely fragile nature of the wall artistry, especially in those early 1960s when Kilmainham was scarcely more than a ruin. Grace Plunkett's Madonna and Child was drawn on the back wall of an East Wing cell during her Civil War imprisonment. Here is a description of the condition of Grace's drawing by the man chosen to attempt conservation:

"..... the coating of the wall, was in perilous condition, the umpteen coats of 19th C white, pink [and] blue wash had made a sort of billowing skin that surfaced ... like boils

on a diseased area. The slightest touch, a fingertip, even the banging of the door, and that feeble skin would quiver and fall on the flagged floor".

Asked by the Kilmainham Jail Restoration Society was there a way to save it, he replied simply: "There was and there wasn't". In consultation it was agreed to trace the image, allow the original to fall, have the wall surface treated, then replace the image with the tracing. Writing to me in the Kilmainham Archives, the student artist in charge of this restoration, now Thomas Ryan RHA, explained: "We did the only thing that was feasible. Of course the result is not the tentative pencil drawing of the prisoner".

Walls cannot talk. But Kilmainham walls whisper!



Toledo Irish

Irish Crossings: Caitlin & Paddy's Story by Terence O'Leary ~ Available at Amazon & Kindle

This is a new novel by a Toledo man, Terry O'Leary. There have been other books written about the Irish Potato famine, but this one (Historical fiction) is an easy read, which is almost impossible to put down. Many Irish-Americans have no idea of the history of their ancestors and the struggles they endured. Many of us do not realize the heart breaking decision of which family members would leave Ireland, while the rest of the family stayed for a certain death of starvation. The telling of Caitlin and Paddy's travel to reach their ship gives a description of the terrible living conditions of those Irish people affected by the famine.

Please show your pride in your heritage by purchasing this book for yourself. After reading it, you might wish to purchase one for your children and/or grandchildren. A lesson in their heritage would make a wonderful Christmas present.

Here in the words of the author, is how Irish Crossings came about; "Irish Crossings grew out of a conversation with my children and grandchildren at Christmastime two years ago, when we talked about our ancestors. The Feeney's, on my mother's side, were forced to flee Ballinasloe, Roscommon County, Ireland during the time of the Great Hunger. Their crossing to America planted the seeds for this story and inspired my

journey to Ireland to research the novel.

"Irish Crossings is a voyage of love, partings and new beginnings in the time of the potato famine. The novel is told in the time-honored tradition of an Irish storyteller. A great

grandmother on Christmas Eve reflects on her beloved Gigi.

"Caitlin and Paddy's compelling story is a realistic portrayal of the struggles in Ireland during the time of famine and the heartbreak of the millions who were forced to flee their native land; the young lover's journey across a beautiful country that is overwhelmed with sadness. They endure a harrowing winter crossing through the treacherous North Atlantic but the slums of New York are not the end of the rainbow they were promised.

Through their voyage together they learn the true meaning of the Irish saying, 'It is in the shelter of each other that people live.' In my heart, I am a storyteller and the story of the sorrows our ancestors endured during the Great Hunger need to be honored and passed along to today's generations."

"John O'Brien, Jr. Co-Publisher / Editor Ohio Irish American News wrote the following about Irish Crossings: 'Throughout our often-tragic history, the stories of immigration emerge from our grandparents, or theirs. Yet through it all, the one thing, the reason you and I are now alive and well in America or across the Irish Diaspora, is the enduring power of love. So it is with this 'Irish Crossings: Paddy and Caitlin.' Their perseverance is so complicated, their love is timeless, and their story, is ours.'"

Terence O'Leary was born in Chicago, Illinois, but has spent his teenage and adult life in Northwest Ohio. Irish Crossings is his fourth novel. Terence O'Leary's web site:

<http://www.terenceoleary.com>

terry@terenceoleary.com

A Tale for Christmas

Continued from page 19

have the voice of an angel," smiled Petey as he snapped the braces holding up his ragged trousers.

"This ain't a whisper of song that disappears like mist amid the sun. This here will be a forever companion for the Widow Margaret. Makes no difference if Widow Meg decides to marry Widower Charlie now. Look in yonder barn!" exclaimed Paddy.

Nestled in a tuft of soft hay lay a new spaniel pup with soft black fur and spots the color of snow.

"The Holy Family preserve us! Blarney is just a pup herself. This ain't another Imagined Conception now is it?" cried Petey.

"Y'daft buggar! That there spaniel came from Killarney. Remember how we thought it great to call our pup Blarney from Killar-

ney. Well this here wee dote is Blarney's cousin. Sure, isn't the Widower Charlie a champion breeder of Killarney Spaniels?" Paddy proudly explained.

Cradling the pup in their Mammy Maeve's best willow basket, Paddy, Petey and Blarney set out for the Widow Margaret's cottage. With high color in their cheeks, the twins stumbled through the widow's door.

"Why lads, tis' Christmas Day and I won't scold you for the mud on your boots, but what do ye' have in the basket. Sure, haven't I been up since half six making my own warm currant buns?"

Startled, the pup awakened, mewling like a fox cub at the moon. Blarney started barking in retort and the twins started cheering. "Happy Christmas Widow Margaret! We knew how much ye loved our Blarney, so we thought to bring ye a pup of yer own!

Aren't her spots just grand!"

"Sure they are as lovely as the spots on Bridie McCracken's nose," reckoned Petey. With tears in her eyes, Margaret embraced the boys. "Now I have a wee pup to spoil with black puddin' and buns."

"Good Christmas day to you Margaret!" cried Father Colm as he knocked at the Widow's door. "Look at the surprise I have for you!"

Widow Meg and Widower Charlie walked through the cottage door holding their own surprisingly familiar willow basket.

"Oh sister, I would never leave you and our Christmas tea, but I have to tell you something. Widower Charlie is my dearest friend, but he is also a Champion . . ."

"Breeder of Killarney spaniels. Didn't we get our own dear Blarney from him near three months now!" interrupted Paddy.

"Missus, now ye' have two spaniel pups, one sister, a widower, a priest, and a singin' twin to grace this house with a solo rendition of the Wexford Carol. Can we have a bit of Christmas cake to celebrate our Christmas joy?" said Petey.

Coming Next Month January

Every Sunday: Irish Music Sundays

@ PjMcIntyre's

HAPPY Anniversary! Celebrating 10 years

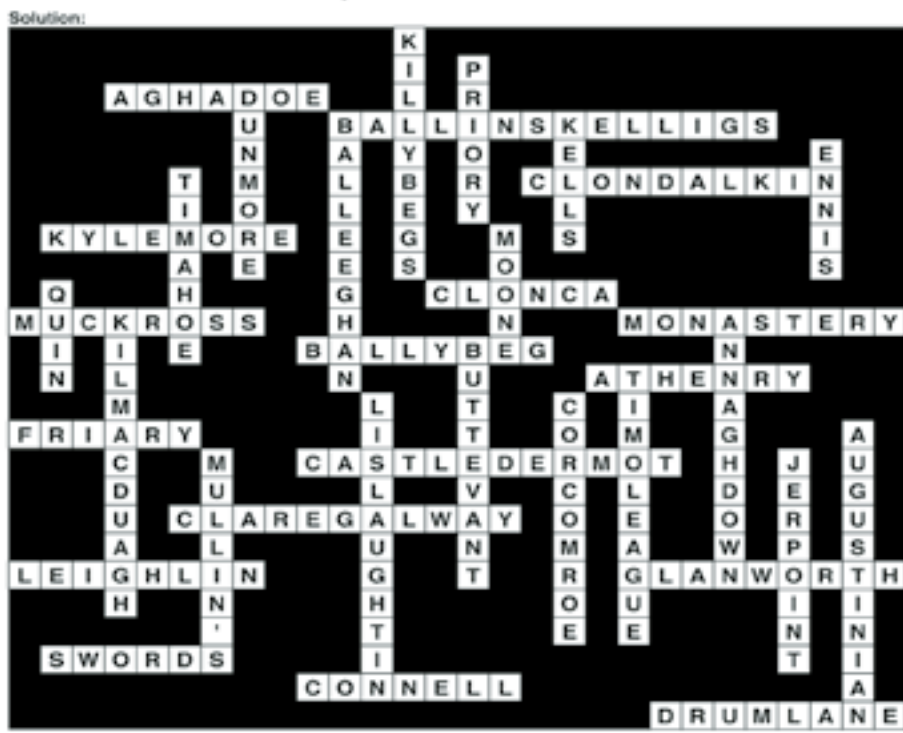
*Bringing you the movers, shakers and music makers
in our community each month.*

7th – West Side IA Chili Cookoff

17th– Speak Irish Cleveland *New Session begins*

Monastic Sites in Ireland

by Linda Fulton Burke



Achill GAA

Continued from page 22

40 voluntary commit tee members and team mentors; full time Juvenile Sports Development Officer and Annual hosts of the Relay For Life.

What will the proposed development cost? The development will be completed in 2 phases. * Phase 1 comprises of the structure and ground floor, expected Cost: 300,000

* Phase 2 will be completion of the 1st floor, expected Cost: £100,000.

How will the development costs be funded? Capital SportsGrant Funding through the offices of the Minister for Sport and Connacht GAA Council have offered grant

aid of £80,000. (£65k and £15k respectively). A further £100,000 has been fund-raised through donations from the Achill Community and businesses associated with Achill both at home and abroad. Finally a loan to the amount of £125,000 has been sought by the club to allow completion of phase 1 of the development. Grant aid funding and

further donations mainly from the Achill Diaspora will be sought in order to raise the £100,000 required to complete Phase 2 of the development.

How long will it take to complete the development? Works on the project commenced in August 2016 with completion of Phase 1 scheduled for April 2017. Completion of Phase 2 is anticipated late 2017 as required funds become available.

With pups howling and the joyful villagers laughing over the events of the day young Petey wiped the last crumb of Christmas cake from his lips and began to sing: "Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep."

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Ohio Rose Selection Night

Saturday, February 18th, 2017



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August 16-22, 2017