

VOL 34 NO. 4 | \$5.95 CDN/USA | JULY / AUGUST - 2020 | CELTICLIFE.COM

Celtic Life

I N T E R N A L

Celtic in the Time of Coronavirus

INSIDE!

*Brian Cox, Wondrous Wales, Chef Gary Maclean
Silver Don Cameron, Summer Style, Joanie Madden*



DISPLAY IN LIFESTYLES
UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2020

Celtic Knot Works



"New favorite!
This has become my new favorite
piece. I wear it every day as a
reminder to be courageous
in these troubled times."
- Michelle P.



I hope you enjoy my work
as much as I enjoy making it.
-Bob, creator, owner, maker

NEW!
T-Shirts



FREE
U.S. Shipping
over \$30

Celtic Tradition, Original Design

Artisan Crafted Celtic Jewelry & Gifts

Ask for us at your favorite shop or
Find us online at

www.CelticKnotWorks.com



Wine so good, you will feel your stress melt away . . .

KELLY

FAMILY VINEYARDS

NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Limited Time CelticLife Exclusive!

40% OFF

all Kelly Family Vineyards Wines

Must enter coupon code: **CelticLife** at checkout to receive discount

Direct to Consumer Delivery

2014 Cabernet Sauvignon

Double Gold Winner -

San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

Bright garnet in the glass. The nose approaches you with flavors of lavender, vanilla, ripe blackberries, caramel apples, and a hint of smoked bacon. This wine is elegant with long, well—integrated tannins, and a soft, silk-like mouthfeel. The finish is lengthy, but refined and focused, and leaves you smiling, anticipating your next sip.

Only 325 cases produced - limited to stock on hand.

No international sales. No sales to Utah or where prohibited.

*"Yum! This is the first thought at the first sip.
Full bodied, balanced, and delicious. This wine
has the long finish I truly love."*

40% OFF - ALL KJV WINES!

Go to: **www.KellyFamilyVineyards.com** to order.

Must enter coupon code: **CelticLife** at checkout to get 40% off.

www.KellyFamilyVineyards.com



Put It On!

...Your Wall

...Your Desk



BRIEN &
CELTIC GIFTS

**CRAFTING ANTIQUE MAPS • JOURNALS • NOTEBOOKS • WALL HANGINGS
AND MUCH MORE – FOR OVER 30 YEARS – TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS**

23-24 Westlink Ind. Estate, Dublin 10. • Tel: +353 (0)1 626 6722 • Fax: +353 (0)1 626 8477 • Email: sales@obriencelticgifts.ie

Buy online direct from our Dublin Factory – or from your local store

www.obriencelticgifts.com

Quality...Made in Ireland...For You!

Sheila Fleet.

DESIGNED & MADE IN ORKNEY, SCOTLAND

Book of Kells

COLLECTION

Classic designs based on a beautiful illuminated Gospel book from the 8th Century. Available in oxidised sterling silver and 9ct yellow gold.



Celtic Rings

Intricate symbols of love and continuity. Available in a variety of precious metals, many hand-set with gemstones.



ORKNEY | EDINBURGH | GLASGOW

01856 861 203 | sheilafleet.com

Saoghal Ceilteach Iris chinnidheach
air fhoillseachadh sia uairean 's a bhliadhna le

Clansman Publishing Ltd.
PO Box 8805, Station A, Halifax,
NS, Canada B3K 5M4

Celtic Life International is an ethnic journal
published in Canada six times a year by
Clansman Publishing Ltd.

Angus M. Macquarrie, Publisher
Stephen Patrick Clare, CEO & Editor-in-Chief
Caitlyn Elizabeth Mearns, Associate Editor
Chris Muise, Associate Editor
Rebecca Dingwell, Associate Editor
Carol Moreira, Senior Copy Editor

Celtic Life International Office:
Phone: 902-835-CELT (2358)
Toll-Free: 888-215-6850
Email: info@celticlife.com
Website: www.celticlife.com

Subscriptions:
Phone: 902-835-CELT (2358)
Toll-Free: 888-215-6850
Email: subscribe@celticlife.ca

Advertising:
Toll-Free: 888-215-6850
Email: info@celticlife.com

Please send review books and CDs to:
PO Box 25106, Halifax,
NS B3M 4H4

Please return undeliverable
copies of Celtic Life International to:
PO Box 25106, Halifax,
NS B3M 4H4

Publication Mail Registration:
No. 40050439 ISSN 1918-0497

Contributors
Lesley Choyce
Tom Langlands
Cabrini Macquarrie
Gary Maclean
Andrea McGuire

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Canada

By its publication Celtic Life International does
not endorse the historical accuracy or the editorial
stance of materials submitted for publication.

We do reserve the right to edit all submitted
manuscripts prior to their publication.

© Celtic Life International, 2020



Fáilte!

Black Lives Matter

As I write this, it is Breonna Taylor's birthday. She would have turned 27 - my age - had she not been shot and killed by police in her apartment on March 13 this year. When police arrived at her Louisville, Kentucky home, they were following up on a so-called "no-knock warrant." Reportedly, the subject of their investigation was not Taylor herself, but a man she used to date. Taylor was not a dangerous criminal: she was an emergency medical technician loved dearly by her family. Her aunt was quoted in NPR, saying, "If this can happen to Breonna, it can happen to anybody."

Sadly, the tragedies continue. This morning, I read about Chantel Moore, an Indigenous woman in New Brunswick, Canada. Moore's long-distance boyfriend called the police on June 4, as he was worried for Moore's safety. What was supposed to be a "wellness check" ended in death after police shot Moore multiple times. Like Taylor, Moore was just 26 years old. She leaves behind a young daughter.

I have never been concerned about such a thing happening to me. When I go to bed at night, I don't worry about being woken up by a group of officers breaking down my door. If I go to the gas station at the end of my street to pick up a snack, I am not accused of shoplifting. Most days, I need not think about the colour of my skin at all. I move about the world with more safety than people like Taylor, Moore, Regis Korchinski Paquet, George Floyd and Tony McDade - all because I am white.

Celtic Life International aims to bring joy to its readers by celebrating Celtic arts and culture. Unfortunately, there are many people in the world who see "Celtic" as synonymous with "white." That simply isn't true, especially when we consider all the branches of Celtic culture and the range of people who populate the Celtic nations. In fact, DNA evidence suggests the early Brits, as well as the Irish, would have been dark-skinned. Further, bagpipes likely originated in the Middle East and influenced traditional European music - not the other way around. "Celtic" is not a monolith. It never has been.

As a publication and platform, Celtic Life isn't perfect. We have an all-white staff, and our coverage is sometimes not as diverse as it could be. That said, I want it to be known that I renounce white supremacy and white nationalism, including those who wear the so-called Celtic Cross (or wheel cross) and other Celtic or pagan symbols while spreading hate. This is not what Celtic culture is about. I believe Black Lives Matter.

So, what can we do? Protests are happening all over the world. I am heartened to see even smaller and more rural Nova Scotian towns take up the call for justice. But with COVID-19 still prominent in many communities, participating in demonstrations isn't safe for those who are immunocompromised. There are, however, plenty of other options to support our Black siblings and other communities of colour, like Indigenous peoples in Canada. Petitions, crowd funding and non-profits abound. There are too many to list them all, but an internet search should easily bring you to your local BLM branch or bail fund. There are Black pipers, fiddlers, folk musicians, writers and activists who deserve financial support. Frequenting Black-owned businesses such as restaurants and indie bookshops makes a big difference as well.

All that said, it is not enough to simply write a cheque and look away: we must support such causes even when we get pushback from people in our lives, even when it might seem no longer "fashionable" to care.

Stay safe and look after one another...

Rebecca Dingwell, Associate Editor

blacklivesmatter.com
blacklivesmatter.ca
nwac.ca



45 *Celtic in the Time of Coronavirus*

17

*Chef Gary Maclean
serves up a
delectable dish*

25

*Irish troubadour
John Doyle returns
with his most
authentic album yet*

35

*Tom Langlands puts
the rubber to the
road*

53

*Wondrous
Wales I*

61

*Wondrous
Wales III*

23

*Brian Cox reprises
his role as Robert the
Bruce*

31

*Joanie Madden
takes The Celtic
Questionnaire*

39

*Lesley Choyce
drives the Celtic
countryside of
Devon*

57

*Wondrous
Wales II*

65

*Summer style with
Eire's Paul Costelloe*

9. First Word / **11.** De Tha Dol / **13.** Celts in the Community
75. The Piper / **77.** The Fiddler / **79.** The Dancer / **90.** Last Word



CELTICLIFEINTL.COM

SUBSCRIBE & WIN!

Subscribe (new or renewal) to our print or digital edition and you could win a lifetime subscription to Celtic Life International! See our website for details or simply fill-out the form below and send in to qualify!

GET DIGITAL!

Pick up a 1-year digital subscription for just \$14.95. See our website for details!

SIGN UP!

Sign up for our newsletter and you could win a Celtic Prize Package worth \$250!

SWAG UP!

Our new online store has a huge variety of Celtic goodies, including clothing, jewelry, giftware, household items, historical pieces, and more! See our website for details!

GET CONNECTED!

Get your daily dose of Celtic Life International on our website, where we profile the people, places and things that comprise our vibrant Celtic community! We also have the most comprehensive and up-to-date listings of Highland Games and Celtic Festivals anywhere online!

BE SEEN!

With an audience of millions, Celtic Life International is your gateway to the global Celtic community! Full details on advertising are available via our website!



PRINT SUBSCRIPTION

- ☐ 1 YEAR: \$24.95 / USA + \$10 / INTERNATIONAL + \$20
- ☐ 2 YEARS: \$39.95 / USA + \$10 / INTERNATIONAL + \$20
- ☐ 3 YEARS: \$49.95 / USA + \$10 / INTERNATIONAL + \$20

DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

- ☐ 1 YEAR: \$14.95
- ☐ 2 YEARS: \$24.95
- ☐ 3 YEARS: \$29.95

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

PROVINCE/STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTAL/ZIP _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED ☐ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Credit Card; VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX ☐

NUMBER EXPIRY

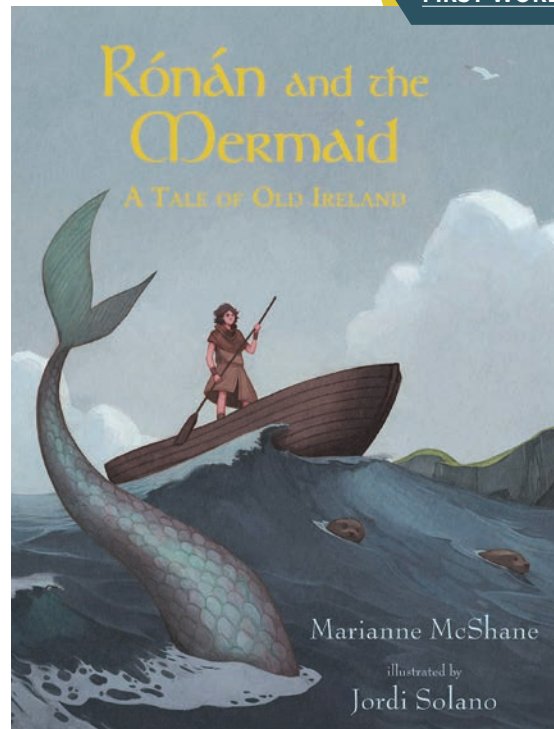
SECURITY CODE _____ SIGNATURE _____

CELTIC LIFE INTERNATIONAL • PO BOX 25106, HALIFAX, NS B3M 4H4



Marianne McShane

Author Marianne McShane shares old, often forgotten stories of Ireland



It is no secret that Ireland is steeped in the rich tradition of storytelling - the Emerald Isle is still awash in winding sagas of mythical places and those who inhabit them.

Bangor, County Down - a small, seaside town on the south of Belfast Lough - has long shown a commitment to the importance of narrative, as locals share ancient anecdotes amongst family each night around the warmth of the hearth.

"I have loved these stories ever since I was a wee child," says author Marianne McShane, a native of Bangor. "I loved reading them and listening to them. The tales are rich in language and vivid in description, filled with lyricism and imagination."

As a young adult, McShane moved to the United States, where she worked as a children's librarian in New York.

"It was there that I began telling stories myself. I told them to children, but I also told them to adults - these stories reach deep inside listeners, regardless of their age. I told them to ease my homesickness, informing me about the world of Irish folklore. It truly felt like I was going home, as they provided me with a bridge of sorts back to Ireland. The main reason I continue to tell stories today is to share the Irish experience. I love bringing listeners into the Otherworld with me so that they too can be entranced with a sense of wonder."

While her passion for fables has remained largely the same over the years, McShane's creative voice has grown more powerful.

"I have come to a deeper understanding of how important authenticity is to storytelling. Storytelling should always be about the story, never about the storyteller. The storyteller is

merely the conduit through which the story is passed on, through which the story continues to live.

"There should be no artifice in storytelling - you must let story speak for itself."

After returning to her home in Bangor, McShane continued her career as both a raconteur and a librarian. In addition to becoming a member of the Storytellers of Ireland charitable organization, she is also a fixture of many literary festivals, and was the recipient of two gold medals at the Mid Atlantic Fleadh Cheoil competition.

She notes that her vocation has not been without its fair share of challenges.

"It is difficult to just find the right story in the first place - not every story speaks to every storyteller. And you also need to understand which tales will resonate with your audience, for every audience is unique. However, perhaps the biggest challenge today is the lack of respect for, and understanding of, traditional storytelling."

McShane explains that the term "storytelling" has been appropriated by other elements of society - particularly business and politics - something she calls "the weeds choking on the flowers."

Recently, she released her debut literary offering *Rónán and the Mermaid* (May 2020, Candlewick Press) - a children's picture book that details an ancient tale of the Mermaid Saint.

"Long ago a mermaid had been brought

ashore in my own town of Bangor. She was baptized by Comgall, who founded the abbey there in the sixth century. I was astounded. How had I never heard of this before? Why wasn't this common knowledge all over town? I had to find out more. I had to write that story."

The 32-page production, beautifully illustrated by Spanish artist Jordi Solano, tells the tale of a young monk who embarks upon a fantastical journey at sea. Showcasing the mythological history surrounding the story, the scribe shines a light on the long history of mermaids in Ireland.

"It required a great deal of research. All I could find about Comgall and the mermaid were a few lines in the ancient annals, written down by monks some centuries later. The Annals of the Four Masters tells us, 'in this year was taken the Mermaid, Liban...in the net of Beoan, son of Inli, the fisherman of Comgall.' This allowed me to take artistic license and introduce Rónán, the founding boy who was fostered at the abbey."

Since its publication, the book has received great critical acclaim, with one reviewer describing it as a lyrical ode to music and mermaids.

Inspired by that success, McShane is already jumping onto her next work, a follow-up picture book set to release in 2022.

"It is an original story about a young Irish girl who must save her father from fairy spells. I have seen the initial sketches and they took my breath away...it is absolutely gorgeous."

www.mariannemcshane.com

TheCelticMarket

**STAY HOME
STAY SAFE
STAY HEALTHY
SHOP CELTIC**



**Tartan
Face Masks**



**Guinness – Green Ireland
Collection Pint Glass**



**Black Dragon Crafts :
Crystalight with green
aventurine**

CELTICLIFE.COM



one

Unconventional Celebration

Forget gender reveal parties. How about a Cornish pasty baby shower? Recently, a father of three celebrated the birth of his youngest son by baking a Cornish pasty the same size and weight as the baby. Tim Fuge got the idea from an online post he had seen in the past. Fuge, who is self-employed, found himself with extra time on his hands due to COVID-19 "stay at home" measures. According to an article from The Sun, Fuge said the six-pound pasty took two and-a-half hours to make and 19 hours to eat.

two

Gordonstoun Nova Scotia

An independent school based in Scotland is slated to build its first franchise in Nova Scotia. Gordonstoun School, which has been around since 1934, recently announced a plan to create a small network of schools around the world. The Nova Scotian branch of the school was announced in December 2018. The school will be located on the former site of Upper Clements Parks - a once-popular seasonal theme park in Annapolis County. The campus will span 250 acres and the school could open as early as September 2021.

three

Gaelic Website

Originally intended to launch in August, a website called Gàidhlig nan Òg became available early in light of nurseries closing as a result of COVID-19. The site was created by Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig - an organization which distributes resources for Gaelic education. The site allows young Gaelic learners to learn words, phrases, and songs. There is also a guidance document with suggestions on how to best use the resource. Although it is designed for children ages five and under, Gàidhlig nan Òg can help adult learners as well.

four

Breton Flag Emoji

Residents of Brittany, France are mobilizing on social media in hopes of gaining a new emoji in their smartphones - their nation's flag. In February, French foreign minister Jean-Yves Le Drian called for the Breton people to use the hashtag #emojibzh so the movement might gain attention. Brittany's flag, known as the Gwenn-ha-du (meaning "black-and-white") was created in 1923 by a man named Morvan Marchal. Wales, the Isle of Man and even Vatican City have their own emojis, but other nations - such as Tibet - are still waiting along with Brittany.

five

Cornish Copper

The recent discovery of copper in Gwen-nap, Cornwall has sparked cautious optimism for a revival of the Cornish mining industry. The nation has a rich mining history going back hundreds of years, and Gwen-nap in particular was the richest copper-producing region in the world during the 18th and 19th centuries. At the industry's peak, there were 400 active mines in Cornwall. Cornwall's last surviving tin mine shuttered back in 1998, but there may now be a chance for future mining ventures. Strongbow Exploration, a Canadian company, took over the long-defunct South Crofty mines in 2016 and owns mineral rights to the Gwennap site.

six

Manx Cottage

Eighty-three year-old John Taylor is having his dream cottage built near the village of Ballasalla on the Isle of Man. Taylor, who personally designed the structure, was inspired by Manx folklore. He told IOM Today that he imagined "a completely new Gatekeeper's Cottage that might have been made by a pair of giants as a play-house for their boisterous children." Stone is a key material in the cottage's creation - windows and doors are carved from limestone as well as a stone staircase made of Foxdale granite, for example.

Have an interesting tidbit to share with our Celtic community? Drop us a line anytime at info@celticlife.com



Fine gifts in the Celtic tradition



Jewelry • Home Accessories
Apparel • Kilts • Food • Art



Irish



TRADITIONS

141 Main St, Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 990-4747

www.irishtraditionsonline.com



Rhythwyn Evans

A 91-year-old grandfather walked 91 laps around his home on his birthday to raise money for National Health Service (NHS) charities. Rhythwyn Evans, who is a farmer in the Welsh village of Silian, got the idea from Tom Moore. Moore - a 99-year-old war veteran who resides in England - set a goal to walk 100 laps around his garden by the time he hit his 100th birthday on April 30. By April 16, Moore had already raised £15 million. Evans turned 91 on April 18, and had already tackled 21 laps around his bungalow before breakfast. By that time, he had already raised £12,000 for his local health board charity: Hywel Dda. This was leaps and bounds beyond his original goal of £1,000. By 5:30 p.m. that evening, Evans completed his 91 laps (with the help of his walking stick) and raised more than £34,000. Evans' son, Dai, says that the amount of publicity was completely unexpected, adding that he was "exceptionally proud" of his father. "I was proud of him even before this, obviously, but this in an hour of need when all the doctors, nurses and care workers are putting their lives on the line on a daily basis, I thought this was a very sincere gesture by my father to raise funds and to try and make their life a little bit easier and just try and support them in whatever way we can."



Cornwall Bereavement Network

A group of Cornish charities have come together to form the Cornwall Bereavement Network. The network came to fruition earlier this year with the goal of helping people experiencing grief. "We understand that anyone bereaved during this time will be experiencing additional challenges and trauma, and we hope to make it as easy as possible to access support," reads its website. The Cornwall Bereavement Network is comprised of representatives from organizations such as WAY Widowed & Young and Penhaligon's Friends. Becky Thomas, one of Penhaligon's Friends' family support managers, says that these charities are doing what they can to be innovative in the midst of COVID-19. "While we can't do the traditional face-to-face meetings we usually would, we're using social media and video calling software to maintain the level of support we usually would to the best of our ability. The usual rituals that people go through when they lose someone is still the same and for some, those rituals are an essential part of how they cope with grief. So, when people might not be able to hold the funeral or celebration of life how they would normally, it restricts them in how they mourn." Cornwall Bereavement Network provides an extensive number of resources for anyone dealing with grief or illness during this time. Some of these resources provide information on how to cope, while others are practical how-to guides: organizing a funeral, contacting an end-of-life doula, how to keep in touch with someone who's ill, and more.



Joseph MacKenzie

A bagpiper with 50 years of experience under his belt, Joseph MacKenzie is using his musical skills to lift the spirits of his neighbours in Sherwood Park, near Edmonton, Alberta. Recently, MacKenzie - like many other folks - became bored of being confined to his home because of the COVID-19 pandemic. So, he did what any dedicated piper would do, he hauled his bagpipes out of storage. He began playing every evening at 7 p.m. in the Gilmore Park neighbourhood, where he lives. Sundays are special: that's when MacKenzie dresses like a true Scotsman in full Highland dress, featuring a kilt and tam. "I'm heralding in the evening, is the basic idea, and making sure people are aware of that OK, we can stop thinking about today, start settling down and getting ready for tomorrow," MacKenzie says. "We've had snowy days and sunny days and everything in between. There are some hardcore folks who are making it part of their day so that's nice to see." MacKenzie also said he hoped the pipes can bring people together in a time of social distancing. It seems to have worked: community members have been known to step out onto the sidewalk and listen to his take on classic Scottish tunes from a safe distance. MacKenzie isn't the only piper who's recently taken up nightly performances during lockdown. There's also Tom Childs in Berlin, New Hampshire; Benjamin Eddie in Samia, Ontario; and father-daughter duo Wayne and Heather Irwin in Downers Grove, Illinois.

GREATER MONCTON HIGHLAND GAMES

Host of the 2021
Masters Heavy Athletics World Championship



JUNE 18-20, 2021
MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK

www.monctonhighlandgames.com

Carrie Paxton

The glass is always full for Carrie Paxton



After Carrie Paxton finished a number of Apprenticeships in graphic design and earned a degree in Architectural Glass at the Edinburgh College of Art, she ached to begin a career of her own.

"I left Art College in 2000, and it took a year or two before I could afford to buy my first kiln," Paxton explains via email from her home in Orkney. "As soon as I had my own middle-sized kiln, I started my creative work."

Getting the kiln wasn't her only challenge; with a young family, responsibilities were plentiful.

"I had to shelve things for a while, as I had two children to raise and simply could not manage without a regular income. I worked part time for another employer until I felt I could make a go of it on my own."

Paxton's employment ended up being a boon for her own career, however, as it gave her a better understanding of, and appreciation for, the marketplace.

"I worked for people who owned a gallery and two gift shops. This was helpful, as I could see what was popular and how much folks were willing to spend for items. I developed some ranges of smaller-sized glass pieces that I could sell in their shops. Later, I begin attending trade shows, where I would make multiples of the same designs for other shops and galleries. I am extremely grateful for this period, as it helped me to survive financially, and it gave me the time to practice my craft and to gauge where I wanted it to develop."

It wasn't long before Paxton began expanding her unique style of glassware.

"These days, there are many glass makers working in Scotland. However, the majority



of these people work with coloured glass and fuse their glasswork. I work with clear glass and add colour by firing frits (coloured ground glass), before applying detail with fired-on enamels. Each piece takes three to four separate firings.

"I like to use clear glass as a painter would use plain paper or canvas..."

"I draw freehand onto the surface, firing each stage to produce a depth of colour and detail. No two pieces will be exactly the same, and therefore, each is an original work of art. I like to think that my style is distinctive and is a culmination of my previous work experience, my training, and my personal taste in design."

Today, Paxton runs her business in the Orkney Isles – a stunning archipelago off the northeastern coast of Scotland that often inspires her wares.

"My company is very small – it is just me. I do everything: the books, publicity, graphics, marketing, ordering, post office runs, all the way down to sweeping the floor and making the coffee. I am happy keeping the making process to myself, but it would be

great to delegate other chores. Bookkeeping, marketing, and publicity are full-time jobs, and I have so very little time for these activities."

She does collaborate with other artisans to get her work into the hands of collectors and aficionados.

"I have a local craftsman that I collaborate with. This is a fairly new venture, and I love it. He makes the wooden bases for my lighting and stands, or box frames for my glass installations. I also have a weekend Christmas show, and two friends who run their own gallery business come up to Orkney and manage that on my behalf. Their professionalism helps make the event fun, and an occasion not to be missed!"

Like many small business owners, Paxton has noted the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had upon the economy.

"Presently, the situation is particularly difficult, as all my outlets are closed due to the lockdown. I expect people will be reluctant to travel abroad for a while and will holiday in the U.K. - Orkney has a huge tourist industry, and it is a very appealing holiday destination."

For the time being, she is happy to stay close to her kiln at home.

"I am a very positive person by nature, and I have no doubt that 2021 will be a bumper year."

"I'm happiest when producing my glasswork. My mandate now is to enjoy what I make, and experiment with new designs. I never feel stuck for ideas, and love trying new methods of firing the glass."

www.carriepaxton.com



Dalriada Heritage Leather

Dear Friends in the Celtic Community

The pandemic is not over yet. Its continued presence has hit many people and organizations hard. Our friends at Clanranald Trust and Saor Patrol are working hard to keep afloat during this tumultuous time.

Please consider making a donation to their crowd-funding campaigns so that they can continue their work educating and entertaining about Scottish history and culture. Follow the URLs below to find more info on how you can help.

Clanranald Trust for Scotland: bit.ly/3fNFMoE

Saor Patrol: gofundme.com/f/203tzf0u2o

You can also show your support by purchasing official Duncarron and Saor Patrol merchandise from our site! Proceeds go directly to these organizations to aid in their goal.



Saor Patrol

Sláinte



DUNCARRON
MEDIEVAL FORT

Visit our site and contact us

dalriadaheritageleather.com

stewart@dalriadaleather.com

facebook.com/dalriadaheritageleather





Monkfish



Scottish Chef Gary Maclean shares his secret recipe for Seared Monkfish wrapped in Parma Ham, with Green Vegetables and Sautéed New Potatoes

Monkfish - also known as goosfish or American angler - populate the western North Atlantic, from Newfoundland to North Carolina, and have also been spotted along the coast of Barbados and in the Gulf of Mexico. They are an ugly fish with a huge head that accounts for half of their weight. Nevertheless, the monkfish has an inner beauty - once skinned, trimmed

and with the membrane removed, the tails yield a firm, meaty texture and taste that is similar to langoustine. It is more forgiving than thin-filleted fish in that it won't break up when being cooked. It is a perfect seafood for people who don't prepare fish very often, as it cooks as easily and finely as a tender steak. There are also no bones to worry about, as only the tail is used.

Ingredients

400g / 14oz Monkfish
4 slices Parma Ham
½ bunch of asparagus
½ Savoy cabbage
100g / 3-½ oz peas
500g / 1lb baby potatoes
1 head broccoli
40g / 1-½ oz butter (unsalted)
Salt and pepper

Instructions

The first job is to get the potatoes going - baby new potatoes are traditionally cooked in boiling water, however cooking from cold you get a much more even cook. Add a proper pinch of salt. Once cooked, pour the potatoes into a colander and let them steam out - never cool in cold water, as steaming out gives the potatoes a chance to dry out and result in a much better and tastier potato. Next, blanch and refresh the green vegetables by bringing a large pot of salted water to a rolling boil - add the prepared vegetables and cook for a few minutes. Cooking time will depend on the type of vegetable being blanched and the size, but you are looking for them to have a slight bite. Remove with a slotted spoon and plunge immediately into ice water, which stops the cooking and retains both the nutrients and colour. The next job is to wrap the fish in the ham, this will protect the fish and help retain the moisture.

“A VERY IMPORTANT AND POWERFUL READ FULL OF HOPE AND LOVE AND MUSIC.”

–Sheldon Kennedy, CM, AOE, OM, sexual abuse awareness advocate and former NHL hockey player



“For Séan McCann celebrity was, for decades, a disguise, the rock-star lifestyle a performance, all crafted to conceal a shocking secret. His story is a cautionary “backstage pass” into the reality of self-destruction but, maybe more important, the healing power of honesty.”

–Linden MacIntyre, Giller Prize-winning author of *The Bishop’s Man* and *The Wake*

“I read this book in one sitting. Getting two perspectives on the trauma of abuse, the challenges of addiction, and the journey of recovery is both riveting and valuable. This story is harrowing and honest with touches of humour, but ultimately, it’s hopeful.”

–Joel Plaskett, songwriter

ONE GOOD REASON [\$29.95] is a powerful memoir co-written by the founder of Great Big Sea and his wife, exploring alcoholism, childhood abuse, and the fight to save their marriage, family, and themselves

AVAILABLE THROUGH
BOOKSELLERS EVERYWHERE

NIMBUS
PUBLISHING LTD.
NIMBUS.CA



@nimbuspub or nimbus.ca



For Irish chef Maura Foley, a good meal comes from the quality of its ingredients.

“Fresh seasonal produce is vital,” she explains via email. “You cannot improve a bad ingredient. It is, of course, very subjective - one man’s meat is another man’s poison! You need to allow the main ingredient to speak for itself to experience the taste of something that is truly delicious.”

Born in Kenmare, Co. Kerry, in 1942, Foley cites her rich Irish heritage for her love of food. After living in London for several years, she and her family returned to the Emerald Isle in 1961, where, alongside her mother, she opened her first culinary enterprise, The Purple Heather.

“We originally opened the business out of necessity and gradually it evolved into a proper restaurant - there was no life-stopping decision made. I discovered I was very happy cooking and I then returned to London in the mid-1960s to complete a Cordon Bleu course. However, I am mostly self-taught, and I have a real love for fresh, seasonal, local ingredients.”

She notes that Irish cuisine uses produce from the land and sea, and it is among the best in the world.

“Our temperate climate, mountains with herbs, green pastures, and clean cold Atlantic water produce incredible ingredients. The high quality of the basics is fundamental and using real dairy farm butter adds great flavour. Preserving was essential before re-

frigeration took over - salting, smoking, and pickling - and all are still hugely popular here.”

Foley later opened several other eateries, including The Lime Tree Restaurant, Packie’s Food and Wine and, most recently, the Shelburne Lodge Guesthouse, which she co-operates with her husband.

She shares that the rewards of cooking are transient.

“There is the happiness one receives when tasting a dish or a sauce...and then there is the sheer pleasure of making customers, family, and friends happy.”

Recently, after seven decades of working in the culinary field, Foley released *My Wild Atlantic Kitchen: Recipes and Recollection*. Divided into eight chapters - Breakfast, Starters, Fish, Meat, Vegetables, Desserts & Baking, Sauces, Stocks & Staples, and Dinner Parties - the work includes over 250 of her preferred recipes and memories.

“My favourite recipe from the book is the seafood mousse with beurre blanc. It is an adaptation of Michel Guerard’s recipe from his *Cuisine Gourmande*. When carefully made and poached, the texture of the mousse is like velvet. I put it on the menu in The Lime Tree in the 1980s and then, due

to its popularity, adapted it again for Packie’s Food & Wine into a seafood sausage.”

So far, Foley says that reception to the book has been “magical.”

“Certainly, we were disappointed to have had to cancel our launches. However, COVID-19 has worked to our advantage in some ways: the current climate has given people the time to enjoy the book and to cook their favourite recipes. We have received hundreds of cards and messages from people who love the collection.”

She adds that interest in Celtic cuisine has evolved in recent years, and she remains positive about the future of Irish cooking.

“Lifestyles have evolved. Food was heavier in the old days, but people were more physically active. Irish people are now travelling extensively, and their palates have been influenced by a huge variety of flavours. There are still the same quality ingredients, and a huge emphasis on using local ingredients. I am excited to see younger people appreciate the sourcing of foods and that there has been a shift back to foraging and organic produce.

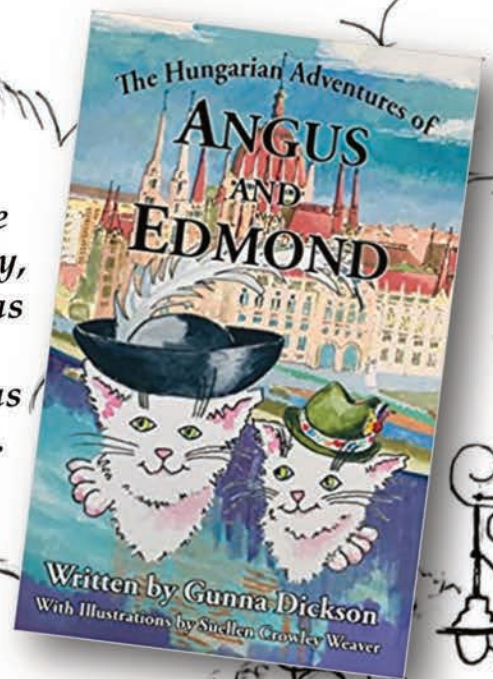
“The way you look at things is the most powerful force in shaping your life,” said John O’Donohue in the *Anam Cara*. I have lived through many tough times and always strive to remain positive. 2020 is a year to live in the moment and to remain optimistic.”

www.mywildatlantickitchen.com

CULTURED CATS

When a spin of their inflatable globe lands Angus and Edmond in Hungary, the Angora-mix littermates emerge as cultured and classical cats.

A day trip to Vienna lands them in as much trouble as they have ever been. Is it enough to make them stop traveling?



"THE HUNGARIAN ADVENTURES OF ANGUS AND EDMOND"

written by Gunna Dickson and illustrated by Suellen Crowley Weaver is available on Amazon.com and other online sites



Belfast's Young at Art celebrates creativity

A crucial component of any comprehensive education, the role of the arts in the school system has diminished in recent years in favour of more lucrative subjects like science and math. Working within the arts is now considered impractical, and even frivolous, without some sort of international acknowledgement or fame. The sentiment is far from true, of course; the arts are a complex and necessary aspect of culture and a vital part of a child's developmental process.

"Every child should have the right to access high-quality arts experiences," explains Eblhin de Barra, director of Belfast-based Young at Art. "It enriches their lives and helps them connect to and understand the world around them and their place in it."

As one of Northern Ireland's leading not-for-profit organizations, Young at Art offers a series of free, open-access educational courses and workshops to those under the age of 18. The group also hosts the annual Belfast Children's Festival, which explores a variety of artistic mediums, including painting, music, dance, literature, theatre, and more.

"Our mandate is 'to create and curate exceptional arts experiences for all children and young people,'" notes de Barra, who is a native of the region and currently resides in Holywood, Co. Down. "We ensure that communities across the city of Belfast and Northern Ireland can do that. And we are winning - the work we do has a reputation for high quality and accessibility."

She says that the Belfast Children's Festival is one of the largest events of its kind in Europe.



"We have audiences that travel to the event from every part of Belfast, across Northern Ireland and further afield. This past March, the gathering was attended by over 22,000 people, with 38 per cent of that audience coming from high deprivation areas. That is very important to us, and thus many of our events are free to participate in or attend. For our engagement programs we target schools and groups in the areas of greatest social need in the city. Who wouldn't want to be a part of this?"

"There really is something for everyone, from babies to grandparents..."

Originally hired in 2011 as Events Manager, de Barra became more involved over time.

"From there, I went on to co-ordinate the community engagement element of a large project for the organization, and I took over as Director in 2016. I am very proud of the work we do, especially the festival, which

brings brilliant and innovative local and international performance work for young audiences to Belfast - work that is often not seen on this island at any other time of year."

She admits that the calling is not without its challenges - even more so now, amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is all about the money. Arts funding in Northern Ireland is a difficult environment after years of cuts to public subsidy, and it is getting harder each year to raise the funds we need to support the festival and our year-round engagement work. The Covid-19 crisis has raised a whole extra set of issues, as we figure out how we can potentially run our activities with social distancing, closed theatres, and more."

Still, she says that seeing the children's faces light-up makes all of the struggles worthwhile.

"That buzz...it never tires. I recently watched a performance which a special school audience and they were having such a great time and laughing and squealing in delight. I just sat back smiling and thought 'This is why we do what we do!'"

As the state of the world continues to change, de Barra and her team are staying positive.

"Although events are all currently suspended, we do hope to kick off our engagement programs again when schools reopen, hopefully in September. And then our focus will shift to planning our 23rd Belfast Children Festival, which we hope will be up and running for March of 2021."

www.youngatartevents.co.uk

SCOTLAND



— 2021 ESCORTED TOURS —

British Isles

Scotland: Dumfries and Galloway

England: Hadrian's Wall, Lake District

Wales: Snowdonia National Park, Welsh Castles

Ireland: Dublin, the magnificent Neolithic site at Knowth in Bru Na Boinne, Belfast

May 7-20, 2021 • 13 Nights • \$5,795

Western & Northern Isles of Scotland

A combination tour of the popular *Lords of the Isles* and *Viking Treasure*. Skye, Lewis, Harris, Orkney, the Northwest and Northeast coasts, and the Highlands.

Includes the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

July 30 - August 15, 2021 • 16 Nights • \$5,995

Special 18th Annual Outlander Tour®

Based on the book series by Diana Gabaldon.

An extended version of the 9-night Outlander Tour.

The addition of the Isle of Lewis, the Calanais Stone Circle, and other archaeological wonders of the Outer Hebrides, makes this extended version a once-in-a-lifetime adventure!

June 20-July 1, 2021 • 11 Nights • \$4,995

18th Annual Outlander Tour®

Based on the book series by Diana Gabaldon.

Time travel back to the 18th-century Highlands, where history and fantasy come face to face. See secret places and magical sites that are off the beaten path and that will paint a new portrait of Scotland for you.

October 2-11, 2021 • 9 Nights • \$3,995

*Deluxe escorted tours
16-guest maximum*

**Contact Judy at
judy@celticjourneys.us**



Scotsmaster / Member of the Better Business Bureau / Licensed and Insured / Tourist Board Certification

www.CelticJourneys.us • (703) 941-6455



Brian Cox's latest film, *The Etruscan Smile*, was shot on location in the Scottish Highlands and in San Francisco. In the movie, Cox plays Rory MacNeil, a rugged old Scotsman who reluctantly leaves behind his beloved Hebridean home to seek medical treatment in America. Moving in with his estranged son, Rory's life will be transformed - when he least expects it - through the redemptive power of love. Recently we spoke with the renowned thespian - a man of few words and many roles - about his past, present, future, and his passion for his profession.



What first inspired you to get into acting?

I was a natural performer from childbirth or even earlier. I did give a bit of a performance with my mother when she was giving birth to me. I first started performing at the age of two, encouraged by my father and my sister, May. They used to have me singing the songs of Al Jolson. I loved the comeback from the folks listening and watching!

Is that the same reason you continue to do it today?

Probably! But a little more refined.

What are the challenges of the profession?

Insecurity and rejection.

What are the rewards?

Security and acceptance

What have been some favorite roles and career highlights?

Favorite roles are too numerous to mention.

What have been some career highlights?

Cracking an impossibly difficult role. Titus Andronicus for the Royal Shakespeare Company.

How do you prepare for a role?

Learn the lines!

Is your creative process more 'inspirational' or 'perspirational'?

Bit of both!

What makes a good film?

A good story, good players, good director, good cameraman, good script.

What makes a good character?

A beginning, middle and an end. In other words, an arc.

What advice might you have for a young person looking to start a career in acting?

Keep your eye on the ball. Don't deviate!

What are your thoughts on the state of Scottish cinema/television today?

Pretty, pretty good and getting better all the time!

What is next on your creative agenda?

Surviving COVID-19.

www.etruescansmile.com



LIAM O'SHIEL

EIRELAN

SAGA OF THE LATTER DAY CELTS
BOOK ONE

*As Uinseann often says, we must be content
with life and love and the beauty of the earth.
All the rest is dust in the wind.*

~ Journal of Liadan Laigain

Available on Amazon • www.eirelan.com

John Doyle

Irish troubadour John Doyle returns with his most authentic album yet



Pursuing a career in music is a no-brainer when you grow up in a family like John Doyle's. The Dublin-native spent many of his formative years surrounded by the stirring sounds of traditional Ireland - which, he says, he "heard from both sides."

"I always loved the music," he tells Celtic Life International via email. "It sunk in deep. It really felt like a language I had to communicate in. My father, Sean Doyle, is and was a lovely singer and collector of traditional songs. His father was an accordion player, as was my uncle on my mother's side."

Although his first foray into music was with the accordion, it wasn't long before the young performer settled his sights on a more contemporary instrument.

"I was about 10 or 11 when I started playing the guitar. At the time I played it upside down, as I am left-handed, and it really consumed me. I have had a love for the guitar ever since. I eventually began busking, which is where I met the singer Susan Ryan (now McKeown), and we started to play and write songs together. That was when I considered playing professionally for the first time. We lived in Dingle, Co. Kerry for a year and, in that time, I happened to meet the wonderful musician and guitarist Steve Cooney. He saw me playing and advised me to start pursuing the vocation professionally, which really boosted my confidence."

Doyle wasted no time heeding the advice and worked swiftly toward a fruitful career

in the music industry. Originally a member of the award-winning supergroup Solas, the 41-year-old pursued a solo career in 2000 and, taking inspiration from the likes of Andy Irvine, Paul Brady, and Dick Gaughan, quickly defined his own style and sound.

And though that style and sound has certainly evolved over time, he still aims to stay true to his original mandate.

"I am always trying to refine my playing to suit myself more. I like to see how I can blend vocals and guitar or bouzouki into a unified sound and make it feel as one. I still think of music as a language that I can communicate in, however - it transcends many barriers.

"Sometimes I feel that I am speaking for my ancestors when I play music - as if I am speaking to them."

Recently, Doyle released his first full-length studio album since the very popular *Shadow and Light* album (2011). Titled *Path of Stones*, the 11-track recording is both powerful and mesmerizing in equal measure and introduces listeners to a more relaxed and rooted side of him.

"I have been working on this album for a good several years, off and on. Other projects kept seeming to come up and they would shift my attention for a while, but I would

come back and chip away some more on it. A good few of the songs and tunes have their base in Co Sligo. There is one song based in Teelin in Co. Donegal close to where some of my relations live. The album is a bit more reflective than the others; there is a hint of longing in virtually all the songs, and each track holds something special for me.

"I tend to write songs and tunes in waves of inspiration. Most of these songs or melodies were written in Ireland, and there is an energy to them that always reminds me of home. So, maybe the Emerald Isle herself is part of the inspiration."

He notes that the album has already garnered a tremendous amount of critical and popular acclaim.

"I really didn't know what to expect as it is a little different - more 'laid back,' than my previous releases. However, I am really happy about the response, and just having people like what I create is a joy and reward in itself."

Not one to rest between projects, Doyle is already jumping onto his next.

"I am excited about a duet album with Mick McAuley that will feature Oisín McAuley. In this time of isolation it's good for me to keep busy with projects - to keep playing and writing and singing as much as possible."

www.johndoylemusic.com

Heather Knight

Clothing & Gifts



HeatherKnight.ca

Creative and a little sassy, Heather Knight has been handcrafting clothing at her studio in rural Nova Scotia for more than 25 years.

Artistry and originality combine to create unique clothing infused with the spirit of Celtic and Canadian culture.

Wholesale & Retail

Handcrafted in Nova Scotia Since 1992





Emian

Pagan folk band Emian celebrates Celtic culture with their latest release

Those curious about the power of fate need look no further than Emian, the talented pagan folk duo based in Southern Italy. While the group's two members, Emilio A. Cozza and Anna Cefalo, were born and raised in entirely different regions of the country - Salento and Campania, respectively - they were fortunate to meet each other in 2011 at a community house for artists in Cumae.

"It was love at first sight," recalls Cefalo via email. "Before launching Emian, we played in two different Celtic projects, but we soon started to play together for fun. Before we knew it, requests for gigs began to pour in. We needed a name, and the first thing that came to mind was to join our first names...and so Emian was born!"

She notes that the couple come from distinct musical backgrounds.

"Emilio's great-great grandmother played tamburello salentino (tambourine) in public for serenades, so he grew up listening to stories about her. Over the years, he learned to play the tamburello salentino, the guitar, percussion, violin, flute and many other instruments, including bagpipes, both Scottish and medieval.

"I started to play music because, as I always like to say, I have it in my blood," she continues. "My entire family played music, and most of them were in bands. I started studying classical harp in Conservatorio when I was 11. In 2002 I bought my first

Celtic harp. I also studied classical and modern dance from the ages of three to 12. My first performance as a singer was at 13 and, in 2004, I started to learn how to sing with the harp. Now I play the Indian harmonium and some percussion also."

After performing various gigs and recording a handful of singles, Emian released their debut full-length album *AcquaTerra* in 2013, which Cefalo describes as a "dedication to the folk of the Celtic areas." The pair then went on to record three additional albums, including *Winter Solstice* (2014), *Khymeia* (2016) and their most recent effort *Egeria* (2019). While still led entirely by Cefalo and Cozza, the later albums were supported by fellow musicians Danilo Lupi and Martino D'Amico.

Cefalo notes the band's style and sound is a true musical melange.

"Not only is our music Celtic, but it is Balkan, Northern European, Mediterranean - totally original. We have taken musical influences from the whole world. We love combining past and present to get new results. At the same time, we have never forgotten the purity and beauty of acoustic folk music. Our hope is to always keep both aspects - pure acoustic folk music and the folktronic pagan folk. We are inspired both by the outer world and the inner world: a memory, a sound that we liked, the voice of a new musical instrument, and even the natural world."

She admits that a career in music can be challenging, especially in a place like Italy where the trade is rarely taken seriously.

"For us music is a real thing - it is not just a hobby - it is a full-time profession and something we live for."

"Because of that, there are sacrifices; study, money invested in instruments, hours of work, strenuous journeys, frustration, and so on. This is especially true for independent artists like us, as we end up doing the work of an entire team.

"Fortunately, the rewards are worth all of the work; the people who support our music and who sing our songs, the folks we have met on our journey, the musicians we have learned from, the opportunity to travel and experience other cultures, and the simple joy of composing new material."

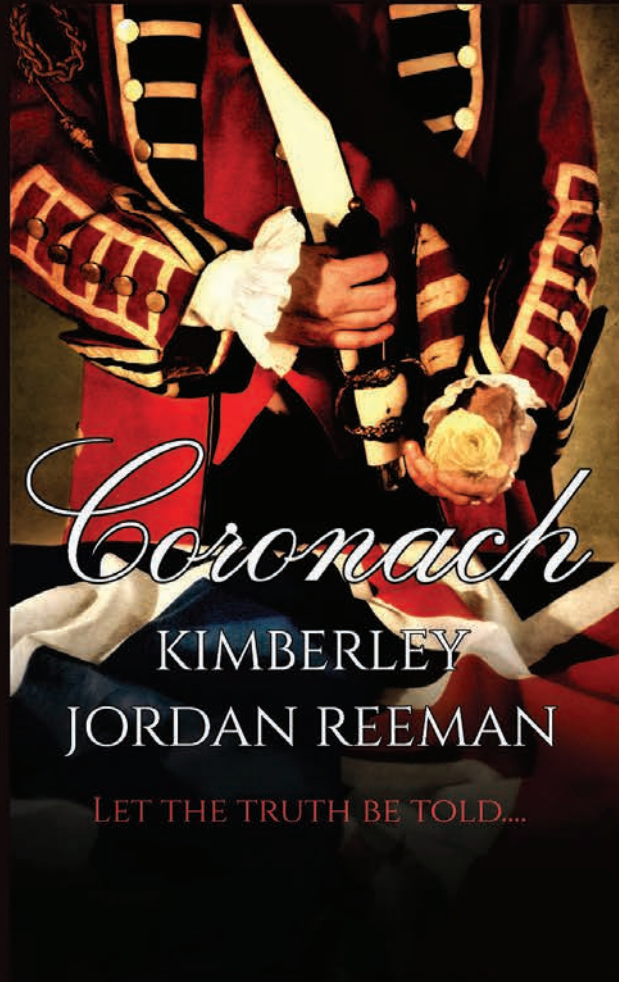
While things have slowed down in the past few months, Cefalo says that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is not enough to stop Emian from doing what they love.

"We are following protocols and we have had to cancel or postpone a few things, but we will keep on creating music and hope that the situation will be resolved soon as we still have many ideas and projects to realize."

www.emianpaganfolkmusic.wixsite.com/emian

WAR. ATROCITY. WOUNDS ON THE SOUL OF A NATION.

"A POWERFUL SAGA." *History Scotland*



"A MIGHTY READ." *Scottish Field*

www.douglasreeman.com



Celtica

Celtica captures the concert experience with their latest studio recording

2019 was a bit of a bumpy year for Celtica - Pipes Rock! The Euro-Celtic metal band said goodbye to a few long-time band members, with piper Jane Espie taking a leave of absence at the end of the year and drummer Tom Cadek parting ways in the fall.

Even guitarist Gajus Stappen, who founded the group in Phoenix, Arizona in 2009 - also recording their first videos in the Grand Canyon and Monument Valley the same year - is stepping back from touring the United States going forward.

However, last year had some major highlights for the band as well: they welcomed two new members, piper Ernesto Gongora and drummer Lukas Schlintl, held their first Asian concert in Mumbai, and won International Artist of the Year at the 2019 Australian Celtic Music Awards.

Not bad for their 10th anniversary year. And, with new blood and renewed enthusiasm, Celtica was ready to hit the ground running in 2020.

Then...2020 happened.

The new-found time off has given Stappen a chance to revisit his first musical influences; Jimi Hendrix, Eddie Van Halen, Steve Lukather, and Steve Vai.

"It was at the age of 13," he recalls via email. "I just loved bands like the Beatles as well as all the guitar heroes."

Like those famous six-stringers, Stappen designs his tunes to work best in concert.

"It is very satisfying to compose and arrange tunes in the studio, but my main motivation is still to perform live on stage. I love the energy of an electrifying concert..."

As such, the band's latest album, *Celtic Spirits* (May, 2020), was composed with crackling, electric energy, meant to pulse from the stage and course through the veins of their fans in the mosh pit. And while concert performances are out of the question for the next while, Stappen is confident that sense of energy will still come through on home media players, even if it is but a fraction of the live experience.

"My intention was to make an album that works perfectly when performed on stage, certain that our audience will love every single note - unfortunately, we have to wait another full year until we can play it live. But for CD-based music, I am very happy with

our Beethoven-like 'Time to Rise' and 'Ferum Noricum' - I also love the quieter 'Healing Tune' as well. Asking me to pick a favourite track is a bit like asking a father if he has a favourite child!"

Stappen is convinced that the power of Celtic rock will weather the current storms just fine; it is the individual artists who carry the cultural customs that he is concerned for right now.

"The Coronavirus crisis is a disaster for all performing artists. To survive it as a band or a solo musician is an incredible challenge. I am not worried about Celtic music itself - the genre has a long and rich tradition and has survived many terrible times - but it is extremely hard on the musicians.

"This year, all artists are being forced to be creative in different ways; I will frequently post band stories and videos to keep contact with our fans, and I try to find a way that we can make a real band video. We are in three different countries, however, so I have to be prepared to start as soon as the borders are open and the planes fly again."

For the time being, he and his bandmates are getting pumped up with the possibilities for the future.

"We have a major project planned for the spring of 2021 - to perform another concert with an orchestra and choir. Though the one we did at the Montelago Celtic Festival in 2017 was a massive amount of work, it was also a huge success."

www.celticarocks.com



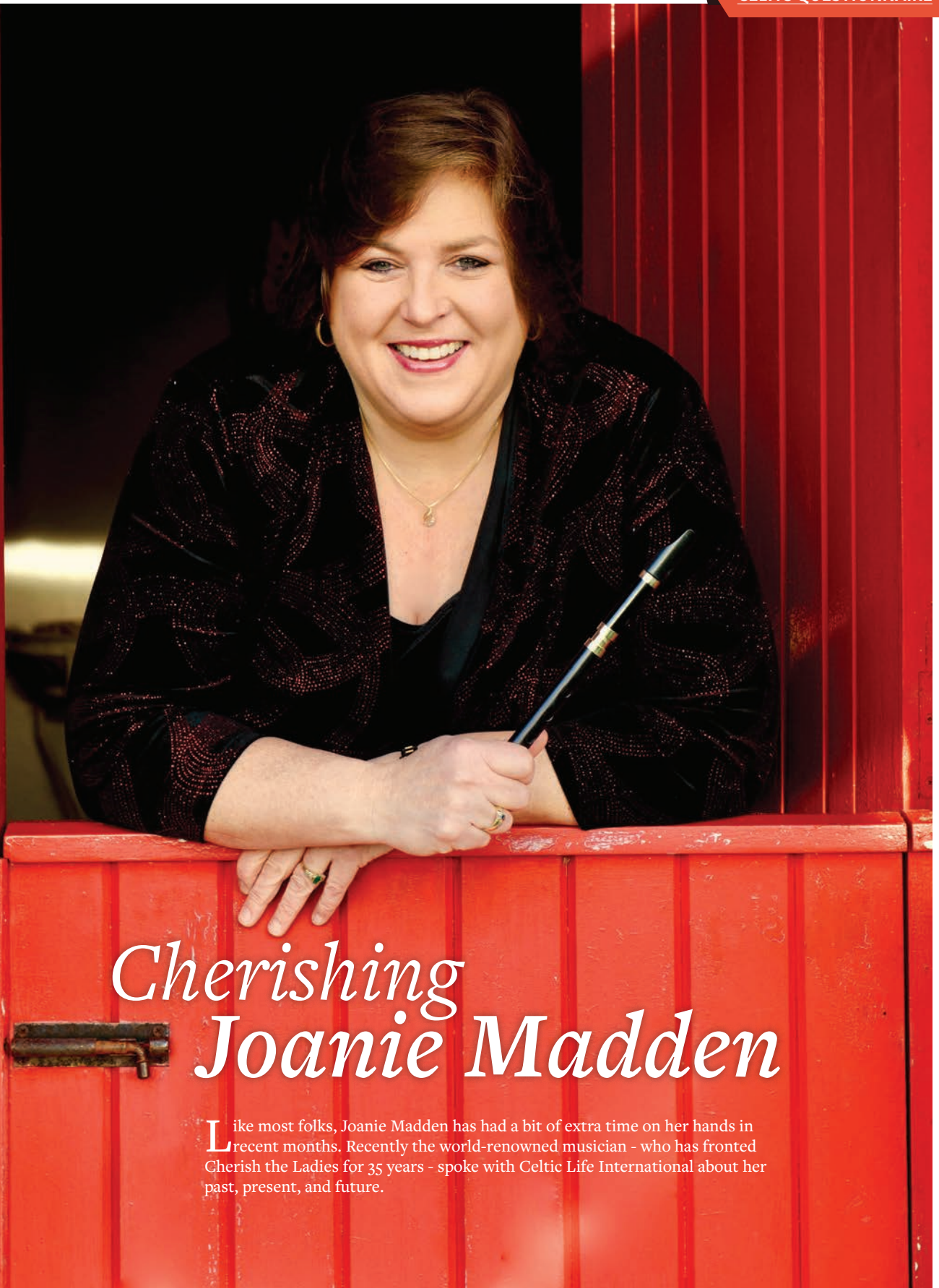
Nominated for best Traditional Folk Album by
JUNO & EAST COAST MUSIC AWARDS

NATALIE MACMASTER SKETCHES

Natalie MacMaster's first solo record in eight years takes us on a musical journey of the award winning fiddler's Cape Breton history.

Available Now





Cherishing Joanie Madden

Like most folks, Joanie Madden has had a bit of extra time on her hands in recent months. Recently the world-renowned musician - who has fronted Cherish the Ladies for 35 years - spoke with Celtic Life International about her past, present, and future.



What are your own roots?

I was born in the Bronx, New York, of Irish parents. Both of my parents emigrated from Ireland: my mother is from Miltown Malbay, County Clare, and my father is from Portumna, County Galway.

Where do you currently reside?

I live in Yonkers, New York, in the very Irish neighborhood of Woodlawn. I also have a home in County Clare where I love to spend a few months of the year.

When and why did you start playing music?

I was fortunate to grow up in a musical household with my father, Joe Madden, a very well-known and respected musician on the Irish-American scene. When my father arrived in New York, he joined an orchestra led by the legendary Sligo fiddler Paddy Kiloran where he played for a number of years until Paddy retired and handed the band over to my Dad. Joe Madden's orchestra was born, and over the course of decades

he played hundreds of events, including weddings, balls, dinner dances, and various other functions. I was one of seven children, and my father noticed early on that I had music in me. After brief stints on the fiddle and piano (two lessons!), I found the instrument that called to my heart - the whistle. My father's great friend, noted flute player and National Heritage award winner Jack Coen, lived just five doors away from us and I went to him for my first lesson when I was 12. I was immediately hooked, and I would run home from school to play at every opportunity. When I was 14, my family moved to Yorktown Heights in New York, and from there on I taught myself. New York has some of the best Irish traditional players in the world and I was lucky to have great flute players as influences, including Jack Coen, Mike Raffety, and Mike Preston - the flute player with the Tulla Ceili Band. As soon as I knew two tunes, I was in my dad's band and loved performing from the get-go.

Are they the same reasons you do it today?

I fell in love with Irish music - there is just

something about it: it's like a drug, when it gets under your skin, there is no stopping it. I went away to college to be an accountant because my mother told me I was good with numbers, but I quickly realized that I wanted to make my living playing Irish music and that I would simply be miserable doing anything else. Much to my parents' dismay, I quit college and went after my dream to make a living playing Irish music.

What are the challenges involved with the vocation?

Anyone who tells a musician that we have the life of Riley has never walked in our shoes. Let me tell you - it is not easy being a musician: you have to create your own work, there is no stability, no pension, an erratic work schedule, and life on the road is very hard. Keeping a band together is not easy, but thankfully I was tenacious and, along with the band, we never gave up.

What are the rewards?

Undoubtedly, it is the people that make all the work and effort worthwhile. To know

that you have touched someone's life with your music, to give someone a bit of happiness and let them forget about their problems for a few hours, and to receive all the touching emails and letters that we get from our fans, make all of the struggle worth it. At the end of the day, to be able to do what you love for a living is beyond rewarding.

When did the band first come together?

We got together thanks to Dr. Mick Moloney and the Ethnic Folk Arts Center in New York City. In 1983, myself, Eileen Ivers, and others had a great year representing America at the All-Ireland Championships, bringing home a number of gold medals: Eileen won the fiddle, I won the whistle, the flute, and the duet competition with Kathy McGinty, and together with a 10-piece group placed 3rd in the senior all-Ireland ceili band - and we were all women, except our drummer, Tommy Smyth. Mick thought this was astounding and called me up to help him organize a series of concerts featuring women musicians to celebrate the growth of women's role in Irish Music. I suggested the title, Cherish the Ladies - the name of a traditional Irish jig - and those first three concerts all sold out.

How has it evolved since that time?

This year marks the 35th anniversary of our first concert in New York City. It is quite remarkable that those three concerts evolved into my life's work, having since performed over 3,000 concerts around the globe in the finest performing arts centers and recording seventeen albums along the way. We certainly grew in showmanship: the quality of our music, and the addition of incredible dancers add much to our shows. We grew as a band and, thankfully, people have continued to follow us and support us, allowing us to keep doing what we do.

How would you describe your sound today?

I am so proud of all the women and men that I get to share this with each and every night, and I am so lucky to be surrounded by such talent and to have them by my side for all these years. In the group, I play flute, whistle, and sing harmony vocals. Mary Coogan has been with me for 35 years and she plays guitar, banjo, and mandolin. In addition, we have Mirella Murray (accordion), Kathleen Boyle (piano, harmony vocals), Nollaig

Casey (fiddle), and Kate Purcell (singer, guitar). Each member is individually spectacular and creative on their instrument, bringing something unique to the table to create our collective sound and style. We all come from musical families where the gift of our fathers music was the most precious thing that they could have given us. We have all had music passed down to us, and though we want to add to it, we never stray too far from those traditional roots. When it comes to arranging, we compose much of our music, and we also spend a lot of time going through old manuscripts picking out tunes that are hundreds of years old, perhaps long forgotten, and bringing them back to life. I like to think we have a unique sound - no one sounds like us and we don't sound like anybody else!



What have been some career highlights?

Wow, there have been so many! One of the greatest experiences has been performing with symphony orchestras: we have been the guest soloists for many of the top symphonies in America and have performed over 300 orchestral concerts and, in that regard, we are one of the most successful pop acts in history. The thrill of playing the penny whistle alongside a 100-piece orchestra never gets old. Other highlights include performing at Bob Dylan's private party after his 35th anniversary concert at Madison Square Garden, playing on the Great Wall of China, playing at the White House and performing at the Olympic Games.

Is your creative process more 'inspirational' or 'perspirational'?

I only write when something comes to me. I am not one to sit down and simply start composing - something must affect me or move me, and when I start composing I write in a few minutes.

What makes a good song?

A catchy melody, a hook, a great story, and strong chorus.

What are your thoughts on the current state of the Irish/Celtic music scene?

The level of virtuosity is nothing short of amazing. Kids around the world today are playing at such a high standard, and the music is in a great place. Festivals do a good job at showcasing Celtic rock bands, but I would like to see greater emphasis placed upon fiddles, flutes, accordions, and bands that perform traditional tunes.

Is enough being done to preserve and promote Irish/Celtic culture generally?

You would have to go to a lot of cultures to see as much promotion and as many young people involved with music, dance, sports as the Irish. The number of kids playing music, Irish dancing, and competing in Gaelic athletic games is astounding - we are the envy of any other ethnic group. There are many teachers that continue to pass the music down via things like Skype, and parents and grandparents are doing their part to make sure the kids get to lessons. It is wonderful to see.

What is on the band's agenda for the remainder of 2020?

With our 35th anniversary year we had a very busy calendar, but now we have been completely grounded with COVID-19. No one saw this coming. We are now figuring out ways to stay in touch with our fans via Facebook and YouTube until we are able to get out on the road again. And I have had to postpone my Mediterranean cruise until September of 2021. That said, I know that we will rise above and get through this.

www.cherishtheladies.com



IT'S TIME TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART

Powerscourt House and Gardens, County Wicklow

And it's telling you to come home. Home to family, friends, stories. Home to festivals, traditional music, and the Irish pub. Home to majestic landscapes and fabulous feasts.

You know the places. The castles illuminated by fiery sunsets. The tranquil beauty where High Kings once reigned supreme. The cities fusing modern life with legacies that remember the Vikings. The landmarks that pepper the shores, charting tragedy, triumphs and treasures. This is the place where smiles are broad and the 100,000 welcomes are legendary.

They say you should always listen to your heart. Now's the time...

Serving Dublin airport and connecting cities across Canada, Toronto offers year-round direct flights to Ireland.

Find your way home at

 **Ireland.com**

MacRebur

A trio of friends are on the road to success and significance





Toby McCartney often took his daughters to school and, as sometimes happened, would attend one of their school assemblies where parents were encouraged to stay and listen to the children interact with teachers on a variety of subjects. One particular morning the topic was “The Ocean” and the teacher asked the children, “what would you expect to find in the ocean?” There were the anticipated answers of fish, whales, and dolphins. Then, one of McCartney’s daughters put her hand up and said, “plastic, Miss!” Now, we may all be aware of issues surrounding the blight of plastic waste upon our planet but for McCartney, this was a sudden moment of realization brought home with added impact. His daughter expected to find plastic in the sea!

McCartney and his wife live in rural southwest Scotland and with his daughter’s answer still preying on his mind he was confronted by a more pressing issue. The roads around where he lives were deteriorating and potholes were becoming a problem. While on a family visit, his mother-in-law - who lives only a few miles away and whom he affectionately describes as one of the “great Scottish complainers” - drove into one of the potholes, damaging her car’s suspension and incurring a sizeable repair bill. She announced that she wouldn’t be visiting again until the Council repaired the road.

With Council budgets slashed and little chance of the potholes being filled anytime soon McCartney remembered something that he had seen years before while working for a charity in India. There he had witnessed “pickers” sifting through mountains of rubbish, collecting items that had a residual value or could be reused. One boy he encountered was collecting only waste plastic. When asked what he did with

the plastic, he explained that it was put into potholes in roads, doused with petrol and set alight. It melted to form a temporary filler. In frustration at the length of time it was taking the Council to repair the potholes near his home, McCartney effected his own repairs using the same technique explained to him years earlier in India. It partly solved the immediate problem, but it did not go down well with the local authority once his repairs were discovered.

However, it did get him thinking about a possible connection between two seemingly-disparate problems: how to help rid the world of waste plastic and how to improve road building.

By his own admission McCartney didn’t do well at school, leaving without any qualifications, but nonetheless having exhibited an aptitude for entrepreneurial skills. As a child his grandfather made him a wooden tuck box to which he fitted a lock, filled it with assorted treats, and

added a price list to the lid. He soon became regarded as the kid who sold stuff and the one who could get stuff. At the age of nine he wrote to Richard Branson asking, “How do I do what you do?” He was astonished when Branson wrote back describing the merits of following your dreams, dedication, and hard work. That reply was a huge influence on the young boy and he still ascribes his success in subsequent business ventures to that sound advice. With Branson’s words still ringing in his ears from three decades earlier he enlisted the help of two friends - Nick Burnett, who worked in waste management, and Gordon Reid, whose background was in the construction industry - and together they started exploring how waste plastic could be used in the production of roads. Although he had no science background, McCartney knew that oil was used in the manufacture of plastic and also that bitumen - which is mixed with aggregate to create asphalt - was similarly made from crude oil and was the main material used in modern road construction. For the non-scientist it seemed feasible that there must be a process by which plastic could be returned to its oil-based state and used in place of some of the crude oil in the bitumen mix. This would not only enable waste plastic to be recycled, but would also reduce the amount of fossil fuel - in the form of newly extracted crude oil - required in the construction of roads.

The idea of putting plastic in roads was not necessarily a new concept; South Africa has been using rubber crumbed into its road mixes for years. More recently, some companies have been experimenting with plastic additives in road construction - but McCartney is unaware of anyone utilizing waste plastic.





Using McCartney's garage as a workshop, the trio put their heads together and started experimenting.

The main issue was how to melt the plastic and get it to mix with bitumen in a homogenous way that didn't result in the formation of microplastics that could be released back into the environment through natural erosion of the road surface or vehicular degradation. In addition, the end-product mustn't compromise the integrity of road surfaces and, if anything, should aim to enhance their strength and durability. The process of experimenting to create a product that could satisfy all these requirements resulted in 844 unsuccessful laboratory tests before test 845 gave them the result that they so desperately sought.

In 2016, buoyed by their hard-won success, the three friends founded MacRebur - the name being derived from a partial combination of their surnames - and set up business premises in Lockerbie. Here they take commercial and domestic plastic waste and granulate it into particles no larger than 3/16 inches (5mm). McCartney is keen to point out that, "there is only a small percentage of plastic waste that, owing to its make-up, cannot be used, but we can utilize most plastic - including black plastic - which is difficult to recycle."

To the plastic granules is added their secret ingredient - a polymer activator. This mix is then sent to bitumen/asphalt producers enabling them to reduce the amount of crude oil from fossil fuel reserves required to make their products. The entire process returns the waste plastic to its original oil-based state, leaving no residual plastic particles to cause future environmental damage. In addition, laboratory tests indicate that the added flexibility of the end product

should result in road surfaces with increased durability and longevity.

To date, the product has been used in roads, roundabouts, car parks, airport runways, and racetracks. In the U.K. it has been used in road construction in Aberdeenshire, Yorkshire, and Cumbria. The bulk of the company's sales, however, are now overseas. MacRebur exports the complete package, including manufacturing machines, manufacturing license agreements, intellectual property rights, public relations marketing information, and technical support. This enables individual authorities to process their own waste plastic using the all-important MacRebur additive. MacRebur's product can now be found in the U.S.A. - Alabama, Texas, Florida, and California - as well as in Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Slovakia, and Slovenia. For local authorities the cost of the set-up is more than offset by not having to deal with negative value waste that is costly and environmentally damaging to dispose of, while at the same time improving their "green-credentials." The end result is a more environmentally-friendly road construction that should provide improved durability.

Although MacRebur has now featured on news stations such as BBC, CNN, CNBC, Sky, and Fox - and has attracted numerous accolades and won several awards - there is one honour that means more to McCartney than any other. In 2016, MacRebur won best start-up category in Richard Branson's Virgin Media VOOM Awards. For McCartney it was more than just an award, "I was given the award by the man who had taken the time to reply to a letter I had written to him when I was only nine years old and who had been my inspiration for many years - that was something special!"

www.macrebur.com

Story by Tom Langlands
www.tomlanglandsphotography.com



15th Annual Jamestown Regional

Celtic Festival and Gathering of the Clans

Mayville Lakeside Park, Mayville, New York

Postponed to August 27 & 28, 2021

- ♦ 9 Pipe Bands
- ♦ 6 Celtic Bands
- ♦ 27 Heavy Athletes
- ♦ Scottish & Irish Dancers

- ♦ 25 Clans
- ♦ Beer & Wine Garden
- ♦ Celtic & Craft Vendors
- ♦ Celtic & Great Food

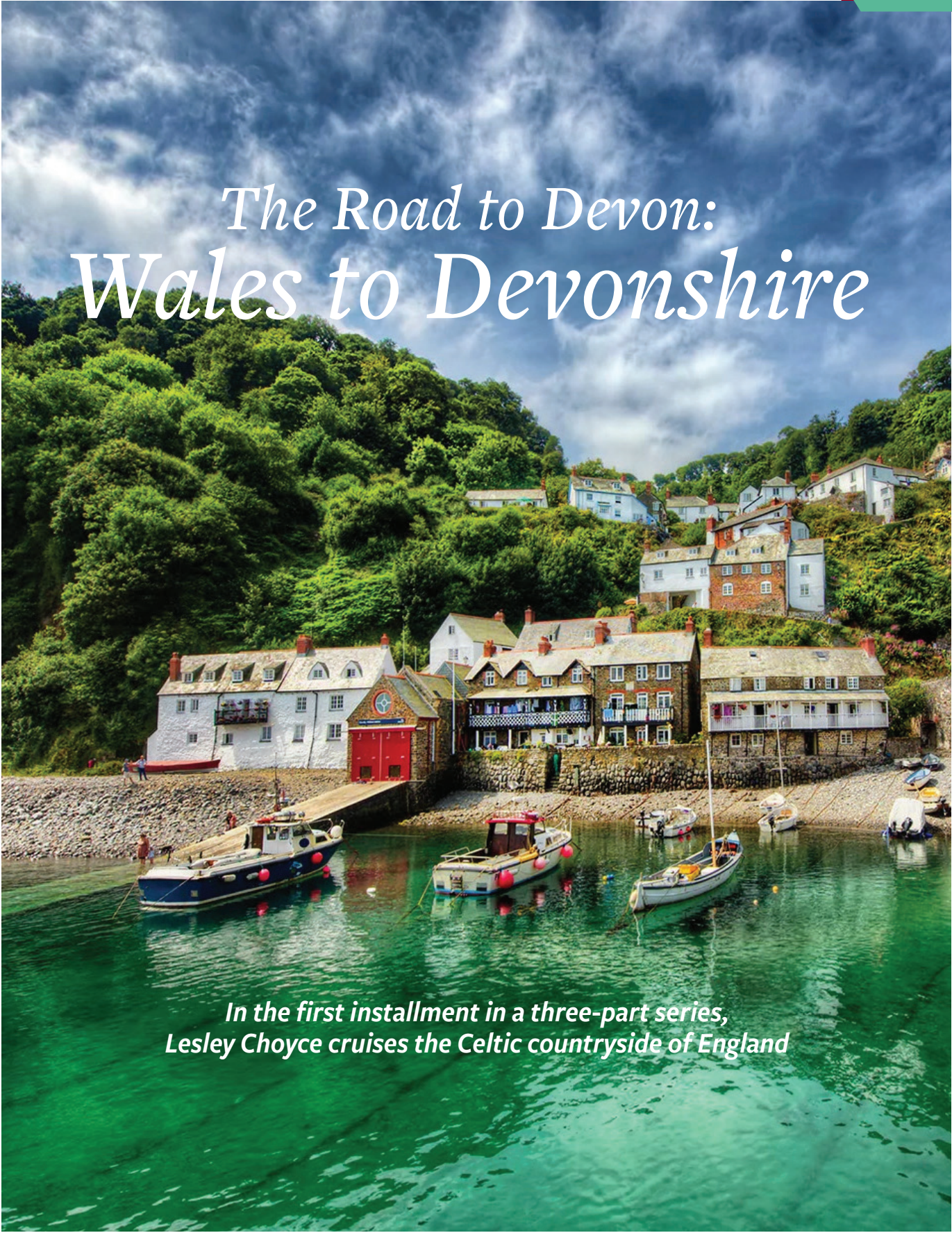


Due to the ongoing seriousness of the COVID-19 PANDEMIC and a ban on group gatherings by the state government for the foreseeable future the Jamestown Region Celtic Festival Committee regretfully announces the cancellation of the 15th Annual Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival and Gathering of the Clans and the New York State Men's and Women's Scottish Heavy Athletic Championships.

We had a tough time making the decision, but felt it was in the best interest of all participants and spectator's health and safety to go ahead and postpone this year's festival. We are going to reschedule it for August 27th and 28th, 2021. Hopefully by then we should be back to some form of normal state and have a healthier safer festival.

We hope you and your families stay healthy and safe and we will be looking forward to seeing you all next year.





The Road to Devon: Wales to Devonshire

*In the first installment in a three-part series,
Lesley Choyce cruises the Celtic countryside of England*



We were on the last leg of a long-awaited, month-long circumnavigation of the U.K. and various pockets of the Celtic World. My 32-year-old daughter, Pamela, was due to have twins shortly after our return to Canada but, waking up one morning in our stone cottage in Wales, we learned she was going into premature labour.

I heavily invested my day in worrying about Pamela as my wife Linda texted back and forth with Kathy Craig, who was staying with my daughter in her hospital room. I tried to let my faith in the Canadian healthcare system override my many concerns as a father, but I felt the inevitable fear that any parent feels when they are far from their child in a time of need.

Linda ran through the town at 6 a.m. the next morning as I walked my worry and my dog up into the forest behind the slate homestead. As we passed a hostel, I saw an assortment of people, young and old, eating toast and granola and speaking in several languages. The \$300 running shoes I had salvaged from the outdoor store dumpster felt great on my feet as we left the paved road and trekked through a narrow forest trail with wet and shiny leaves on either side. Kelty was acting crazy, sniffing whatever it was that he detected.

I've lost much of my sense of smell over the years, so I probably don't have the capability to use the six million olfactory receptors in my nose, but dogs reportedly have 300 million of them in their nostrils and use forty times more of their brain than we poor humans to process scents. Here, in the woods of Wales, Kelty's brain was on fire trying to sort out whatever traces of animals had passed through here overnight. I felt guilty every time I tugged on his leash to

move us back towards our cottage.

Soon we were on the road, headed east on the A5, with little traffic and still not quite sure if we should bail on Devon and make a run for the Eurotunnel in Folkestone. There was little traffic and the hills of Wales were green and benign beneath a blue-sky hosting cotton puffs of clouds.

*As my troubled mind turned
over like the drum of an old
cement mixer my father once used,
a guiding spirit that had no name
assured me that all would be well
back home in Nova Scotia.
Stick with the plan.*

Alas, the miles rolled reasonably by as we drove back towards England through Pentrefoelas, Glasfryn, Cerrigydrudion, past Ewe-phoria again, then Druid and Corwen. The traffic jam in Llangollen was long gone as we breezed through and headed towards Shropshire. And then, at nine o'clock in the morning, at the very instant we crossed the border from Wales to England, Linda received a text from Kathy Craig. Pamela had given birth to twin girls: Genevieve Kathryn and Scarlet Lesley. They were eight weeks premature. Pamela's illness had triggered something, sending her into labour and the doctors had performed a Caesarean operation to bring the babies safely into the world.

I felt both happy and sad, remorseful that we were so far away yet relieved that the babies were okay. Eight weeks premature seemed like an awfully long time ahead of schedule. What might that

mean to their health, to my granddaughters' ability to survive? Linda and I drove on in silence through Oswestry and on towards Shrewsbury. A second message and a third assured us that the babies were "fine," that Pamela was recovering, and there was no reason to return home. The twins would, however, remain in the neonatal intensive care unit for quite some time and it was likely that we wouldn't even be allowed to visit them for safety reasons even if we were at home. Pamela was being well cared for and Kathy would keep us up to date on everything.

I don't remember much about the drive after that: we connected with the M5 at Wolverhampton and turned south - Worcester, Tewkesbury, Gloucester and all the rest was a bit of a blur. The urban sprawl and industrial calamity of Bristol drew my attention, but it soon gave way to more green hills on both sides of the motorway and the broad blue expanse of Bristol Channel, where so many ships in centuries gone by had departed this Old World, heading across the Atlantic to America and Canada. It was a morning to give worries over to grander thoughts about births and beginnings. At least I tried.

Linda and I fussed over what we should do as we passed the familiar turn-off to Cheddar and headed towards Taunton where my father had once stayed at a home as a soldier during the war. He and a comrade were driving a truck carrying a salvaged bomber wing they had picked up at Land's End, shuttling it to an airbase near Bedford. The hosts had served them a traditional English breakfast he would never forget - eggs and greasy toast and blood sausages and fresh trout they had caught in the stream outside their door that very



"It was the first time I ever had fish for breakfast," I could still hear him say. And it was the voice of my dead father in my inner ear now clearly telling me that all would be okay with Genevieve, Scarlet, and Pamela - and so it was that I continued to quell the voices suggesting otherwise.

I was dead tired of driving and worry when we pulled into the Tesco parking lot outside Exeter. It was hot and humid as Kely and I made our traditional foray around the perimeter of the pavement jammed with cars, seeking out small pockets of shade and dead grass. As always, I found myself studying the trash on the ground as Kely unleashed his 300 million olfactory receptors to do their work sniffing out the passage of other dogs, cats, squirrels, hedgehogs, and humans. There were quite a few empty Skittles packages in the weeds and Marlboro Gold cigarette boxes. A condom or two indicated that not everyone in the vicinity had the luxury of a private bedroom for their sexual activity and I wondered if the broken comb was part of the story somehow. And, yes, there were plastic cups, bright red or orange, and those damn plastic straws the Hangin' Pizza people back in Betws-y-Coed had been preaching against.

Growing weary (and still a little more than worried), I plonked down on a patch of dead grass beneath a sickly pine tree. A grey-haired man with a small bag of groceries was just arriving back at his Mercedes parked at my feet and saw us sitting there. Travelling with a dog almost certainly always gives strangers cause to say something to you. He must have noted the exhausted look on my face because he said in a most friendly manner, "I know just how you feel," and I wasn't sure if it was addressed to me with the sad-dog look or Kely with his tongue hanging out as he panted from the heat. But it was an act of small kindness in a world currently populated with litter and fretting. The man made a small motion with his hand - as if he were tipping his hat, only he had no hat, as he opened the door of his gray Mercedes and sat down.

At long last, Linda returned with a wobbly cart full of groceries and we thought we had but a short drive to our home rental - Little Hazelcote Cottage - near Manaton in (or on?) Dartmoor. We had been



Hosham Steps



St James Church

given two sets of directions - one taking us south and one taking us north - and I chose the northerly approach which would take us through Moretonhampstead, near the home of Tony Hawks, which was what had set the Devonian wheels in motion to begin with. This turned out to be a monumental mistake.

Our directions were faulty to say the least and I had not expected the roads in this part of Devon to be so narrow and poorly maintained.

This, despite the fact that Mr. Hawks had well warned all his readers of this fact in his book, *Once Upon A Time in the West Country*. He claimed that Devon has a "10,000-mile labyrinthine network of lanes" and, upon reading that book, I hoped that one day I too would be an author who could use the word "labyrinthine" effortlessly in my prose.

When we arrived in Moretonhampstead, I was of the opinion it was too busy and crowded and that we should not dawdle but push on to Manaton on the back roads described by our host as "the shortcut." The roads had no names, and there were a few signs pointing towards towns like Sloncombe, Postbridge and Chagford, but none pointing us to Manaton. "Turn left at the white barn," and "At the difficult crossroads, take a sharp left" proved to be of no real help and pretty soon we were lost.

To make matters worse, I had soldiered us on down a potholed slim donkey track of some sort with ancient stone walls on both sides, taking us deeper and deeper down into a gully with massive blackberry vines scratching the car on both sides. At the bottom of

the gully there was a stream - the River Bovey I would later learn. I found a pull-off just before a narrow ancient stone bridge but then noticed that just across the little bridge were two police cars - those miniature British versions that Americans find funny. Someone told me that these smallish cop cars are often referred to as "pandas" or "jam sandwiches," but I'm not sure I should believe that.

Tired and frustrated from too much driving and plenty of getting lost, we got out to take a breather, walk the dog and wonder what was going on there on the other side of the stream.

It was then that a man in a tweed jacket walked over to us from out of a field and eyed with some suspicion our French license plate. The field, he said, was his property and he wondered if he could help us. I explained we were lost but asked him what the police were up to.

"I'm afraid there's been an incident," he said.

"Is someone hurt?" Linda asked.

"I'm afraid so," he said.

"I hope they'll be all right," I said.

"It doesn't look like that's the case," he said.

"What happened?" Linda asked.

"It's hard to say," he answered.

"Anything we can do?"

"Not a thing. The police have things under control."



I asked for directions to Manaton and he pointed back up the steep narrow road we had just driven down. I thanked him, packed the befuddled dog back in the car and we made the ascent, slamming into one pothole after the next.

Halfway up we suddenly saw a large cube van of an ambulance headed our way, scraping itself on both sides of the narrow roadway as it approached.

***“What are we going to do?” Linda asked.
“Nothing to do,” I said. “I gotta back up.”
“It looks impossible.”***

I wanted to agree but I had little choice. Remembering my father’s advice from the earliest days of driving instruction, I levered the top half of my body around, jammed the car in reverse and proceeded a white-knuckle descent back down to the little river with the ambulance and our Fiat nose to nose. When we arrived at the bottom again, the landowner was opening a gate to his pasture to allow us to back in as the ambulance stopped in front of us, blocking us in.

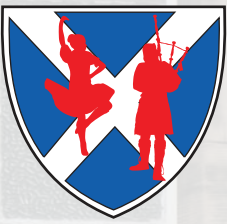
Whatever tragedy had occurred in the clearing across the bridge, we will never know. Somebody died, but we don’t know who or why or how. We checked the local news in days thereafter and never found out more. Someone may have drowned but it wasn’t much of a river. Or someone committed suicide out here in the woods of the Dartmoor Forest. I’ve been told that often suicides are not reported in the news lest they promote others to copy the deed. Could this be true?

Whatever the case, it was a day of twin births and the death of an unknown person by unknown cause. When the ambulance driver returned to the truck, I apologized and asked if she could move the vehicle just enough to let us out. She did and we slowly skittered up the steep hill again.

At Little Hazelcott Cottage, we settled in and called it a day.



★ **Little Hazelcott Cottage**



Stone Mountain Highland Games, Inc.

Friends,

It is with great personal sadness that I must inform you that the 2020 Stone Mountain Highland Games that was to be held October 17th and 18th will NOT be taking place. Out of an abundance of caution and concern for the safety and welfare of our extended games family (volunteers and attendees alike), the Board of Directors of the Stone Mountain Highland Games has unanimously decided that we must cancel our annual event.

For more than 47 years we have referred to our volunteers and event attendees as our "Games Family." As we considered the options, the decision became easier although no more palatable. We MUST keep our GAMES FAMILY safe and healthy.

Finally, from my wife, myself, our Board of Directors, and all our volunteers, we pray that you and your family will stay safe and healthy. It is our sincere hope that 2021 will see our lives return to a more normal routine and we will be able to welcome all of our extended family back to the meadow at Stone Mountain Park on October 16th and 17, 2021. Until then please stay safe.

Yours Aye,

Norman P. Livermore
President - Stone Mountain Highland Games, Inc.

www.SMHG.org
P.O. Box 384 - Marietta, GA 30061
770.521.0228



Celtic in the Time of Coronavirus

*As Celtic Life International
Associate Editor Rebecca Dingwell explains,
the Celtic community comes together
during times of crisis*



This summer, there are no ceilidhs, clan gatherings or kilt runs. Fields usually occupied by heavy athletics competitions or the colours and sounds of pipe bands will stand empty and quiet. On February 11, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 (a.k.a coronavirus) outbreak a global pandemic, and it is impacting everyone in every part of the world, to varying degrees. COVID-19 has caused governments to veto large gatherings and - as a result - shut down concerts, sporting events and businesses. Celtic Festivals and Highland Games are no exception.

Staff got the call 24 hours before the St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival was set to begin on March 13: the city had pulled their permit and ordered the event to close. By that time, rental equipment had been delivered and set up. Staff had been working on the previously permitted City Events Field since Tuesday, March 10. The opening night whiskey tasting event was sold out at 120 seats. Almost 1,500 general admission tickets had been sold.

"I would expect that this crisis had a more profound effect on our Celtic Festival than on other events," Albert Syeles, one of the festival organizers, shares via email. "It was cancelled at the last minute, with everything in place."

In retrospect, Syeles knows the city made the right call. However, there is no denying its impact.

"Our Celtic Festival in March is our annual fundraiser and that normally pays for all the other things we do year-round," says Syeles, who is the president of St. Augustine's Romanza organization. Romanza promotes

arts and culture events in St. Augustine, Florida. "We are relieved to find that our bank account is not completely drained, so we are trying to plan for next year."

Preparing for 2021 presents its own difficulties. Without the revenue from the 2020 festival, and the questionable status of government grants, it is hard to say when they will be able to put deposits down for performers or start advertising.

"Nonetheless, we hope the health crisis will subside by then and we believe our festival can help bring back a sense of normalcy and may even stimulate the local economy."

By early spring, many summer event organizers made the call to proactively cancel their festivals, avoiding similar last-minute decisions. For several of those events, such as the Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival in New Brunswick, it was

the first time they have ever had to scrap it.

Steve Tweedie, Co-chair of the Moncton Highland Games, says that organizers decided to cancel in late March: more than a month before the festival was scheduled to take place. Even if mass gatherings had been allowed again by May, Tweedie explained, Highland dance groups and pipe bands would have gone weeks without meeting and would likely be unable to compete.

"Those groups would have gone so long without practicing or anything, we probably wouldn't get the numbers coming out for the competition," Tweedie explains via telephone. "We couldn't even get judges to commit to it, because travel was all questionable."

The timing is especially unfortunate for the Moncton Games, as it was slated to host the men's and women's lightweight world championships for heavy athletics. This would have been the first time the men's championship was hosted in Canada, and the first lightweight women's championship period. Since the games were cancelled early, Tweedie said the financial consequences are minimal. But the disappointment stings.

"There is a lot of effort that goes into trying to organize it. This would have been our fourteenth year.

"It really takes the wind out of your sails when you have to cancel an event like that."

Meanwhile, the organizers of the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo are run off their feet, as ever.

"There is no show this year, but I feel like we are working harder - in different ways - than we have ever worked before," notes Scott Long, the Tattoo's managing director and executive producer.

The Tattoo was one of the first major events in Nova Scotia to cancel. They issued a press release on March 21. "For us to cancel early was the best way for us to survive, moving forward," explains Long. Considering all the marketing, travel and accommodation costs, it just didn't make sense to continue rolling out the plans while everything was so uncertain. They refunded all tickets "without any questions asked."

Over on Canada's west coast, Iain MacDonald said the Saskatchewan Highland



Gathering and Celtic Festival is one of the lucky ones. Like Moncton, organizers in Regina halted plans early. Any profit incurred from this year would just go towards a subsequent event, anyhow. “We had not done any media or posters - the expenses that we had laid out so far are very minimal,” says MacDonald, who is the vice-president of the festival. “We will actually be in a pretty good position going into the fall when we start planning for 2021.”

Vendors and Small Businesses

MacDonald also runs a business called Reelpipes, selling everything from bagpipes to drumming supplies and Highland dress. Since pipe bands are no longer getting together to practice (in the traditional sense, at least), musicians don’t need the amount of gear they normally would.

“Pipe bands consume a lot of reeds and drumheads and they need new equipment for members. That is kind of an ongoing thing in the season, and right now, that has stopped 100 percent. Nobody is ordering anything because they don’t need it.”

He is not alone. COVID-19 has been especially impactful for vendors who typically make their bank on the Celtic festival circuit. No festivals means that there is almost nowhere to physically sell their wares. The St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival, for example, was expected to welcome 13 food vendors as well as 43 merchandise vendors from all over the United States.

For Keltic Nations, Ingrid and Greg McPherson’s Ontario-based jewellery business, three major events were pulled from their schedule. This included the local Celtic festival and a large wedding show, the latter of which was postponed to October. Ironically, though, sales have improved as of late.

“I think this is because we have ramped up our advertising and have been posting a bit more content to social media,” Ingrid shares via email.

“Folks also have lots of time to shop online now and perhaps are more mindful to be supporting small businesses.”



Hilary Creighton of Scottish Creations is in a similar situation. Demand hasn’t gone down, she said, but it has become harder for suppliers to fill orders. Creighton curates a slew of products from independent businesses in Scotland and elsewhere in the United Kingdom, and with strict quarantine rules and slower-than-usual postal services, it hasn’t been easy to get those products in the hands of customers. Fortunately, customers have been understanding, and suppliers have “gone above and beyond” to keep things moving. That said, pushing sales isn’t Creighton’s main priority.

“Actively selling right now - morally, it doesn’t feel OK to me. People know we are here, and if they do reach out and they do want something, we are all here to help.”

Creighton is keeping Scottish Creations in touch with its customers through regular giveaways on its Instagram page. She is also rolling out a program called “Scots - Working Together and Helping Each Other” across Canada and the United States.

Through the program, Scottish Creations “is offering discounts to Scottish organization members,” explains Creighton. “We have done that in the past, of course, but the difference now is that we are matching that discount and donating it to the organization. Most of these event organizations are not-for-profit and they too need all the help they can get.”

Musicians

Bands and musicians are unable to tour at all. The American Rogues, a group made up of a large roster of talented Americans and Canadians, are one of many Celtic-style bands on a forced hiatus. The virus hit just as the Rogues were gearing up for their St. Patrick’s Day shows. In a matter of days, events in Chicago, New York, Detroit, and Niagara Falls were cancelled. In the weeks that followed, Celtic festivals and music festivals announced more cancellations from March until September. On top of scrapped shows, the American Rogues have also had to put their upcoming album, *The Hammer*, on the backburner.

For Nelson Stewart, the American Rogues’ vocalist and multi-instrumentalist,



Hilary Creighton

it helps to keep things in perspective. Although losing so many shows during the band's busiest time of year affects both the musicians and the fans, Stewart says, "we have been lucky to have our health and we all know it is important to support the front-line workers in their fight against the virus." On a personal level, it has been painful for Stewart to be unable to visit his grandson, Sid, who has participated in past Rogues' performances.

"As a band, the American Rogues will recover from this and move forward undaunted.

"Things will be that much sweeter after this forced separation when we all get together again to celebrate Celtic culture."

Kyle MacCallum of the Celtic folk-rock band SYR also hopes the music scene will come back stronger. While the pandemic has impacted SYR and its show schedule, it didn't stop the group from releasing its latest single, Legacy. The release party could no longer take place, of course, but the music has had a positive reception online. MacCallum brought his love for the metal genre into more traditional Celtic sounds.

"It is a little harder than most of our other songs, but I was excited to see what people would think," he shares. "Luckily, they have been very receptive to it and very encouraging."

Going Online

In addition, SYR has used tools such as livestreams to continue reaching its audience. The band has even set up a Patreon page, which provides access to content, including behind-the-scenes videos and livestreams, for a few dollars a month. In spite of all the challenges, MacCallum is steadfast in his belief that artists - and people in general - will bounce back.

"I am a firm believer in people's resilience, as cliché as that sounds. Art makes us human. We have heard that argument thousands of times."

Plenty of other bands are still putting music out into the world as well. Amid fan requests, the American Rogues have also released an online venture with the help of



their engineer, Chris Donaldson. Recently, the band's "quarantine edition" cover of the Game of Thrones theme song hit YouTube.

"It took a fair bit of time to bring everything together with so many moving parts and physical distancing, but we had a lot of fun doing it - even our dogs got into it!" laughs Stewart. "The video has been getting great response online and several kind people have said it was exactly what they needed right now."

Another musical group, Gaelic Storm, has also had to hit pause on their usual routine, which typically includes 150-200 days of touring a year. However, they are getting content to their fans in new ways. Steve Twigger, the band's guitarist, notes that the band is currently doing weekly livestreams on Facebook each Friday at 5 p.m. (CMT).

"Every day is a new day and we are coming up with a few things to keep the lights on and stay connected as a band and connected to our audience."

Similarly, some festivals are following the trend of finding ways to keep momentum going through the internet. Albert Syeles and Romanza St. Augustine recently put together an online production of St. Augustine's Romanza Festival of Music & The Arts.

"It featured over 20 concerts, poetry readings, dance exhibitions, etc. by many of those same groups that were scheduled for Romanza's live shows," says Syeles. "And it included some of the Celtic bands that had





been scheduled for our Celtic Festival in March.”

The Saskatchewan Highland Gathering is looking into the possibility of a digital “beer tent.” Pipe bands are holding meetings on video chat programs such as Zoom. Musicians are turning out music and playing tunes on porches or in driveways. And so, Celtic culture is still at people’s fingertips, if they know where to look. That said, it doesn’t fully replace in-person community-building - or funding, for that matter.

Scott Long said the Nova Scotia Tattoo has been “forced to innovate,” as has everyone else. While online marketing isn’t new for the organization, it has never had to lean on the internet so heavily before. This spring, the Tattoo launched its first digital project: a virtual massed pipers performance of “Amazing Grace.” The video was dedicated to Abigail Cowbrough and the crew of the HMCS Fredericton, the victims of the mass shooting in Portapique, Nova Scotia, and all the essential workers on the frontlines during this pandemic.

Similar projects are coming down the pipeline: more massed pipers, drums and even a virtual choir performance. “Hopefully, at the end, we can stitch them all together and put together some sort of a virtual tattoo that will be able to be streamed online.”

So, What Now?

It is still too early to predict what this time next year will bring. Despite all the online ventures, Long says, nothing can replace the revenue lost without ticket sales. He points out that the performing arts sector was the first industry to “get hit” by COVID-19 and, as it is considered non-essential, it will probably be one of the

last industries to return once the pandemic recedes.

“I hope people understand how important the non-profit arts organizations are as we move through this. Let’s hope the government recognizes how important these events are - the Tattoo or a local Highland games or Jazz Festival - are to our communities. Not only economically, but also culturally.”

Nelson Stewart feels similarly. During this time, especially, music has given people hope.

“The arts stepped up in their own way and reminded people that there is definitely a need for them. I am sure one of the images many of us will remember in the years to come will be people in Italy and around the world singing to each other from their balconies. When they had lost so much, they still had music.

“When the time comes, everyone needs to get out to their local Celtic events and support those who put so much into making them possible.”



Nelson Stewart and his grandson Sid



See you in 2021!

The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games is excited to celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2021!

The Festival is the largest and one of the longest running Scottish Festivals in Canada, featuring over three days of Highland Dance, Heavies Competitions, Pipes and Drums, and the gathering of close to 60 clans.

Last year we were especially honoured to welcome The Right Honourable Lord Lyon King of Arms as our festival chieftain.

"The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games are a great celebration of what it means to be living in Scotland. They are an opportunity to experience for yourselves what it means to belong to the worldwide family of Scots," he told us.

We invite you to #TartanUp and join us August 13 to 15, 2021 for our 75th anniversary ceilidh!

fergusscottishfestival.com



**Aug 6 - 8
2021**

**See you
next year!**

Downtown Waterloo



Iowa Irish Festival

July 31 – August 2, 2020

www.iowairishfest.com

Mark your calendars! While the ongoing status of the COVID-19 pandemic has stalled production for several summertime festivals, the long-celebrated Iowa Irish Festival plans to return this July to celebrate its 14th year. Founded by the Cedar Valley Irish Culture Associate, the three-day festival – originally a small and informal family picnic – has made its name by celebrating Irish culture and heritage through a series of musical performances and historical demonstrations. Situated in and around the beautiful Lincoln Park in downtown Waterloo, this year's gathering brings back many fan favorites, including the annual Shamrock and Run 5K, the High Nelly Bicycle Ride, and the Celtic Cruise motorcycle rally. The event will also showcase over 20 incredible musical acts, including headlining performances from all over the world. Between the musical acts of entertainment, family kids area, food, and drink, visitors are welcomed to explore some of the best of Irish culture, with a variety of workshops and there are several free events for all.



Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games

www.fergusscottishfestival.com

Since its debut in 1946, the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games has celebrated Scottish heritage and history through music and dance, and athletic competition. A weekend with a storied past, the three-day festival has seen two locations in its 75 years, originally stationed at Victoria Park and later moving to the Centre Wellington Community Sportsplex. This year the team behind the festival are sad to announce that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the celebration of their 75th annual Fergus Scottish Festival is postponed until August 13 -15, 2021. As a thank-you for all the well-wishes they have received from supporters, organizers say they will #TartanUp to offer a “Wee Digital Ceilidh” on the weekend their 2020 festival was to be held, August 7th to 9th. Their website will feature content from some of their regular musicians as well as original and never before seen presentations from each of the four pillars of Highland games: Highland dance, clans, heavy athletics and pipes and drums. They will have greetings from across the Fergus Scottish Festival community and plenty of fun “wee surprise cameos” from the performers and participants patrons look forward to seeing every year. More information about the digital ceilidh will be posted soon on their website.



Okanagan Military Tattoo

www.okanagantattoo.ca

The Okanagan Military Tattoo is a must-see for anyone travelling Canada's west coast. Located in Vernon - a quaint town situated in the south center of British Columbia - the two-hour cultural extravaganza has welcomed thousands of guests each year to experience the sights and sound of Scotland, while honoring the Canadian military and first responders, both past and present, through a series of musical and culture-rich performances. Getting its name from a 300-year-old history, the tattoo – a term evolved from the phrase Doe den tap toe (“turn off the tap”), a call used to alert soldiers back to the pubs each night during the fights between Great Britain and Belgium - draws significant attention to historical accuracy, and showcases over 500 traditionally Celtic acts, ranging from massed pipe and drum bands to multicultural dancers and singers. While the festival has not missed a year since its debut in 2013, the festival's president Norm Crerar issued a statement last month cancelling the upcoming event, which was scheduled to take place this July. “Our top priority is the health and safety of our patrons, artist, volunteers and staff,” the statement read, noting the festival's difficult decision to adhere to the recommendations of the Canadian Government and Health Authorities. The 7th annual Okanagan Military Tattoo has been officially rescheduled for July 25-26, 2021.



CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE



Inspiring Photography Courses and Workshops throughout the UK with Nigel Forster

Your choice: A great range of One to One Courses and Small Group Workshops for up to 6 clients

What you'll learn: Creative Technique, use of simple composition & natural light to create striking images. You'll transform your landscape photography!

What you'll experience: Great locations from throughout the UK; the mountains and heritage of the Brecon Beacons, Snowdonia and Scotland, the remote unspoilt landscapes of Wales, the beauty of our National Parks and the cityscapes of London

Whatever course or workshop you choose: You're guaranteed a great experience and an unbeatable way to develop your photography!

CONTACT NIGEL FORSTER:
Tel: +0044 1874 676402
Mobile: +0044 7815 089835
Email: info@creativephotographytraining.co.uk
Website: creativephotographytraining.co.uk



Individual Courses
Specifically designed to meet your needs



Group Workshops 3-5 Days
For 3-6 People held throughout the UK



On-Line Tuition
Individual Courses, Webinars and Critique



Visit our Website for Details
www.creativephotographytraining.co.uk



THE PHOTOGRAPHER ACADEMY
Master Photographer





McHarp

Crosses with Meaning

10% off
Coupon Code:
celticlife2020



HAND-CRAFTED CROSSES HONORING FAITH, HERITAGE, AND FAMILY
ARTISAN STONECAST HOME DÉCOR & GIFTS

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK & PINTEREST

SHOP AT WWW.MCHARP.COM

Nigel Forster

www.nigelforsterphotography.co.uk

I have lived in the Brecon Beacons in Wales since 2002 and have worked as a photographer since 2010.

Initially, my interest was simply capturing images - and that is still what inspires me today. As I now do photography for a living my emphasis has changed, and I mix my teaching and commercial work with capturing my own images. I have never taken images to sell; if I happen to sell some, that's great...but it doesn't influence my shooting style.

You cannot work successfully as a photographer unless you are inspired by what you do. To me, the subject comes before photography rather than the process itself. I don't think that anyone gets into photography to get rich. However, the work is immensely rewarding in other ways; I get to go to some beautiful places, and I have plenty of freedom and flexibility with my time. Also, I always

enjoy seeing my work in print and it is always nice when people say how much they enjoy my work. That gives me great satisfaction.

The strength of my work is - and has always been - based on its simplicity of composition and control of natural light. Most of my personal favourite images are "unique" as I favour the spontaneous and unplanned approach rather than photographing familiar and well photographed places.

I'm not one for planning a location and waiting several hours and several visits to get the perfect conditions; my approach is far more about going out with the camera and seeing what happens. This leads to far more individualistic, unique, and creative images than the planned approach. That's not to say there aren't plenty of early climbs up mountains and being out in difficult weather, but I enjoy that and certainly enjoy seeing the results.

Wales is a small country, but it has an incredibly varied landscape with a great mix of mountains, coastline, heritage and industrial landscapes, woodlands, waterfalls and much more. Our industrial heritage also means that it's not "chocolate box" and, at times, not pretty. But that only adds to its photographic potential. Allied to that, it has a cool maritime climate which means lots of changeable weather with dramatic light, perfect for photography, tremendous seasonal variation, and colour. It's difficult to find another country with such a great mix of landscape and climatic conditions within such a small area.







the cottages Ireland



**Three hundred year old cottage charm, the sound
of the sea, six miles of sandy beach... and you!**

Six unique five-star whitewashed thatched cottages in a hamlet-like setting on the beach. Perfectly located to explore the vibrant beat of Dublin's heart or the World Heritage Site of 'Bru na Boinne' in the heart of the Boyne Valley, birthplace of Ireland's Ancient East. *25 Minutes from Dublin Airport.*

info@cottages-ireland.com

00353 41 9828104 • www.cottages-ireland.com



Winner of the 'Best beach holiday home in Europe'

Mike Alexander

www.landscapeswales.com

My roots are all Welsh, deeply embedded in the upper Swansea Valley. It was the home for so many generations of my family. Both grandfathers were coal miners and my father worked in the coal mining industry. During my teenage years we lived in the small mining village of Tumble, at the head of the Gwendraeth Valley. I spent the first 16 years of my working life in Pembrokeshire and for the past 30 years I have lived in Barmouth, a small seaside town in the south of the Snowdonia National Park.

I have always felt the need to make things, whether it is images, sculpture, furniture or wood turning. Though I always longed, most of all, to create images, I never quite succeeded until I discovered photography.

The principal driving force in my life is nature conservation. My interest in photography was ini-

tially driven by the opportunity of unlimited access to wildlife and in particular seabirds and an opportunity to sell photographs and supplement an otherwise rather small income.

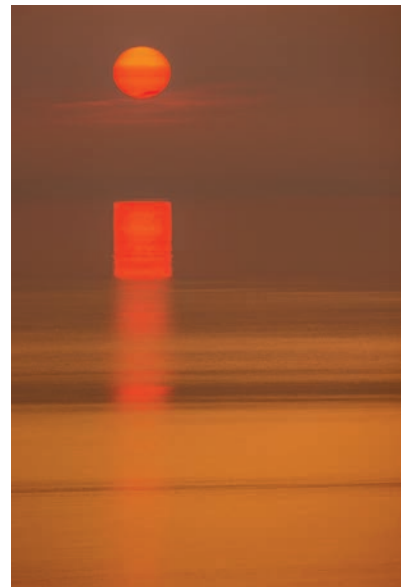
Photography is, in my world, the endless pursuit of that perfect image, though I doubt that I would recognize one if I saw it. Someone once told me, or perhaps I read it somewhere, that the only way to take a good photograph is to take the same photograph over and over - and that is what I do. It means endless hours of waiting for the light, for that elusive, or imagined, perfect combination of form, composition, colour, and contrast.

My story is best told through photography, it is my photographs and not my words that best reveal my passion and love for Wales. Wales might no longer be a true wilderness, but we have a glorious

landscape that has been shaped over thousands of years as the mainly unintentional by-product of generations of people toiling to provide a living for their families. Our cultural landscape is special and precious, it speaks quite loudly and clearly of our relationship with nature. Our culture, our language, music, poetry, and art are in turn, a reflection of our landscape.









Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

Founded 1965

Putting pride in your heritage to work for you
Become a member today

A Non-profit Organization providing student scholarships for highland dance and bagpiping and making charitable donations to the National Trust for Scotland and other non-profit organizations that promote Scottish tradition, history, crafts and culture here in the United States and Scotland

Some of the funding Scottish Heritage USA has provided over the years:

• Culloden Visitor's Centre – media centre	\$300,000*
• The Scottish Gaelic Studies Lectureship at UNC Chapel for the academic years of 2017-20	\$185,000
• Renovation of Eisenhower Suite, Culzean castle	\$50,000*
• Scholarships for dance and piping students 2010-2019	\$50,000
• The National Trust for Scotland USA 2018-20 Corporate membership	\$35,000
• Interpretation Project at Glencoe	\$25,000*
• Renovation of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Hill House, Helensburgh	\$20,000*
• Highland Echoes "Scotland in the Class"	\$16,900
• Scottish Tartans Museum Franklin NC	\$7,700
• Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Cultural Village 2017-20	\$6,000

* National Trust for Scotland sites



Eisenhower Suite, Culzean Castle



The Hill House, Helensburgh

PLANNING A TRIP TO SCOTLAND ?

Before you go check out the deals you get from membership in Scottish Heritage USA

- Reciprocal membership to the National Trust for Scotland Foundation, USA
- **Free Admission** to all (over 70) National Trust for Scotland properties
- **The Highlander** magazine (six issues per year)
- **National Trust's** magazine (three issues per year)
- **Scottish Heritage USA** Newsletter (three issues per year)

Memberships range from \$25 to \$500 and are well worth the price! – JOIN ONLINE

Come visit us at Grandfather Mountain Games July 9 – 12 2020



Matthew Williams-Ellis

www.matthewwilliams-ellis.com

I first started taking photos on family holiday when I was about 16, and from there it was just a hobby that spiralled out of control. I love to travel, and I think photography encourages an inquisitive eye when on the road.

I still love the freedom and excitement of producing travel photographs – never quite knowing exactly what is around the corner. I have a personal project of a series of six-minute exposures that I get a lot of enjoyment from too. I always feel very relaxed and lost in thought as I create them.

I used to shoot anything and everything. Now I tend to go to a location, with more of a plan of why and how I am photographing, and what I want to achieve. Often

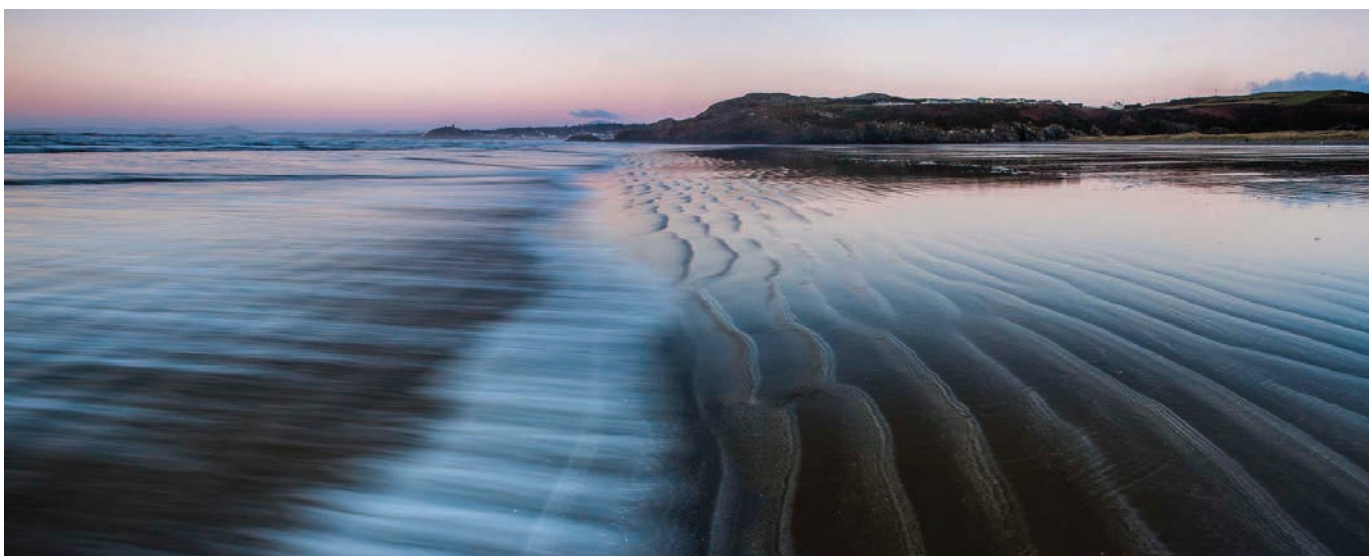
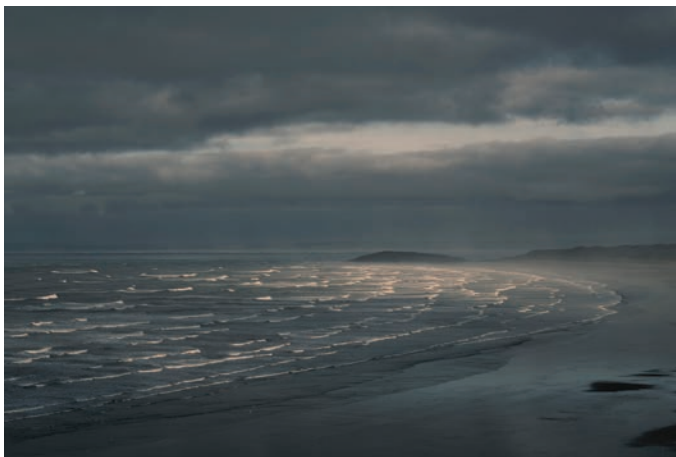
this is because I have a brief, but it is also because I have realized the benefit of visualizing how I want the photos to be.

Photography is simply an individual's view of the world. So, in some respects it is hard not to be unique. Having said that, some locations have been photographed in every way, shape, and form imaginable. When I am in these situations, being unique is an active thought process. I force myself change angle, even if I don't know why. I change lenses to alter how I am viewing the scene, or I stop shooting all together, and analyze the scene rather than just clicking, clicking, clicking. Versatility and variety are key aspects of what makes my collection of

images unique.

A photo is good if it tells the story that was intended, or if it evokes an emotion or curiosity.

Wales has stunning landscapes with lots of wildlife, and fascinating history and heritage. The mountains of Snowdonia are one of my favourite areas in the U.K. Nowadays, they are a playground for me as a photographer, and they are also a sentimental location, as we used to go on family holidays there every year when I was a child. I also run an annual photography trip to Skomer Island in Pembrokeshire to photograph the puffins. Wales offers a variety of experiences with a relaxed pace – very attractive to a photographer or any creative types.





**LetzGo** CityTours
experience the extraordinary
www.letzgocitytours.com
Small groups ensuring your safety & comfort



*We are
here when
you are ready
to travel again*

- Irish Music Night Tour with Celtic Steps & Spirits
- Fast Track Kilmainham Gaol, War & Revolution Tour
- Fast Track Family and Kids Book of Kells & Dublin Castle Tour
- Skip the Line Guinness & Jameson Whiskey Irish Experience Tour
- Fast Track Book of Kells & Dublin Castle Tour

Skip the Line Guided Tours

LONDON • PARIS • AMSTERDAM • MALAGA • BARCELONA • DUBLIN • KILLARNEY • GALWAY

New for 2020 & 2021

LUXURY CAR TOURS & PRIVATE TOURS TO IRELANDS TOP ATTRACTIONS

For more info email: info@letzgocitytours.com or visit us at www.letzgocitytours.com



Paul Costelloe

Summer 2020

I come from a fairly creative family - a couple of painters and cooks. It was a bit chaotic because my mother was a New Yorker and my father was from Limerick, so it was never dull. We were a middle-class Irish family in the late 1950s and early 1960s; a life of wine and roses.

I more or less fell into fashion; I was a painter by birth. I saw my brother work as an artist, and it seemed like a very difficult career with which to make a living. I decided I would take an easier route - go to Paris and build up a portfolio.

I got offered a job by a man called Jacques Esterel. I think the only reason he took me on was because he loved Irish music. That was the be-

ginning of my career. I was inspired by the European couturiers, like Cartier, Ungaro, and Giorgio Armani. That was the period I grew up in, which was tailoring smart, chic, but quite sexy.

I start by drawing. I do not use a laptop - everything is done on hand, by hand. If I am doing a collection of, say, 30 to 40 styles, I would probably have at least 100 or 150 drawings, of which I can allocate the appropriate materials. I was given a gift from God for detecting materials. I nearly can tell what is in a fabric just by touching it.

I would travel to Paris, Milan, and Frankfurt, looking for the materials. I also buy Irish linen, of course. That is

a staple of mine - Irish linen is probably the best linen in the world.

I am still a back there in the past - it is the only way I can work, really. But I always keep myself up-to-speed, because if it is not in fashion it is not in fashion. Today, I specialize in weekend wear - clothes you can wear from your office to the wine bars. But as soon as that '60s look comes back in again, I can do it with my eyes closed.

Present fashion is very varied, because of the complete liberation of people not being dictated by fashion. We are very much wearing what we want, and we can really dress any way we like.

www.paulcostelloe.com





Staying local this summer?

Enjoy a coffee or tea with your provincial tartan



Provincial tartan coasters also available



Or, show some Clan and Family Pride



Available at your local Celtic Giftware store



Dublin Lawyer



The COVID-19 pandemic has left many of us dizzy. Where some of us do not know which way to turn, there are always the natural leaders. One of these companies is Stanfield's, based in Truro, Nova Scotia. Traditionally, Stanfield's made long-john underwear - however, it is now producing medical gowns for hospital personnel. It is not the first time that the company has helped in times of crisis: during WWI they adapted their knitting mills to manufacture wool blankets for soldiers. Elsewhere, the Bauer company - makers of hockey equipment - is now producing plastic face shields, and distilleries are developing hand sanitizers from leftover alcohol. Crystal Blair of The Glenholme truck stop/restaurant in Nova Scotia says she worries about the well-being of drivers dur-

ing the COVID-19 outbreak. "They are living in their trucks, some of them are gone for weeks at a time, some of them can't go home, because of where they have been, they don't have bathrooms in their trucks." Blair's solution has been to offer them free meals, as well as a place to shower and use the loo. Her efforts have inspired others to follow suit: one food bank in North Sydney, Nova Scotia, recently received a gift of 120 lobsters thanks to an area fisherman who donated the scrumptious crustaceans. And, speaking of lobster, here is an absolutely delicious and decadent recipe for classic Dublin Lawyer. Though no one is absolutely sure where the dish got its name, locals still insist that it's probably because Dublin lawyers had a reputation for being rich and having a lot of whiskey in them!

Ingredients

2 fresh lobster
(cut in two down the center lengthwise)

1 cup cream

6 heaping tbsp. butter

½ cup Irish whiskey

Salt and pepper

2 tsp. lemon juice

Instructions

Remove the meat from the tail and claws of the lobster, but retain the half shells. Cut it into chunks, heat the butter, but do not let it brown. Toss the lobster meat in the hot butter over a medium heat for a few minutes until cooked. Take care that the butter does not burn. Pour whiskey into corner of the pan, and blend in cream, lemon juice, some seasoning, pan juices, and let it heat gently, but do not let it boil. Put back in the half shells and serve hot. Serve on a platter topped with watercress or a green. All shellfish should be cooked in cold sea water or salted water brought to a boil. In this way the lobster becomes faint and does not struggle. The lobster is more tender as a result. Serve re-inserted in the shell with a fresh salad and newly-baked bread or rolls.

Ith do shàth! Cabrini - cabrini@celticlife.com

The Original "Oui" Dram!

WORLD WHISKIES AWARDS GOLD

Armorik 10
Celtic Breton Whisky
Awarded World's Best
French Single Malt 2020



www.heavenlyspirits.com




There is a reason why we are
the only Canadian retailer
ever short listed for World
Whisky Retailer of the Year...
we have great taste!

Now pouring our 14th
exclusive Arran single cask!



**KENSINGTON
WINE MARKET**
ESTABLISHED 1992

kensingtonwinemarket.com
@KensingtonWM



Revisiting Compass Box

with Andrew Ferguson

It has been six years since I last wrote about the Compass Box Whisky Co. for Celtic Life International. With the plucky London based “Whiskymakers” celebrating their 20th anniversary this year, it seems like an appropriate time to revisit one of my favourite whisky companies.

In a world obsessed with single malt whisky, blended Scotch whisky continues to suffer from the stigma of the dreaded “B word” - blends. The blended Scotch industry reigned in the latter half of the 19th century and throughout the 20th century. However, the last two decades have belonged to Single Malts. Blended whisky is far from done, however; it continues to dominate sales in terms of sheer volume and, recently, consumers have been thirsting for interesting Blends. Much of the credit for this must go to Compass Box, and their esteemed impresario John Glaser.

I have known John for more than 10 years and I have been a fan of his, and his creations, for even longer. Compass Box has been pushing the boundaries of Scotch whisky for two decades, starting with their first ever release, Hedonism - a blended grain whisky that is a marriage of at least two different single grain Scotch whiskies. grain whisky is lighter, more delicate, and cleaner than malt whisky, owing to how it is made. It is often the base, or filler, for more commercial blends. However, that is not the case with Compass Box, where grain whisky is an accent, used to add delicacy and decadence. Hedonism is soft, elegant, and sinfully decadent, hence the name. Whisky drinkers weren't even drinking single grains in 2000, let alone blended grains, and this is

where John chose to make his mark and announce his arrival.

John is one of the most unlikely leaders in the Scotch whisky industry. A native of Minnesota, he studied winemaking and literature before taking a marketing job with Johnnie Walker, a position he thought would be temporary. The job took him to Scotland and eventually to London, where he worked with Diageo's blending team. He had always hoped to make his way into winemaking but fell in love with Scotch whisky and the art of whisky-making. Over time, his passion outgrew the vision of his employers; John approached Diageo with a proposal to create a range of boutique blended Scotch whiskies, but they didn't share his enthusiasm. So, he struck out on his own.

Hedonism was followed up with Asyla (a proper blend), Eluethera (a blended malt), and then his next big hit - the Peat Monster. I remember the first time I tried the Peat Monster; it was smoky and peaty, but not quite as intense as Laphroaig or Ardbeg. Most importantly, it was elegant and complex. That has been the signature of Compass Box whiskies over the past 20 years - “a forward-looking approach and an unrelenting desire to create quality.” They have experimented, pushed boundaries, challenged tradition, and ruffled feathers - as they did most famously with the release of the Spice Tree.

Their thirst for the art of whisky-making is what has endeared them to legions of fans, including yours truly.

One of the highlights of my time in the whisky industry was the creation of my own bespoke Compass Box Blend to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of my store, the Kensington Wine Market, in 2017. I didn't merely select a cask or approve a bottling - I actually played a role in the creation of something unique, the Compass Box Kensington Wine Market 25th Anniversary Blend. During the year it took to dial in the recipe for its creation I had the privilege of being a whisky-maker - certainly a career highlight!

Compass Box Whiskies are found more widely around the world today than in the early days. Hedonism, Spice and Peat Monster are still available as part of a large stable of the company's unique creations. Their limited annual releases are the most sought after and this year's 20th anniversary spirits will be no exception. The first is Rogues' Banquet, a superb tribute to both their many unique whiskies and their equally distinct patrons. In their words, “When we conceived the idea for Rogues' Banquet last year, we felt that a collection of our favourite Compass Box personalities and an opulent liquid would be the ideal means by which to begin our 20th anniversary celebrations. Rogues' Banquet is made for the gourmands and the hedonists who have accompanied us for the last 20 years.”

www.compassboxwhisky.com
www.kensingtonwinemarket.com



Scottish Myths and Legends

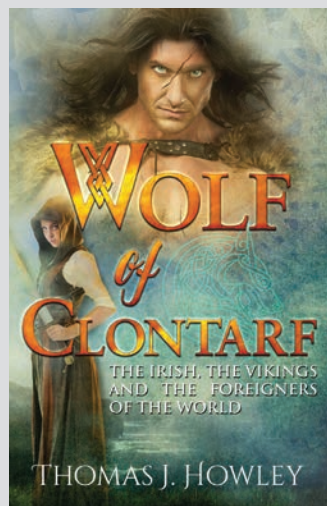
By Daniel Allison
House of Legends
322 pp / \$19.95

In our April 2020 edition we profiled Scottish shanachie Daniel Allison, detailing his love of bringing old stories to new audiences. With his latest literary effort, *Scottish Myths and Legends*, the young storyteller takes his craft to new and magical places with 24 terrific traditional tales that will inspire readers of all ages. Imaginations are sure to soar with these bite-sized bits of lesser-known lore, which include contemporary takes on classic fables such as *The Silkie Wife*, *Taming the Kelpie*, *The Mermaid Bride* and *The Knight of the Red Shield*. Kudos to the author - and popular podcaster - for putting these ancient anecdotes to paper, and for translating and transcribing these timeless tales into a body of work that is engaging, educational and entertaining. ~ SPC

Wolf of Clontarf

By Thomas J. Howley
Moonshine Cove
278 pp / \$15.99

Despite only recently being released, there has been a lot of love for this sweeping Irish/Viking saga since its publication last month, with a mega melange of media coverage, including feature articles, author interviews and glowing reviews. In most cases, and though understandable in an already-over-saturated marketplace, that kind of hype speaks more to the muscle of a marketing team and, perhaps, less to the merit of the actual work. Thankfully, that isn't the case here, as Howley twists and turns tradition into an epic tale of power, fortune, family and love. While *Wolf of Clontarf* doesn't break any new storytelling ground, it is told better than most in its genre with well-crafted characters, absorbing dialogue, a minimum of detailing, and a soaring narrative arc. ~ SPC



The Weight of Love

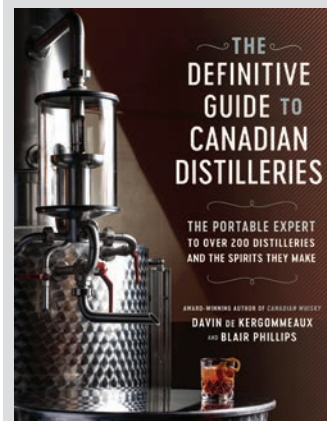
By Hilary Fannin
Penguin Books
352 pp / \$29.95

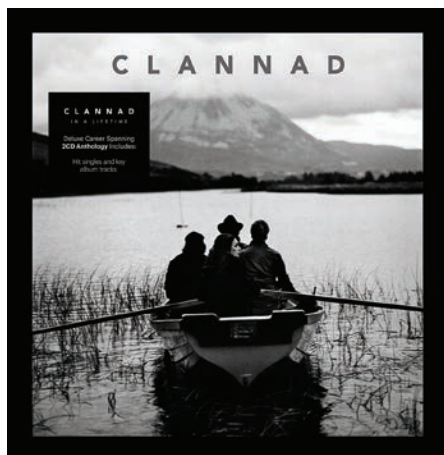
With the likes of fellow scribes Anne Enright and Marian Keyes singing your praises, Irish author Hilary Fannin must be thrilled with the critical and popular acclaim for her debut literary effort. Set back and forth between Dublin and London, *The Weight of Love* is by turns a tender and tough take on the complexities of modern love. After Sid, son of Robin and Ruth, relocates to Germany, the couple finds themselves lost in the aftershocks of empty-nest syndrome. Into that void steps Joseph, a childhood friend of Robin, whose love-mark on Ruth leaves a lingering and lasting impact on the couple long after his exit. Heavy and often heart-wrenching, the book triumphantly heralds the unveiling of a new, powerful, and poignant Irish literary heavyweight. ~ SPC

The Definitive Guide to Canadian Distilleries

By Davin de Kergommeaux
and Blair Phillips
Random House
320 pp / \$32

Although I am not a drinker - I put down the bottle almost 30 years ago - I was curious about this collection given all of the buzz surrounding craft distilleries in Canada over the past ten years. Subtitled *The Portable Expert to Over 200 Distilleries and the Spirits they Make* (From Absinthe to Whisky, and Everything in Between), the 320-page tome is more than a mere listing of Canuck spirit-makers; instead, the authors' expertise gently guides readers from idea to implementation to process to product, spicing things up with not-so-trivial tidbits along the way. Beautifully illustrated with colourful imagery, and spotted with suggestions, the hardcover edition will make a gorgeous gift for both seasoned connoisseurs and those looking to take their first taste tests. ~ SPC





Clannad

In a Lifetime Anthology

Full disclosure: Clannad are my favourite Irish/Celtic band of all time. Alas, as half a century of superb songwriting will attest to, the blatant bias is well deserved. This outstanding anthology is available in a variety of formats; the double CD and double LP options are great for both long time fans and newbies, however the Deluxe edition - which includes 5 CDs, 3 LPs, a 7" single, a beautiful hardcover book, postcards, and a poster - is ideal for those seeking the true sound and spirit of Eire. And though the band has not been as creatively prolific in recent years, vocalist Moya Bennan and her musical siblings have created a powerful, profound, and poignant body of work that stands the test of time. ~ SPC

Orla Fallon

Lore

As a founding member of Emerald Isle supergroup Celtic Woman, Irish vocalist and harpist Orla Fallon is well-acquainted with traditional melodies. The multi award-winning singer is in fine form on her latest, full-length solo recording, *Lore*. Produced by the legendary Dan Shea (Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion, Bono, Dusty Springfield, Plácido Domingo), these 12 terrific tracks highlight Fallon's lovely lilt, which sweep over the songs as gently as a light mist moves across the lush Irish landscape. Highlights include the first single *Wild Mountain Thyme*, the stirring *She Moved Through the Fair*, and *Siúil a Rún*, with which the songstress shares her passion for the Gaelic language. Well balanced with both ballads and upbeat numbers, listeners will certainly fall for Fallon's new takes on older tunes. ~ SPC



Celtica - Pipes Rock!

Celtic Spirits

There are so many great Neo-Celtic bands out there these days it would require an entire edition of our publication just to note them all. With their latest release, *Celtic Spirits*, multi-national rock 'n' rollers Celtica - Pipes Rock! cement their status atop that list alongside the likes of the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, the Dropkick Murphys, and The Mahones. Brash, bold, and often beautiful, the new recording's 13 melodies capture and convey the heart and soul of a people and their place in history. The power of the pipes and the thunder of the drums will surely stir the soul and wet the eyes with pride. Epic in sweep and scope, the songs soar like a spirited, cinematic soundtrack for the seven Celtic nations. ~ SPC

Blake's Fortune

Searcher Dreamer

Hot on the heels of Hozier, Damien Rice and other Dublin-based singer/songwriters, Blake's Fortune has been hailed as Ireland's "next big thing" since the release of, and overwhelming reception to, his debut album *Hello World* in 2017. The three-year wait has been well worth it however, as *Searcher Dreamer* delivers ten moody melodies that will take listeners to new and beautiful musical places. Earthy and ethereal, with a sparse sprinkling of guitars, keyboards, percussion, and evocative vocals, the work does well to reflect both the dark and the light of the current human condition. Though still young, Fortune (whose real name is John Lennon, hence the nom-de-plume) shows an artistic wisdom beyond his years with the understanding that our shadows only emerge in the sun. ~ SPC



Celtic Music Tours of Cape Breton

**15% Off
Bookings
before June
30th, 2020**

Join Us!
September 2020 &
October 2021



Whether you are looking to experience Cape Breton culture in September on our *KitchenFest* tour, or to experience the magic of the *Celtic Colours International Festival* in October, our small group Celtic Music tour offerings will immerse you in the beauty and spirit of the Island.

Multi-day packages for select dates in September and October include round trip transportation from Halifax, four nights accommodation, tickets to all shows and performances, additional select meals and local tours & attractions.

Self-drive options available upon request.

Visit our website for details!



**CABOT
DISCOVERY
TOURS**

www.cabotdiscoverytours.com

001 902 623 2780

Extra 5% Off for Celtic Life Readers! Use code:
CELTICLIFE5

Music Lessons with *Réalta*

Book private lessons with
members of Irish trad band *Réalta*
(beginner to advanced)

*** TIN WHISTLE ***

*** UILLEANN PIPES ***

*** DADGAD GUITAR ***

www.realtamusic.com
lessons@realtamusic.com



MAKE MUSIC

BAGPIPES BY DUNCAN MACRAE,
MCCALLUM, R.G. HARDIE,
PETER HENDERSON, STRATHMORE
& DUNBAR.



NORTH AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SOURCE
FOR FRED MORRISON REELPIPES
AND SCOTTISH SMALLPIPES.

reelpipes.com



306-533-6678 🎵 REELPIPES@GMAIL.COM 🎵 @REELPIPES

Conor Lamb

Conor Lamb carries the flame of Irish tradition



It has been just over 20 years since Conor Lamb first heard the beautiful and haunting sound of the Irish pipes. Then a young man with no prior knowledge of the pipes or its players, Lamb was blown away by world-renowned piper Liam O'Flynn at the annual Lorient Interceltique Festival in Bretagne.

"I instantly fell in love with the unique sound of the pipes," the Belfast-native tells Celtic Life International via email. "From that point on I knew that I needed to learn more about the instrument and how to play it."

Soon after, Lamb dove headfirst into sonic study. Honing his skills over time, he then shifted his focus to reviving Irish trad.

"I have a great respect for the tradition. That certainly doesn't mean I am restricted to any defined approach to playing, though. One of the fantastic things about Irish traditional music is that it is very much a living tradition. I am carrying on a flame, and I like to take that in different directions while still remaining faithful to the source."

Lamb - who uses a full set of uilleann pipes - is now the founding member and manager of three musical groups: the award-winning quintet Réalta, the lively quartet Madagán and, most recently, the trad trio, Music in the Glen.

"I get to do something I love every single day, sharing something I am passionate about and seeing how it impacts

other people, inspires them and fills them with emotion."

Although he notes that a career in music is rife with many challenges - especially in recent months, given the global COVID-19 pandemic - he is content to follow his calling.

"I have been very fortunate to have traveled around the world playing traditional music with some of the world's top players. One of my first tours with Réalta was a four-week jaunt through Germany alongside several other bands, including Altan. Having grown up listening to their recordings since I first started playing the tin whistle, it was a fantastic experience to spend time on the road with them and discover that they are really lovely people as well as brilliant musicians."

"Also, playing big festivals is always fun - we have performed at major venues in Seoul, Moscow and Milwaukee to name but a few. I love gigging with other musicians, and I am fortunate to play music with people who inspire me - these experiences make me want to be a better musician."

He is thrilled to be playing his part in the instrument's renewal.

"It was only sixty years ago that the uilleann pipes were at risk of becoming a dying art. Luckily, there has been a huge revival in piping thanks to the likes of Liam O'Flynn, Paddy Keenan, Paddy Moloney, Davy Spillane, as well as the bands Planxty, the Bothy Band, the Chieftains, and the Moving Hearts.

Riverdance, of course, has also had a huge impact. These acts exposed a lot of people from different musical backgrounds to the sound of the pipes, and now there are young people all over the world playing pipes and pipe makers all over the world making the instrument. It is truly delightful to see that enthusiasm from such different backgrounds."

While he is happy with the instrument's growth in popularity, he admits that there is always room for improvement.

"It would be nice to see a greater support for Irish traditional music and the uilleann pipes in schools here in Ireland. There are a lot of great 'traditional music schools' for children and adults to learn traditional music in the evenings and at weekends, but it would be wonderful to see a stronger emphasis on this within the education system itself. Given that the pipes are a national instrument of Ireland, I believe it should be introduced to young children here as part of their everyday education."

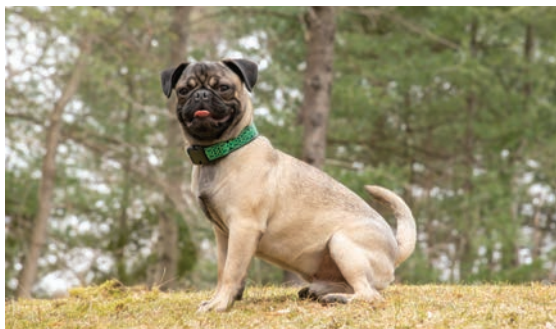
Like so many musicians, Lamb has been forced to cancel and postpone concerts because of COVID-19. He remains positive, however, dedicating his newly-found free time to hosting musical lessons via Skype, working on new music with his bands, and further refining his skills.

"There is a saying that it takes 21 years to properly learn the pipes...so I need to keep practicing - like I said, I am carrying the flame."

www.conorlambmusic.com



mackenzie®
COUTURE ACCESSORIES



Premium dog collars for your best friend.

Providing custom made dog collars, leashes, belts and suspenders from authentic tartan and Celtic ribbons since 2002.

100% satisfaction guaranteed

Made in the USA • 1-888-510-7574

www.mackenziedogcollars.com

FROM MENS, WOMENS AND KIDS KILTS
TO CLANS, TARTANS AND ACCESSORIES
WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO
LIVE THE KILT LIFE

AVAILABLE IN 70 TARTANS
ORDER ONLINE OR BUY LOCALLY



USE CODE CELTICLIFE FOR 10% OFF

2237 S. 390 W. UNIT D | HEBER CITY, UTAH
800-451-KILT (5458)

sportkilt.com

Paul Anderson

Scottish fiddler Paul Anderson plays to preserve the past.

Paul Anderson's introduction to the fiddle sounds like something out of a children's book: while visiting his grandparents at their farmhouse in Mains of Kincaigie, near Tarland (the house he lives in today), the then-5-year-old boy explored every nook and cranny in the home before spotting a treasure beneath a spare bed.

"I found an old fiddle under there," he recalls via email. "I developed a fascination with the instrument almost immediately, and regularly disappeared upstairs to pull it out from under the bed when visiting my grandparents. Eventually my granny said that if I learned to play, I could keep the fiddle."

The instrument was a natural fit for Anderson, who came from a long line of four-stringers. His grandmother's family, the Cromers, had connections to Peter Milne - known also as the "Tarland Minstrel" - teacher to Scottish musical legend James Scott Skinner.

Anderson - who has now been playing for over four decades - notes that the reasons he continues to play are the same as when he started.

"I love the sound of the fiddle. I also grew up with a strong interest in Scottish history and learning to play Scottish music was a large part of why I wanted to learn the instrument: it is an expression of my culture and heritage."

He even plays the same instrument he found beneath his grandparents' bed all those years ago. "It is a fine French instrument, made in 1893 by (Charles Jean Baptiste) Collin-Mezin and lends itself well to my traditional style and sound."

"I took lessons in Scots fiddle for six months from Angus Shaw of Banchory, a well-respected tutor, before studying with Douglas Lawrence, who was the most acclaimed pupil of Hector MacAndrew with whom I studied for several years. Hector was regarded as Scotland's finest traditional player of the 20th century and could trace his musical lineage directly back to Niel Gow, the father of Scottish Fiddle Music. Hector even gave (violinist) Yehudi Menuhin lessons in Scottish Fiddle. As a player with the Banchory Strathspey and Reel Society,

I also played with great older players with whom I learned a lot from without realizing it."

His career has been filled with several notable highlights, including a 10-week U.S. tour in 1992.

"It was quite an experience. We performed to audiences from between 250 to 12,000 and did 53 concerts in 29 States. I also won Scotland's most prestigious fiddle competition, the Glenfiddich Scottish Fiddle Championship in 1995. I played at Sean Connery's 80th birthday party in Edinburgh Castle, and have two collections of my compositions published. I have also performed regularly for the Queen and all the senior members of the British Royal family and, as she is the Head of State, that is a huge honour regardless of whether you are a Royalist or Republican."



All these achievements have not gone unnoticed and, today, a life-size painting of Anderson hangs in Scotland's beautiful Aberdeen Art Gallery.

Although he believes there are more young people playing today than ever before - noting the contemporary and distinctive styles emerging throughout Scotland - Anderson says more can be done to preserve Scottish culture as a whole.

"What needs to be improved is support for the Scots language. It lags behind Gaelic. Other than BBC Alba, which features mostly Gaelic-speaking artists, there are very few outlets for traditional Scottish music and song in the mainstream media. Thus, if you are not a Gaelic speaker, like most folk in Scotland these days, there are virtually no outlets other than a couple of weekly radio shows for hundreds of traditional musicians and singers. And, if you are from the North East or the eastern half of Scotland, unless you perform in a trendier and more contemporary style, there are virtually no conventional outlets. Unfortunately, that means that most people here are not fully aware of their own culture and heritage."

As expected, Anderson's live performances have been put on a temporary hiatus due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, he remains focused on connecting with his audience.

"I have been doing online concerts each week on Facebook, as well as a weekly fiddle workshop. I am also writing music and have started work on a second symphony to accompany my first based on the Poems of Ossian. I am due to perform in California in October but that is looking more unlikely. Things have been changing so quickly that it has become increasingly difficult to plan ahead. That said, I continue to play to preserve the past."

www.paulandersonscottishfiddler.com

SCOTTISH LANDS

Scottish Lands

Become a Lord or Lady
Buy a wee piece o' Scotland
breathtaking views
4 Star Scottish tourism



Buy from \$49.99
100sqft Camping lots

www.scottishlands.com



BRITISH ISLES SHOPPE

Tartan & Flag Masks



Many styles
to choose
from
Glasgow
Rangers
& Celtic

T-shirts



Tartan Wool Products



2 locations to serve you Ajax/Kingston, ON
www.britishislesshoppe.com

Follow us on



John Murphy

While he has been a resident of Italy for the last 45 years, dancer John Murphy is nothing if not a pure Scot. Exposed to a variety of Celtic arts from a young age, the septuagenarian's first interest was playing and performing folk music.

"Initially, dance was just another school subject, and there wasn't a lot of choice involved," he recalls via email. "I was 10 when I started dancing and then, as a teenager, I really only danced on special occasions, like weddings or parties. I was more interested in playing folk music at the time. Even though folk musicians and folk dancers were listening to similar types of music - albeit played in very different styles - the two worlds rarely saw eye to eye and therefore rarely met."

After moving to Italy in his mid-20s, where he performed as part of a small folk band, Murphy's interest in dance took center stage.

"It came as a surprise to me, but a lot of the people who came to listen to us play wanted to dance at the same time. That is when I started teaching simple ceilidh dancing."

Simple ceilidh dancing (SCD) is a popular style seen most regularly at ceilidhs and other celebrations.

"There are essentially three ways of doing Scottish dancing: there is ceilidh dancing, where some know the moves, but many do not, and dances are simple, explained beforehand and called during execution. The results can be a lot of fun but tend to be chaotic. There is also Scottish country dancing, where people have generally taken courses in SCD, know the dances, and do them reasonably well. Then there is the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) way - a rigorous approach that, at least among purists, quite possibly repels as many people as it attracts."

"The important thing is to dance to the best of your ability. That is what most Scots do, and that is where I am."



Murphy's commitment to teaching dance was on and off until the early '90s, when he inherited the Milan St. Andrew's Night from his friend and fellow dancer Jim Healy, who was moving home to Scotland. After witnessing dance lose traction in the months following Healy's departure, Murphy grew more serious about his role as a dance teacher, and eventually opened his own company - the Milan Scottish Country Dancers ASD.

"Most of my students are Italian, with ages ranging from 36 to 73. We are a friendly group of people and have a lot of fun at our Monday evening classes. Our repertoire is now getting close to 100 dances, more than the basic 12 dances that I used to teach. I now concentrate on teaching the dances that I have chosen for our next Scottish event. So, the fall course leads up to St. Andrew's Night in November, the winter course prepares for Burns Night in January. And the spring course gets us ready for our Milan Highland Ball in May. Given that each event has around 16 dances, with only a minor degree of overlap, there is a fair number of dances in a year!"

He admits that it can be challenging to appease both his quick-learning students

and the ones who prefer a slower pace.

"I have many students who wouldn't mind the rigour of the RSCDS approach, while there are others who just want to enjoy themselves. Those who come once, even twice a week, and watch videos in the meantime, while others come every other week and do no homework at all. We also must reconcile experienced dancers with total beginners. We have resolved some of these problems by splitting the course into three different sessions.

"At the end of the day, the biggest reward is seeing the smiles on people's faces when they manage to do a new dance properly."

Unsurprisingly, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had an effect on Murphy's efforts, with several upcoming performances postponed or cancelled.

"The summer looks tricky, but I have reasonably high hopes about restarting in September this year. So, after months of lockdown, with zero dancing - and with food and drink as compensation and the kilos mounting up as a result - some of us are thinking of taking up Scottish step dancing. Maybe that could be the solution?"

www.milanscd.it



CANMORE, ALBERTA
SEPT 4-5, 2021

2020 Officially Cancelled

Due to continuing uncertainty concerning the safety of large events during COVID-19, our 2020 Games is officially cancelled.

Please join us next year Sept 4-5, 2021
to help us celebrate our 30th Anniversary!

SEPT 4, 2021 - Taste of the Highlands | **SEPT 5, 2021** - The Highland Games and The Canmore Ceilidh

www.canmorehighlandgames.ca

gogographics.ca

Ceud Mile Failte, Y'all

**TWO DAYS OF EVERYTHING
SCOTTISH IN THE NORTH
GEORGIA MOUNTAINS**

June 12 and 13, 2021
MEEKS PARK, BLAIRSVILLE, GA

During these uncertain times, the health and safety of our clans, athletes, vendors, volunteers and guests is of ultimate importance to the Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games. So it is with a heavy heart we have decided to cancel our 2020 games. Many thanks for your understanding and looking forward to seeing you 2021.

AND SO MUCH MORE!

www.blairsvillescottishfestival.com



Featuring performances by:

Cherish the Ladies • RUNA • Joe Jencks

The Kruger Brothers • Emory Lester

Ariko • Bourque Émissaires

...plus special guests and more!

Experience this world-class festival from your home, **FREE!**
Donations will be gratefully accepted.



CELTIC ROOTS^{27.5} VIRTUAL FESTIVAL

HOSTED FROM THE HOME OF THE GODERICH CELTIC ROOTS FESTIVAL IN **GODERICH, ONTARIO, CANADA**

FRIDAY NIGHT AUGUST 7TH • SATURDAY AFTERNOON AUGUST 8TH, 2020

celticfestival.ca

 www.facebook.com/goderichceltic



CELTIC-COLOURS.COM

AT HOME
Celtic
COLOURS
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Presented By



**TUNE IN
9-17 OCTOBER 2020**

This October we'll be delivering the Celtic Colours experience online—to be enjoyed in the comfort and safety of your own home—featuring nightly performances as well as some local flavour to keep you connected with Cape Breton Island and the Celtic Colours community.




CELTIC JACKALOPE

**CLANSMAN CREST BADGE T-SHIRTS
PRINTED APPAREL
STERLING SILVER JEWELRY
STATUARY & CELTIC ART
UNIQUE GIFTS**

WWW.CELTICJACKALOPE.COM



SHAMROCK MASKS

- 100% Cotton
Made in the USA

\$12.99

PURE IRISH LINEN MASKS

\$19.99

*Timeless Irish
Treasures*

800-289-8490

910-763-7055

orders@timelessirishtreasures.com

www.timelessirishtreasures.com

**At Nagle Forge & Foundry our
hearts go out to all those
impacted by Covid19.**

When this is over, and this will end, there will be St. Patrick's Day again, there will be time to wear the green or the tartan, we will see friends and family. And we will go back to work. As a small family run business Nagle Forge & Foundry sympathizes with the plight of all the small family owned businesses in your own communities that have been forced to close their doors for the good of the community. We would like to ask all of our customers to think first of the small businesses in their communities when considering discretionary purchases. When this is over we will be here. In the meantime feel free to call or e-mail for a catalog.

415-897-1732

contact@nagleforge.com



**timeless
celtic
jewellery**

Featuring solid pewter beads
intricately engraved with original Celtic knots,
threaded with genuine gemstones
and beautifully packaged. 100% handmade
in Wales, by the Black Dragon

www.blackdragon.co.uk • www.celticbeadshop.com



Carbony™ Celtic Winds are innovative
musical instruments that offer the
advantages of modern carbon fiber
technology with time tested designs.
www.Carbony.com

carbony™
CELTIC WINDS



Keltic Nations
Celtic Jewellery

Handcrafted in Canada

www.kelticnations.com



Watch our new Music Video at:

www.syrmusic.com



Tie the *Celtic* Knot

Wedding & Engagement Rings - Made in Ireland - Free Worldwide Shipping



Celtic Wedding Rings

www.celtic-weddingrings.com

There is a difference.



Custom Killer Kilts

Over 60 tartans and more.



Just Kilt Me
Celtic Apparel Store

justkiltme.com

Hearthstanes Steading

Self-Catering Cottages on a Working Hill-Farm



Escape to the Rural Scottish Borders

Hiking • Stalking • Bowling • Local Historic Sites



@hearthstanes



@HearthstanesSteading

www.hearthstanes.com

011 44 1899 225119 • info@hearthstanes.com

Hearthstanes Estate, Tweedsmuir by Biggar, ML12 6QN, Scotland

UK EXPO INTERNATIONAL

www.baggpipers.eu | info@baggpipers.eu

1 Pack of 10 Masks

Limited Offer \$35 Only

Comfortable Elastic Piping

Breathable Mesh

Stock Available

Upto 25 Colors

Tartan Layer With Pattern

Comfortable Elastic Piping

Breathable Mesh Lining

Washable Mask

100% Disinfected with Steam

Matching Color Mesh Lining

Scottish Style Mask with Double Layer

Can be Turn inside if no want Cover Chine and Throat

Specially Designed for Covering Chine and Throat.



4K Design
Tees



T-shirts
with a bit
of whimsy!

Looking for a
unique gift idea?
You've found it!



Children and Adult
Sizes Available

Visit us at:
4kDesign-Tees.com

DACEY'S CORNISH TOURS

A STRESS-FREE ADVENTURE - ESCORTED TOURS OF CORNWALL, GREAT BRITAIN!

Dacey's Cornish Tours are different; the agenda is yours, not ours. A unique travel experience that involves group transportation but never feels like a package tour. We're hands-on with the logistics of travel but hands-off when you need us to be, allowing each traveler an authentic connection with the destination.

**THE ADVENTURE IS YOURS.
WE'RE JUST HERE TO MAKE SURE
NOTHING GETS IN THE WAY!**

DACEYSCORNISHTOURS.COM · 651-484-4689

Chanterelle Inn & Cottages
featuring
Restaurant 100 KM

just
The place to be on the Cabot Trail

Eco-Friendly • Antique Furnishings
Vacation Extras • "Cape Breton Fresh" Cuisine

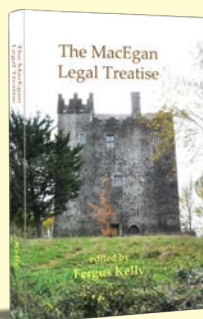
www.chanterelleinn.com

48678 Cabot Trail, North River Bridge, Nova Scotia

Chanterelle Reservations 1-866-277-0577

Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh / School of Celtic Studies
Institiúid Ard-Léinn Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies
10 Bóthar Burlington, Baile Átha Cliath 4

NEW PUBLICATION



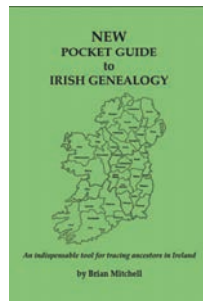
Early Irish Law Series Volume VIII

This Treatise is attributed to Giolla na Naomh Mac Aodhagáin (MacEgan), chief judge of the province of Connacht, who died in battle in 1309 alongside his king Aodh Ó Conchobhair (O'Connor). It is of special importance as it provides a professional lawyer's account of Irish 'Brehon' law in the period after the Anglo-Norman invasion of 1169. The castle photographed here is Redwood (Coillte Ruadha), Co. Tipperary, occupied from the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries by descendants of Giolla na Naomh.

www.celt.dias.ie

Your source for Irish Roots!

New Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy - By Brian Mitchell



Pocket Guide is a bit of misnomer, for in fact this 7"x 10" publication is one of the most complete and informative books on genealogical research in Ireland ever written. Brian Mitchell has completely updated the previous edition of his guide to direct readers to the most current websites and resources. His original premise, however, remains the same: that the examination of seven major records will throw detailed light on most peoples' Irish ancestry. By skillfully blending Irish history, record sources, case studies, maps, charts, and his own mastery

of the subject, Mitchell has put together a masterful handbook to Irish genealogical research.

122 pp., paper. 2020. ISBN 9780806359083. 25.00 USD. 20 GBP. 22 EUR.

Browse the hundreds of books on Irish, Scottish, and Scots-Irish Roots at www.Genealogical.com

U.S. customers order from Genealogical.com.
Canadian and European customers,
Order from your online bookseller.



Gaelic books from Nova Scotia



Joyful illustrations tell the story of Nova Scotia's Gaels past and present in this 32-page alphabet book of Gaelic culture (May 2020)



To order, visit
bradanpress.com



Who wants a typo that never rubs off? Our Tattoo Handbook series features Irish & Scottish Gaelic, with future titles on Welsh, Scots, Ogham, Latin, & more!



Anne of Green Gables translated into Scottish Gaelic, the language of L. M. Montgomery's ancestors (June 2020)

Follow us on Facebook,
Twitter & Instagram:
[@bradanpress](https://www.facebook.com/bradanpress)



Ireland
Coffee Fudge



Wales
Treacle



Brittany
Salted Caramels



Cornwall
Chocolate
Orange Fudge



Isle of Man
Honey Fudge



Scotland
Tablet

Corporate & Wholesale Orders Welcome

www.BEToffee.com

14385 Fiddletown Road, Fiddletown, California
(888) 443-4302

Full Kilt Outfits
Clan-Crested Gifts
All Made in Scotland



Engraved Quaichs



Sgian Dubhs



Brooches



Visit our online store
stkildastore.com
enter offer code **CELTIC01**
for an introductory 5% discount



T: +44(0) 141 332 0407 / F: (0) 141 333 9143 / E: sales@stkildastore.com

No Games This Summer!



**'Scots - Working Together
to Help Each Other'**

*Clans, Games Organizers, Societies,
Members & Friends*

Visit
www.scottishcreations.com
for details

*Scottish
Creations*
Scotland by Design

Representing the very best designs and gifts from Scotland

GLASNEVIN

CEMETERY MUSEUM & GUIDED TOURS



Ireland's history carved in stone

TOURS • RE-ENACTMENTS • GENEALOGY



T: +353 (0)1 882 6550 | E: booking@glasnevintrust.ie

www.glasnevinmuseum.ie



FOUNDED IN 1828

GLASNEVIN TRUST

GLASNEVIN TRUST IS OPERATED BY THE DUBLIN CEMETERIES COMMITTEE.
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 20009441, CHARITY NUMBER CHY 5849

SCOTLANDSHOP

TAILORED TARTAN CLOTHING & INTERIORS



TARTAN FACE MASKS

**20% FROM EVERY SALE DONATED TO THE NHS
OVER 500 CLAN & FAMILY TARTANS**

SHOP ONLINE OR BOOK A VIRTUAL APPOINTMENT

www.ScotlandShop.com | +44 (0)1890860770 | info@scotlandshop.com



VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING

• DANCE SCHOOLS • LANGUAGE CAMPS • HERITAGE GROUPS • & MORE!



The pandemic has disrupted every aspect of our lives, including the ability for groups to fundraise. Support the group of your choice from the comfort and safety of your home while celebrating your heritage!

Clubs - Groups - Schools: visit our Facebook page to learn how you can use your social media to invite your fans & followers to shop Irish flare to support your cause!

- collectible pins
- enamel keychains
- phone stands/rings
- embroidered patches
- vinyl stickers

THE NORWAY DAKOTA COMPANY

www.thenorwaydakotacompany.com

TEXT 833.352.4746
CALL
FAX 833-FLAG-PIN

Come see our amazing selection of made in the USA products and one of a kind items





Kommando Kilts

Home of the original tartan face mask!



Use Coupon Code "CelticLife" and get free shipping!

1-866-552-6687

www.kommandokilts.com



Nesbitt Nisbet Society of North America

Clan Nisbet, a Borders family, welcomes Nesbit/Nisbet and all various spellings worldwide. Share our history and learn about Alexander Nisbet, Scotland's famous author of heraldry.

For more information, visit www.ibydeit.org or contact Dave Nesbitt Harvey, President, at dharvey@ibydeit.org

Cameron's Jewellery Ltd.



Celtic Jewellery

239 Main Street, Antigonish 902-863-1283

ReOpen America Apparel
(c)2020 Northland Industries LLC

2020's Featured Event Shirt, Made here in Minnesota. "PLEASE ALLOW 6 FEET" Printed front and back as a kind reminder to others to provide you the recommended social distance to ReOpen America!

Free download :: DIY Medical Facemask Pattern. Instructional Video :: WATCH

#StayAtHome and #EMERGENCY-TP designs also available for a Limited Special Viral Price.

ORDER TODAY...Let's ReOpen America!

Order by phone or website. USPS Shipping.
FOB Lindstrom, Minnesota USA.
Curbside pickup? :: Schedule in advance.
See our HELP page for options. +1 651.257.6790

<https://www.fair-tshirts.com/>





A WICKLOW *Girl*

**"Stunning
new voice
in Irish
Literature"**

www.awicklowgirl.com

BRIAN O'DOWD

BRING A LITTLE
OCEAN VIEW
home

www.craftcouncil.nl.ca
275 Duckworth St. | St. John's

Tidelines Mug by CUP Studio

FREE SHIPPING in the U.S.A.

Handmade Leather Products:

- Kilt Belts
- Belt Bags
- Regular Belts
- Flask Covers
- Day Sporrans
- Tankard Straps
- Pouch Sporrans
- Festival Goodies

Artfully Designed - Beautifully Handcrafted

www.holyheckusa.com

Haste ye back! July 10 and 11, 2021

**Athena
Caledonian Games
Athena, Oregon**

Founded in 1899

www.athenacaledonian.org

High Quality Highland Accessories and Utility Kilts

www.musikrazi.com
musikrazi@gmail.com

Musik de Razi
Manufacturers & Exporters Since 2004

University of Ottawa - Celtic Studies Minor

Celtic Languages, History, Literature, Music, and more
www.arts.uottawa.ca/modernlanguages/languages/celtic

THE WOLFE TONES
Phenomenon
book by Alex Fell

- a readable history of Ireland ballads & censorship
"a must read" Irish Voice
www.choicepublishing.ie

COME OUT YOU BLACK AND TANS

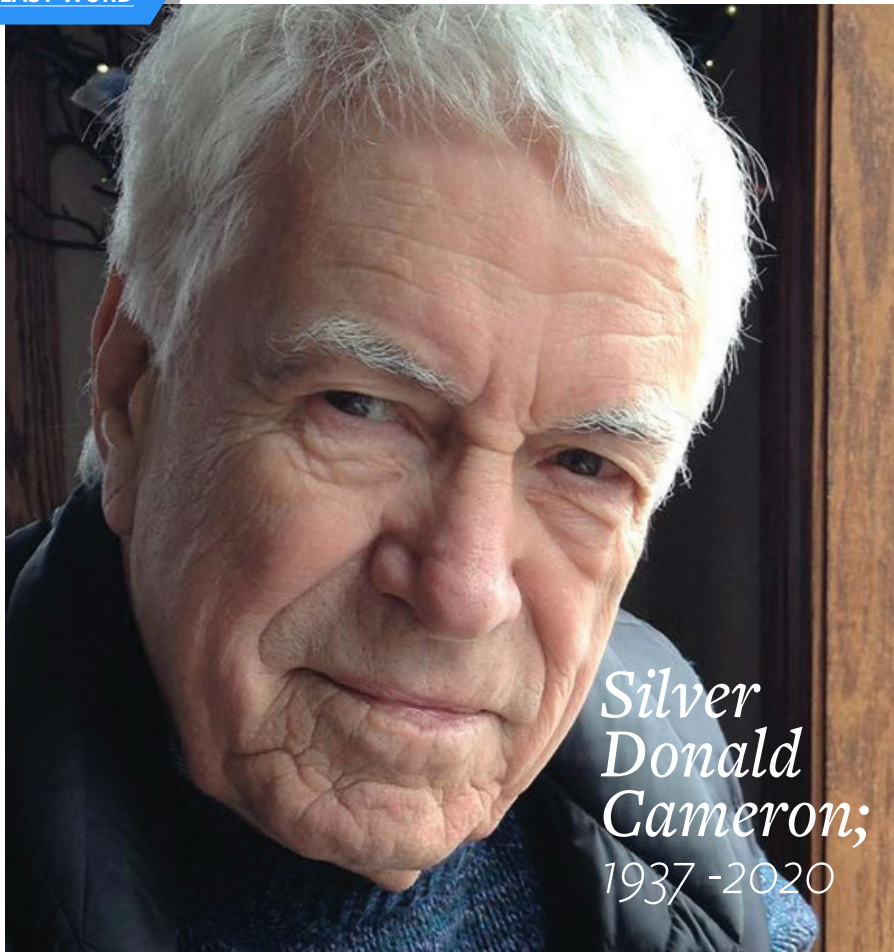
Download success simultaneously Ireland UK and Australia 2020

KINDLE DOWNLOAD NOW AVAILABLE

Old Friends Genealogy
Kate and Mike Lancor - Genealogy Researchers

Let us "chase" your Celtic ancestors!
Discover your Irish or Scottish roots!
It's personal ~ Their story & legacy!

Website: oldfriendsgenealogy.com
Facebook: Old Friends Genealogy
Email: oldfriendsgenealogy@gmail.com
Phone: 603-204-8409 (U.S.)



Canada recently lost one of its most prolific writers, environmentalists, and boating enthusiasts, with the passing of “Silver” Don Cameron.

Cameron, whose writing career spanned decades, passed away at the age of 82 in a Halifax hospital on the first of June, shortly after being diagnosed with lung cancer.

While he wasn’t a Maritime native - Cameron was born in Toronto, and as he was known to say jokingly, dragged his parents across the country to British Columbia as a toddler, before trekking out east - he spent a great deal of his life and career in Atlantic Canada, split between the urban core of Halifax and the quainter village of D’Escousse, on Cape Breton’s Isle of Madame.

It was in D’Escousse that he settled down with his wife, Marjorie Simmins, along with Magnus, Silversark, and Hironnelle - his boats - in 1971. And it was there that, as he told Halifax reporter Cathy MacDonald 20 years later, that he adopted the name “Silver.”

Intending to make a name for himself, too many others already laid claim to “Donald Cameron” across the country. It was folk singer Tom Gallant who gave him the idea

to adopt “a proper Cape Breton nickname.”

“Tom struck a chord on his Yamaha, gazed at me. ‘That hair,’ he said. It’s my most striking feature, prematurely grey hair, set off by black eyebrows and moustache,” Cameron noted on his website.

Cameron relocated to his Maritime home by the sea chiefly because he wanted to live a Maritime life by the sea, and not for career reasons. He made the move work for his career, however, for which he had an obvious talent, according to Halifax freelance writer Philip Moscovitch.

Moscovitch, likewise a Nova Scotia transplant, first encountered Silver Don at a Professional Writers Association of Canada AGM in the early 1990s, where Cameron shared his philosophy on the business of writing.

“He said, ‘I like to go sailing around the world,’” Moscovitch told Celtic Life International. “He was talking about how the art of freelancing as reusing your material and having multiple uses for the same thing. You sail around the world? You write a bunch of articles about it; make a radio documentary; Make enough money so you can sail around the world again.”

Moscovitch admired Cameron for his “ability to adapt, and be curious, and reinvent himself.”

“He could take his passion and do something really useful with it and make a living with it. There are not a lot of people who can consistently do that for decades.”

Fellow Canadian author Margaret Atwood shared a similar sentiment with the CBC.

“He was very genial, he was smart, and he was interested in many different things. He did not confine himself to his own generation. He was interested in a broad spectrum of things, and a broad spectrum of people.”

Cameron taught at several Canadian universities throughout his tenure, sitting as Writer-in-Residence at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, the University of Prince Edward Island, and the University College of Cape Breton, among others.

Later in life, he focused his attention on matters of sustainability and environmentalism, having traveled to Bhutan to help develop the nation’s Gross National Happiness economic philosophy, and perhaps most famously, launching The Green Interview video series.

His latest book, *Blood in the Water: A True Story of Revenge in the Maritimes*, will be published this August, paying homage to the land that gave him his name.

“It is his best, as far as I’m concerned,” his younger brother Ken Cameron recently told the CBC. “It is a love letter to Cape Breton Island.”

A playwright, a humorist, a radio presenter and a father of five, Silver Don led a life filled with experiences that - luckily for those that he leaves behind - he documented in fine detail.

“He was very approachable,” says Moscovitch. “He was a guy who was generous with his time and knowledge, and loved what he did, and wanted other people to do it, also - a spirit I have always appreciated in colleagues.”

“He said something about how he sees himself as a tradesman - you do a little bit of this, a little bit of that, and whatever it takes to make a living. But he clearly undersold himself; he was, first and foremost, an exceptional writer.”

www.silverdonaldcameron.ca



Albannach



Enter the Haggis

27TH ANNUAL GLASGOW LANDS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL JULY 17, 2021

Given the uncertainty and the public health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organizing committee for the Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival has regretfully decided to cancel the 2020 Festival scheduled for Saturday, July 18.

It is in gathering together to celebrate our Scottish heritage that we find joy, but gathering is too great a risk to take under the conditions of this pandemic. Yet we are Scots--danger and privation are nothing new for us. We have the long view down the centuries. We are patient and canny and we know how to survive. We WILL gather again!

**Please stay safe, stay home, check on loved ones
and haste ye back on July 17, 2021!**

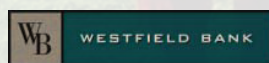


The American Rogues

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

For information:
visit our Facebook page or
www.glasgowlands.org
Email:
glasgowlands@hotmail.com

Co-Sponsored By:





SHEENCO
TRAVEL

**Luxury Vacations in
Ireland,
Scotland,
England &
Wales**
Customized for you



TOLL FREE

888-674-3244

www.sheencotravel.com