

VOL. 35 NO. 3 | \$6.95 CDN/USA | MAY / JUNE - 2021 | CELTICLIFEINTL.COM

CelticLife

INTERNATIONAL

the Celtic **Rainbow**

INSIDE!

*Cassandra Wilson, High Kings
Rose Plays Julie, Teenage Fanclub
Summer Style, Kilted Coaches*



DISPLAY IN LIFESTYLES
UNTIL JULY 2021

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



Gemstone Pendulums



Treasure Boxes



Good Luck Charms



Celtic Tradition, Original Design
Artisan Crafted Celtic Jewelry & Gifts

Ask for us at your favorite shop or
Find us online at
www.CelticKnotWorks.com



Keith Jack



Discover more at:

www.KeithJack.com
VANCOUVER, CANADA

 Keith Jack Inc.  keithjackinc

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



Seasons

SPRING ENAMEL

Rich colours and happy memories...
Inspired by a relaxing walk through falling
leaves in Inverewe Gardens.

Also available in Summer, Autumn and
Winter colours in silver & enamel,
and with 9ct yellow and rose gold leaves.



New shop opening soon! - St Andrews

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.

Siobhán L. Covington, Publisher
Stephen Patrick Clare, Editor-in-Chief
Rebecca Dingwell, Associate Editor
Caitlyn Elizabeth Mearns, Associate Editor
Chris Muise, 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
Andrew Ferguson
Tom Langlands
Gary Maclean
Angus M. Macquarrie
Cabrini Macquarrie

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, 2021



Fáilte

Soraidh Slàn

There are times in our lives when time itself becomes the engine that drives long-overdue decisions and new directions. Many of those life-choices can be bittersweet.

After almost 50 years in publishing - including 34 years at the helm of Celtic Life International - I have decided to call it a career. My family has been encouraging me to "retire" (I really dislike that word) for a while, but a quote by comedic writer Gene Perret always came to mind; "It's nice to get out of the rat race, but you have to learn to get along with less cheese."

However, even during these most trying times when the world seems upside down and coming apart at the seams, the "rat race" that is the world of publishing can be both fun and rewarding.

I was fresh out of St. FX University in northern Nova Scotia when I agreed to help a friend start a community newspaper. Little did I know that decision would mark the beginning of a long journey, first at the Scotia Sun in Port Hawkesbury, NS and, later, with Celtic Life International in Halifax.

Publishing is a wonderful and rewarding life. It has been good to me and I have many memorable experiences. It has allowed me to explore and appreciate my own Celtic heritage (my ancestors came to Canada from the West Highlands of Scotland) through traditional music, dance, piping, Scottish Highland Games and Irish festivals.

The highlight of it all, however, has been the incredible people I have met and spoken with along the way, including fellow Celts, subscribers, advertisers, and many others who aim to preserve and promote our unique heritage. More often than not, these conversations would touch on the cornerstones of our cultural lineage; arts, language, history, genealogy...the list is endless and ever evolving.

More importantly, our readers have always been the heart and soul of Celtic Life International and, without their support, our magazine would not be what or where it is today.

One of the hardest parts of leaving the industry is saying goodbye to the superb people on our team, including editors, salespeople, production staff and writers. I am truly thankful to have worked with each and every one of them as they continued to inspire me with their dedication.

I am comforted in knowing that the publication has been left in good hands; you will find Siobhán Covington both personable and professional. She is passionate about her Celtic roots and will surely be the steady hand required to steer both the magazine and our online community over the coming years. And while the world of publishing has changed greatly in the past five decades, Siobhán is committed to keeping our audience engaged, educated, and entertained.

For myself, this chapter of my life has come to a close. It is bittersweet, yes, but I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to have contributed to the Celtic community. As I turn the page, I want to sincerely thank everyone involved for allowing me the privilege to have served.

Enjoy and may God bless!
Angus M. Macquarrie, Publisher

Inside!

Vol. 35 No. 3



53 The Celtic Rainbow

15

David Anthony Reid turned his passion into his profession

25

The High Kings revisit old favourites with their new recording

31

Cassandra Wilson knows the healing power of music

39

Philip Stewart didn't choose photography, it chose him

47

Lesley Choyce walks The Rock

19

The Kilted Coaches stay in shape and in style

27

Teenage Fanclub's endless arcade

35

Summer style courtesy of Emiah Couture

43

Niall Gibbons is ready to roll out the Green Carpet

62

Chef Gary Maclean serves up Peppered Tenderloin of Beef

9. First Word / **11.** De Tha Dol / **13.** Celts in the Community
69. The Piper / **71.** The Fiddler / **73.** 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!

GET DIGITAL!

Pick up a 1-year digital subscription for just \$19.95. See our website for details!

SIGN UP!

Sign up for our newsletter and you could win a one-year digital subscription to Celtic Life International!

SWAG UP!

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

LISTEN UP!

Be sure to check out our new Celtic Life International Podcast (CLIP), featuring news, reviews, interviews, trivia, contests 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!



www.celticlifintl.com

Tá áthas orm bualadh leat

Being the newest member of the Celtic Life International clan, I have been asked to share a little about myself and how I became involved with this publication.

I have lived in the Greater Toronto Area for most of my life - for the past 30 years in a heritage home (built in 1897!), living with my husband, two children, a varying number of cats and books...lots and lots of books.

The written word has always been a source of comfort and security for me. I think it stems from the assurance of knowing that I am surrounded by endless stories. My profession, on the other hand, has traditionally involved numbers, financial statements, and budgets. I have worked in the world of finance for my entire career in one capacity or other - most recently, operating my own firm supporting small business and helping not-for-profit organizations achieve financial security. Although very rewarding, there has been a small, but constant voice (maybe with a wee Irish accent) moving me in another direction. This past year, which has been so difficult for so many, turned out to be a gift for me, resulting in the opportunity to take stock of my life and consider new paths and possibilities. The chance to get involved with Celtic Life International seemed serendipitous, and 2021 appeared like a very appropriate year for a new adventure.

Often, and for too long, we are prepared to accept the status quo of our lives. Then an event nudges us beyond our comfort zone that presents other options.

My parents came to Canada from the U.K. in the mid-1950s; Dad arriving in advance after accepting his dream job with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), with Mum following weeks later in the middle of winter (amidst a storm that left her stranded in Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador!) Their final destination - Halifax, Nova Scotia - was where my siblings and I became first generation Canadians, growing up, like so many past and present, with the unrelenting pull from "back home." My Irish heritage comes courtesy of my Mum; she was a vivid storyteller who could easily bring childhood memories of Ireland to life with only a few words. Her family was originally from Tipperary, later relocating to Cork. In fact, my great-grandfather was the Lord Mayor of Cork for a short period of time. Naturally, I am very passionate about my Irish ancestry and feel strongly connected to Celtic culture; those deep roots resonating through the music, the inflection in speech, the unique sense of humour, the symbolism, and the region's rich and robust past.



Reflecting on my parents' courage to leave their homeland for a different life, it seemed like the ideal time for me to pluck up a little courage of my own - not by moving across the Atlantic, but by bringing an entirely new world to my door.

Although early days for me, I am fortunate to be working with an incredible team and to have been given the occasion to build on the 34-year legacy that is Celtic Life International. I appreciate the achievements that Angus M. Macquarrie accomplished over that time, and I am confident that we will continue to provide an unsurpassed excellence in journalistic quality by bringing this unique voice to our ever-expanding audience. As always, our mandate remains to connect the Celtic community, defining and redefining and refining who we are as a people, and reminding the world that we are more relevant today than ever.

Exploring Celtic culture - its people, places and history - means more than reflecting on the past, however; as a living, breathing identity and entity, it needs to be nurtured carefully to evolve. I am eager to be a part of that process and excited to be taking this new journey with all of you.

Siobhán L. Covington
Publisher

TheCelticMarket

Spring into Summer Savings!



World Peace
Scottish Tartan
Scarf

\$44.95



World Peace
Tartan Tie

\$39.95



Ellis Island Tartan
Scarf Special

\$54.95



Nova Scotia
Tea Towels

\$19.95



Nova Scotia
Oven Mitts

\$24.95



Nova Scotia
Scottish Tartan
Pot Holder

\$19.95

Subscriptions - Print and Digital

PRINT + Digital SUBSCRIPTION

☐ 1 YEAR CANADA: \$31.95* / USA: \$41.95** / INTL: \$61.95**

☐ 2 YEARS CANADA: \$52.95* / USA: \$62.95** / INTL: \$72.95**

* In Canada GST/HST Extra / **USD

DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

☐ 1 YEAR: \$19.95

☐ 2 YEARS: \$29.95

☐ 3 YEARS: \$37.95

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

PROVINCE/STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTAL/ZIP _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED ☐ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Credit Card; VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX ☐

NUMBER EXPIRY

CVV _____ SIGNATURE _____

CELTIC LIFE INTERNATIONAL • 10 PETER STREET, MARKHAM, ONTARIO, L3P 2A4

1-888-215-6850 / SUBSCRIBE@CELTICLIFE.COM

www.thecelticmarket.com



one

Bagpipes on Display

While visiting the Army Museum at the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site in Nova Scotia, Brenda Steele noticed a set of bagpipes on display. The pipes belonged to a man named John Carson, who happened to be the pipe master of Steele's late grandfather - Michael McDougall, a First World War piper and a soldier in the 25th Battalion Nova Scotia Rifles. Steele became determined to have her grandfather's pipes on display as well. Although it took more than a year, the century-old pipes are now part of the museum's collection.

two

Bottled Air

How much would you pay for a bottle of Cornish air? Coast Capture Air happens to be selling the stuff to anyone who's "longing for the great outdoors in lockdown." The company claims to capture unpolluted air from the likes of the Cornish coast and other parts of Great Britain. That said, the so-called Cornish air has been a source of controversy, as it is captured in Hartland Point in Devon (outside of Cornwall, though close by). It is hard to say if it is worth the £75 price tag either way, but in any case, it is sold out!

three

Welsh Reawakening

Ray McDermott, 96, didn't think that she would ever speak Welsh again. Having lived in the United States for several decades, McDermott hadn't spoken the language since her mother died more than 40 years ago. Her son, Keith, took to the internet to find Welsh-speakers who might be able to connect with McDermott. Responses soon rolled in. Keith set up a call with a Welsh speaker in New York, and McDermott was able to converse in Welsh for the first time in a long time.

four

Viking Jewellery

A retired police officer recently found a collection of Viking jewellery in the northern region of the Isle of Man. The collection, which includes a 1,000-year-old gold arm band and a silver brooch, was discovered on a plot of farmland in December. The gold in particular is considered a rare item for the era. The find was made public in February. The items were legally classified as treasure, which means they belong to the Crown and the finder was rewarded. The jewellery will go on display at the Manx Museum.

five

Irish Library

A new library in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island has been put together by the Benevolent Irish Society. The library opened its doors in early February, once the Society had finished cataloguing more than 1,600 books - including donations from the collections of local Irish descendants. Works of fiction and nonfiction are available to borrow for Society members as well as the general public, including works on history, genealogy and folklore. In addition, a section of magazines and periodicals can be enjoyed within the library.

six

Film Boom

The rise in international popularity of Spanish dramas has led to an increase in film production in Galicia. In 2019, O sabor das margaridas (Bitter Daisies) became the first Galician language series available on Netflix. HBO broadcast its first Galician language series last year: a miniseries called Auga seca (Dry Water). A series filmed in Galicia, 3 Caminos, hit Amazon Prime in January. According to a report by The Guardian, screenwriter Ghaleb Jaber Martínez said the nation's landscape is a major draw for filmmakers.

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

GREATER MONCTON HIGHLAND GAMES & SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

Host of the 2022 Scottish Heavy Athletics
Masters World Championships
New Brunswick, Canada
June 17 - 19, 2022



Greater Moncton
Scottish
Association

Join us online for our
2021 Greater Moncton Highland Games &
Scottish Festival Celebration!



WWW.MONCTONHIGHLANDGAMES.COM





Caoimhe Forde

Caoimhe Forde grew up speaking Irish Gaelic in County Kildare. Now in her 30s, Forde is nurturing interest in Irish language and culture in New York City. She has been living in New York for 10 years, initially working as an adjunct professor at the Institute of Irish Studies at Fordham University. She then found a job at Rosetta Stone: a company that develops language and literacy software. In 2016, Forde began working with Lehman College in the Bronx. There, she teaches Irish language, literature, and history. In February 2020, she was lauded as a passionate and tireless worker in a “Top 40 Under 40” list in Irish Echo magazine. On top of her paid work, she also volunteers as co-chair of Irish Network NYC. The organization, according to its website, “enhances the communities in the greater New York area by facilitating Irish and Irish-American cultural, social, philanthropic and professional networking events.” In addition, she is a board member for Gaeil Nua-Eabhrac, a group which organizes events and brings Irish language speakers together. “There’s no other city in the world where you can have a successful career speaking Irish and working as an Irish cultural ambassador,” Forde recently told the New York Times. “I get to work in arts, music, film, social events and the intricacies of a language that is rarely spoken at home. My weeks are packed with things to do and there is a really great community of Irish people here, who have held together during this tough year.”



Casey-Jane Bishop

At just 16 years of age, Casey-Jane Bishop is already making a difference. The Welsh teen has been through a lot, having been a victim of bullying from a young age. The physical torment was so severe that she developed anxiety and had to change schools. Now, Bishop is a member of the Welsh Youth Parliament and uses her position to call on schools to do more to prevent bullying. Additionally, Bishop is an ambassador for BulliesOut: an anti-bullying charity in the United Kingdom. BulliesOut provides e-mentoring for people affected by bullying, as well as workshops and training programs for teachers and professionals. She is also a supporter of Barnardo’s: a U.K. organization that works with vulnerable children. “People are starting to realise that young people have something to say and know what they are talking about. I want to raise awareness about young people’s mental health. Anxiety is a big thing for them, and it can trigger physical symptoms too. Not many people talk about mental health, but we need to,” Bishop wrote in a post for the Barnardo’s website. “Something that might seem petty could cost someone their life. Schools have a responsibility. There needs to be support and the training for teachers needs to be more effective, it’s no good just telling a pupil to go off and make friends.” Bishop was recognized for her bravery at the Child of Wales Awards in 2020. This year, she made the St David Awards shortlist in the Young Person category.



Wilamena Dyer

Wilamena Dyer, 14, started a blog and YouTube channel to help young people living with Tourette’s Syndrome. Dyer lives with the neurological disorder herself and has dealt with severe symptoms, including full body “tics.” Tics can be as simple as sudden movements or sounds, but on the more extreme end, they can be physically dangerous. “For those of you that probably don’t know what a tic attack is, it is when you suddenly have rapid bouts of tic movements that can be quite violent and sometimes look like a fit or seizure,” Dyer wrote on her blog, Tictastic. “They can vary in length and severity and usually happen quite randomly. I tend to have them more often when I am particularly tired or anxious.” In an interview with Cornwall Live, Dyer described her school and family as supportive, and she knows that’s not the case for everyone with Tourette’s. Originally from Falmouth, Dyer began boarding at Wells Cathedral School in Somerset after winning a scholarship to study music there. She plays the cello as well as percussion. “As I got older and my Tourette’s got worse, I noticed that when I played [music], I didn’t tic,” Dyer told Cornwall Live. “I connected the dots and started playing more often, and this grew this love of music. I think if I didn’t have Tourette’s, I wouldn’t necessarily have gotten where I am playing music.” Dyer hopes that Tourette’s Syndrome stops being seen as a joke or a condition to be mocked.



USCO

UNITED SCOTTISH CLANS
OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA

HIGHLAND GATHERING
A SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 15TH-17TH

MIDWEST CITY REGIONAL PARK

8700 East Reno Avenue
Midwest City, OK

unitedscotsok.com

FREE ADMISSION

David Anthony Reid

**Scottish luthier
David Anthony Reid
turned his passion
into his profession**



David Anthony Reid is nothing if not a true Scot. In 2016, a distant cousin of the award-winning luthier traced the family's lineage back 440 years, connecting them to the Scottish Reid-Robertson clan.

"As far back as the records go, we originate in central Perthshire, around the Blairgowrie area," he explains via email. "I was born in and spent my first five to six years in the town of Blairgowrie."

Reid's desire to play music began at a young age, though he admits that he didn't become "musically proactive" until the late 1980s to the mid-1990s as electronic music became increasingly popular throughout the U.K.

"I was a bit caught up in all of that and became a DJ for a while, but when Brit Pop really took off in the mid '90s, I got back into guitar bands and again had a hankering to play. I couldn't afford to buy a guitar at the time as I had just spent a small fortune renovating my first flat. So, being quite able with my hands, I decided to reverse engineer a friend's acoustic and built my own first guitar."

Reid spent the next few years repairing guitars and pursuing an education in mechatronic engineering. Before long, he was accepted into a one-year course in Glasgow, where he got to build guitars at a professional level.

"I was meant to resume my engineering studies after one year in Glasgow, but I pursued another two years of guitar making study at London Guildhall University and then established my business and name in London for many years thereafter."

His business, which remains based in London, specializes in making and repairing both acoustic and electric guitars. Reid also developed a smooth and balanced style of guitar - what he describes as his "signature model" - called the vault back guitar.

Today, the core focus of his business is bespoke set-up services.

"I am the only luthier that I am aware of to provide this service. It involves me working with the player in person and changing their instrument in increments whilst getting them to play the guitar for me - then working back and forth until we achieve the perfect union. I change the structure of the instrument further if we can't find that perfect balance in just a setup session."

"As a teacher of guitar construction, I realized that even the best and most intelligent learners can't possibly gain the knowledge and experience that I have accumulated over the years by simply spending a couple of years with me - never mind a couple of hours. I don't feel like I have to harbour knowledge and expect a client to just collect their instrument after I have 'set it up.' The real benefit is to have my clients observe exactly what I am doing to their instruments, and to educate them about their mechanical construction and the organic nature of wood."

"The transformation that a bespoke setup can do for a guitar is



unbelievable for some. To see how happy and in love with their guitars people become after I have worked on them is really rewarding. It is the thing I love the most about my work. When I finish making an instrument and play it for the first time is also very special."

Even still, his career journey has not been without its challenges.

"Being a full-time guitar maker does not happen overnight. It took years of blood, sweat, and tears to become a full-time maker of instruments."

One of the biggest vocational difficulties remains the general lack of education about wood instruments.

"A lot of guitarists don't realize that they have to care for it a lot more than most manufacturers inform them. I have had to educate the managers of many leading U.K. guitar shops and stores about these issues."

Reid plans to return to Edinburgh soon - and, perhaps, somewhere warmer come the summer months. He doubts that he will ever fully retire.

"I will probably never stop working on guitars. When what you do for a living is a passion and something that you love, why give it up? I plan to continue doing non-woodworking guitar repairs and my bespoke setups for as long as I live."

www.darluthier.com

Celtic Jewelry with an Ancient Story



Focal Collection

Long bohemian style pendants
with touches of color.

Celtic
Dragonfly

May 1 - Jun 30

Free Giftwrap Plus **Free Coordinating Earrings**

Use Promo Code: **CLM20214**



www.TheCelticJewelryStudio.com

Rose Plays Julie

Two Irish filmmakers tackle a tough topic

When Irish filmmaking duo Christine Molloy and Joe Lawlor wrapped their last feature film project, they planted the seeds that would grow into their next picture.

"We knew we wanted to do a film about a young, adopted woman who wants to trace her birth parent," Molloy tells Celtic Life International via Zoom.

The pair's latest release, *Rose Plays Julie*, opens with a young woman named Rose discovering the identity of her birth mother, Ellen, and arranging to confront her.

"We knew that her birth mother was going to reject her again," explains Molloy. "In Ireland, the birth mother has the power to withhold information from her birth child."

Ellen, a famous actress, soon reveals the reason for her rejection.

"We wanted to make a film that looked at the issue of rape, and to try and explore it in a different way," continues Molloy. "It is not about the act itself, but the unexpected consequence of the rape - the creation of a new life, Rose. And Rose wants justice, and to confront her biological father about what he did."

Rose endeavours to meet her father, Peter, but does so as "Julie" - the name her mother would have given her had she kept her.

"The younger generation look for justice in a way that the older generation didn't," shares Lawlor. "Ireland has only recently come to terms with a lot of the abuse and collusion between church and state, and the institutions of Magdalene Laundries and the child trafficking that was going on there. Our generation, perhaps, was the first to really row against the church. Before that, there was a lot of acquiescence, a lot of deference being paid to institutions. Today's generation, and those to follow, actually have a tremendous amount of power and agency to challenge these older institutions."

"The hope is that the new generation forces the older generation to be braver."

Molloy and Lawlor, both native Dubliners, aren't just partners in filmmaking.

"We got married many years ago, and we have been on this journey together," says Molloy from London where the pair now reside. "We left Ireland a long time ago, back in 1997. But we have never really cut those ties. Home will always be Dublin and Ireland. Like lots of Irish people, we will say 'we are going home,' which means we are going back to Dublin, and when we are in Dublin, we will say 'we are going home,' which means coming back to London."

On the set of *Rose Plays Julie*, work and home were one and the same. This is the pair's first feature film that is filmed entirely in Dublin, and with an entirely Irish cast and crew. As Lawlor explains, that is partly pragmatic.

"There is a lot to be said about Northern European architecture; arguably, one place kind of looks like the other. You would be hard-



pressed to know the difference between Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, the U.K., or Ireland. We like that nondescript landscape. This story could take place anywhere."

The couple found time to ensure they reconnected with the city during the two-month shoot, the longest stint they have spent there in 20 years.

"We always make our way to Dollymount, this island off Dublin," says Lawlor. "It is kind of unique, built of sand dunes. That, for us, is always a reminder when we are back home."

Working on the film together only strengthened their own vows.

"Some people would balk at the idea of working day-in and day-out with the person they are married to, but somehow we have managed to make it work," says Molloy. "Filmmaking is all-consuming - it is easier if the person you are married to is going through the same thing, as it is going to take over your life one way or the other. We have one daughter, Molly, and one of the bigger challenges is trying to navigate and negotiate it all with a child."

Lawlor says the film industry has room to improve with regards to supporting working parents.

"You've got to really argue for childcare," he laments. "And we haven't won that argument."

"Great organizations like Raising Films have put a real spotlight on this issue," Molloy adds. "Molly is 18, so we are over the tricky parts. When we make our next film she will be older, so it won't have the same impact on her that it has."

Speaking of their next film, like before, the couple have hardly finished their latest project while busying themselves with the next.

"Two projects we are involved in, those scripts are done, and they are great," explains Lawlor. "They're both based on true stories, and they are both back in time."

"It is exciting new territory," they both agree, almost in unison, then Lawlor adds, "We have been sowing those seeds, and now we just hope they can come to fruition."

www.filmmovement.com/rose-plays-julie

SCOTTISH LANDS

Scottish Lands

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



The Everlasting Gift

Over 200,000 people have become Lords and Ladies. Helping to create nature reserves in Scotland. Visit your plot anytime.

Our mission is to fund the creation of multiple nature reserves throughout Scotland by selling the most engaging gift in the world.

Now in our eleventh year, we believe we are well on the way to achieving this.

We take huge pride in our mission, as do our customers. Tens of thousands of Lairds, Lords and Ladies have visited our nature reserves, all of whom have strengthened their emotional ties with Scotland.

Buy a wee piece of Scotland from \$75



www.scottishlands.com

The Kilted Coaches

Stephen Clarke and Rab Shields stay in shape and in style

Ever wanted to slim down to fit into that nice dress you have, or get back into the kind of shape you were in back in high school, only to be too embarrassed to set foot in a gym in your current state to follow through? A pair of Scottish lifestyle coaches understand - they've got your back and they're bringing their kilts.

Stephen Clarke and Rab Shields go way back together, although their first meeting was in the field of journalism, and not fitness.

"We met when we were 13," recalls Clarke, who was joined by Shields in a Zoom chat with Celtic Life International. "We both had a paper route, and we went from there. Our paths crossed a few times before we both became personal trainers."

"We always just enjoyed fitness," Shields chimes in. "We kept fit ourselves; we loved action movies, and we wanted to get action movie bodies. We realized we were quite good at it, and then we realized we liked helping people, and effectively, we decided to help people the best way we knew how."

The pair used to work as fitness trainers at a commercial gym, but they soon spotted a flaw in that model of training.

"There was a big problem with the health and fitness industry, in that a lot of people take themselves too seriously," says Clarke.

"And it is fuelled by social media," adds Shields. "People will see images of Adonises that are probably competition-ready that will say 'you can look like this in six weeks!' This is false, and it gives people unrealistic expectations. They feel like they will never get there, and it becomes a vicious cycle."

"Instead, we believe in making small, gradual changes that have a huge impact over a long period of time," Shields continues.

The duo formed their own lifestyle and fitness training program, although they don't consider themselves just personal trainers anymore - they are the whole package.

"Coach' encompasses more," explains Clarke. "It encompasses everything; fitness, nutrition, psychology, lifestyle, mental well-being..."

"Sometimes, people are afraid to join gyms because they feel like they need to be fit before they join, so we break that barrier down," says Shields. "The main difference with our coaching plan compared to others is you actually get us. A lot of plans, people buy into them, and they just get left to their own devices; they go away and follow the plan to the best of their ability."

Clarke and Shields run their coaching business entirely online, with upwards of 500-600 members tuning in weekly from around the world.

"We start with a 12-week program," says Clarke. "Then it goes on to an ongoing membership, and then people can interact with us on video calls and get the help that they need."

As such, the member experience was largely unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. If anything, it might



have galvanized some to use their time at home to improve themselves.

"It made people take stock of their health a bit more," Shields surmises. "I believe that it gave everybody a fright, especially when certain indicators came out related to the virus that, potentially, you were at more risk if you were extremely overweight. Certainly, people that we know or had spoken to took charge of their health and started looking at making changes."

Okay, so - why the kilts? Clarke and Shields explain that the kilts are about conveying the message that it is important to be the best you that you can be, not the perfect you.

"The kilts, for us, bring out our authentic selves," says Shields. "We can just be who we want to be at any given time. We have a joke that 'you can say what you want when you have a kilt on.'"

"We are trying to inspire our clients to be the biggest and best versions of themselves."

"We want to teach sustainable change, and the only way to do that is by creating solid habits."

"It is important that we create that mindset of 'there is no finish line,'" adds Clarke. "There is no finish line in life, other than death."

What's next on the horizon for the Kilted Coaches? A book? TV deal? Or just expanding their member base?

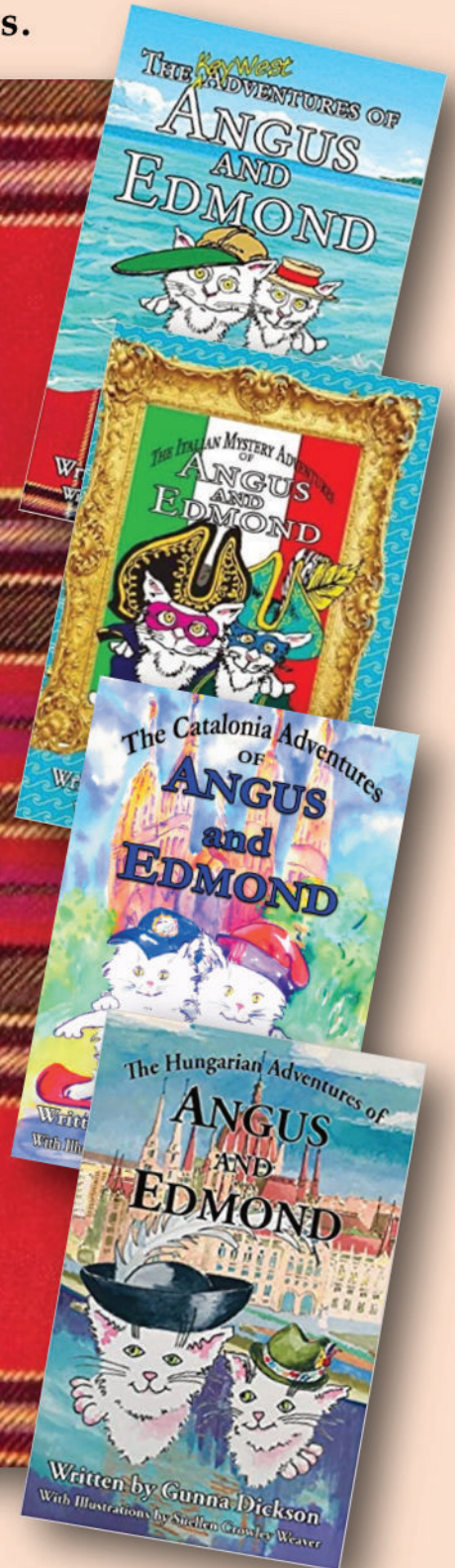
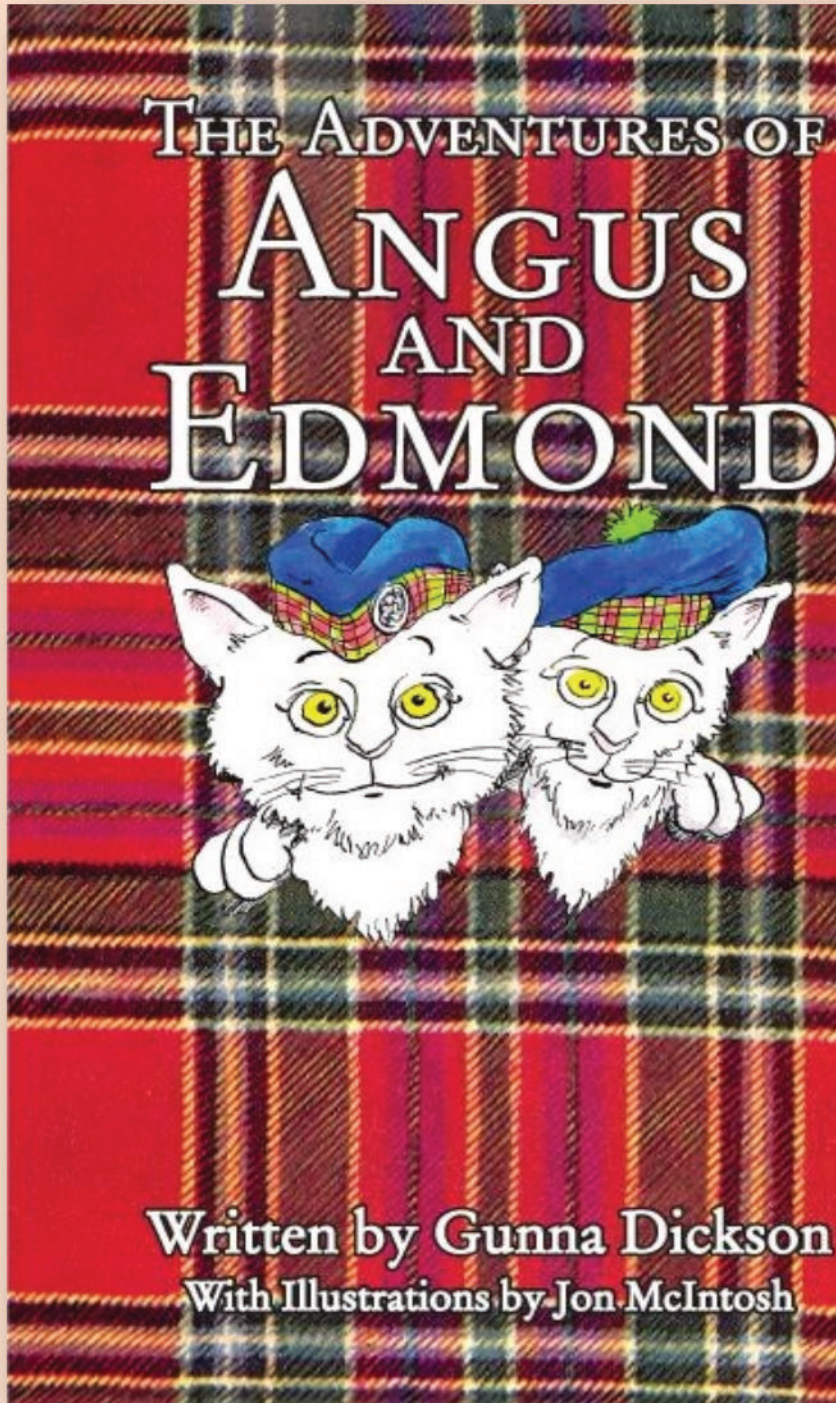
"All of the above, actually," says Clarke. "We do have a book coming, which will be next year. And yeah, we have a TV show that we will be starting to film shortly."

"In terms of our business, we are very mindful that, while we want to expand the membership, but we need to expand it slowly," adds Shields, who practices what he preaches - he is aware of the risk of taking on too much too fast and setting unrealistic goals. "If we had 10,000 members, how much of us would they get? We might expand that in the future but, for now, we are going to see how we manage it in the short-term."

www.thekiltedcoaches.com

Curl up and enjoy!

While the Angora-mix brothers work on a new adventure, it's a good time to catch up on their previous escapades.



Order from www.Amazon.com and other online sites.
More information at <https://gdicksonbooks.com>



Su-a Lee

Su-a Lee believes in the beauty of the cello

Born in South Korea to Korean parents, Su-a Lee lived in England, Hawaii, and New York before settling in Scotland. It was there, at the age of eight, that she discovered her passion for music.

"I initially started on the violin because it was offered at school, but I lasted less than two weeks because I didn't enjoy it one little bit," Lee shares via email from her home in Edinburgh. "The instant I heard the cello, I fell in love with the tone. When I was first allowed to bring a cello home from school my parents couldn't get me away from it."

Her interest in the instrument blossomed as a teenager and young adult. Classically trained, she attended a number of notable arts schools - including Chethams School of Music in Manchester, U.K., and Juilliard in New York City - and has been a member of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra for over 25 years.

Today, she continues to play for many of the same reasons as when she first began.

"I still love the sound of the cello, but I also love the feel of the cello. In fact, I love everything about it. The fact that you can encompass the whole thing in a big hug and that you feel the whole instrument vibrate when you play. It is so versatile in terms of melody, counterpoint, rhythm, and bass. It is the closest instrument to the human voice and even feels like a human spirit.

"It is an incredibly beautiful work of art in-and-of itself..."

Lee - who performs both independently and with her band, Mr. McFall's Chamber - describes her sonic style as "versatile."

"I have an unwritten policy of mixing widely different styles in the same program - anything from progressive rock, tango, cartoon classics, folk, jazz, early music to contemporary classical. Since that time, and throughout my career, I have explored other cultures of music, studying Indian and Arabic music, and I work regularly with artists from different traditions such as folk, jazz, and world music."

She admits that a career in music is not without its challenges, specifically noting the need to juggle multiple responsibilities at once.

"A musician can't just be good at their instrument or craft; they also have to be good at social media, business, administration, digital

technology...the list is endless. It is hard to find the time to be creative and practice."

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdowns have proved to be another test of character.

"It is absolutely tragic that all our gigs were cancelled overnight. I had a wonderful tour to Korea, China, Singapore, and Taiwan planned last May; a nine-city tour of the U.S. in October; as well as some wonderful festivals and a jam-packed schedule. Hamish, my partner, was supposed to launch his third solo album on the first day of lockdown."

Despite the difficulties, Lee notes that Scotland's music scene remains in strong standing.

"COVID-19 has not been very widespread in the Highlands, as we have been quite isolated and careful. I have been busy working with the (Nicola) Benedetti Foundation to deliver workshops and classes online. It is a whole new set of skills to present to hundreds of children all over the world on Zoom! But despite all of that, there has been some (necessary) questioning of what is important to each of us, and maybe some consideration about what we have learned in this pandemic to be able to take forward with us.

"Musicians and organizations are rallying to find imaginative ways of connecting with their audiences online," she adds. "There have been some tremendous results, including the Celtic Connections Festival, which ran a packed festival of stunningly recorded gigs online. Many other groups have been keeping an impressive online presence for their locked down audiences. Individual musicians have been learning new skills to stay connected digitally and there is no doubt that this will enhance possibilities once live music can happen once more."

To that end, Lee says 2021 will be an eventful year for her creatively.

"I am working on a really exciting project, which is challenging me to be creative and to learn new skills. The rewards are boundless when making music with kindred spirits and getting to visit so many cultures across the world."

www.sualee.com

IOWA IRISH FEST

Save **the** Date

August 6-8
2021

The Fest is Back!

Live Music

Family Fun & Learning
Area

Irish Cultural Area

ShamRock N Run 5K

High Nelly Bike Rally

Workshops in Irish Dance,
Instruments & Culture

Whiskey Tasting

Rugby Tournament

Highland Games

Celtic Cruise

Sunday Catholic Mass

Celtic Vendors

Food & Drink

**Downtown
Waterloo**



Purchase Tickets
& Learn More at
IowaIrishFest.com





Fiona Howell

On her latest recording, Fiona Howell brings a musical mélange of Celtic culture...

Fiona Howell calls it “fitting” that she ended up playing the Irish flute.

“My grandmother on my mother’s side was from Brittany, France, and on my dad’s side, my great-great-grandfather was from Roscommon, Ireland,” she shares via email from her home in Wonalancet, New Hampshire. “Roscommon is known for two things, and one of them is famous Irish flute players.”

Music, she says, has played a big part of her family’s make-up.

“I am the niece of Talking Heads’ Chris Frantz and Tina Weymouth. My mother was in a band with them called the Tom Tom Club. My dad grew up near Memphis and was a DJ, so I heard a lot of early rock ‘n’ roll, blues, and soul music in our house growing up. I am the only family member who performs Celtic music, however.”

Describing herself as “Irish by heritage,” Howell notes that her desire to play the flute began as early as the age of four.

“I give credit to the movie *The Secret of Roan Inish* - I identified with the main character, a young girl about my age also named Fiona. I started by learning the entire soundtrack of the movie, including the songs in Irish. I loved it, and I watched it many times when I was growing up.”

“The Irish language feels natural to me...”

It was years later, however, that Howell finally began her formal studies at the world-renowned Rudolf Steiner School in New York City.

“It was the first Waldorf school in the country, so they taught a lot through music. Although, at the time, they had too many flute players, I forced them to take me on as a flute player. In fourth grade, you choose your orchestral instrument, and you have three options: I only picked flute - I circled it, underlined it, and starred it to death to make sure they knew that was all I wanted.”

Following her graduation, Howell attended Loyola University

in New Orleans where she earned a music degree. She released her debut recording, *Crossing the Sea*, in January 2015. She has since put out albums with her two bands, *Cróga* and *The White Mountain Ceili Band*.

She describes her musical style as “fresh trad.”

“I put new twists on old favourites. I do not want to copy anything if I don’t have to. I have had a wide mix of the best teachers in this genre, including John Doyle, Kevin Crawford, Nuala Kennedy, Brian Finnigan, Shannon Heaton, the band Gaelic Storm, and others. My music is a mix of everything that I have learned.”

Recently, Howell released her second solo album, *Beyond the Green Fields*, which celebrates her unique Celtic roots.

“It took an entire year to put it together, but I think that is why it sounds so amazing. I love all the songs, but my favourite track is the waltz I wrote called *Port Blanc*. That was my tribute to my Breton heritage.”

She admits that creating the album was difficult at times - especially amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We were lucky in that by the time the lockdown happened, we were at the point where we could work remotely. Before then, we did several in-person, 12-hour days recording and working on the tracks. During lockdown, we exchanged files electronically. However, since we had played together at some point and we all knew each other, the recording still sounds like we are playing together as a group in one room - not just as a collection of individual files.”

The album has already received great praise from listeners, even landing a coveted spot on Ireland’s RTÉ *Raidió na Gaeltachta*.

She says that 2021 will be equally eventful.

“I plan to continue making YouTube videos once a week and maybe publish a book or two as well. I am currently putting a poetry collection together also.”

www.fionahowellmusic.com



University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

200
1822 - 2022

UWTSD where higher education began in Wales

*Study in Wales for the
experience of a lifetime.*



FROM UNDERGRADUATE TO PHD COURSES

ON-CAMPUS: You have the opportunity to study at one of our beautiful campuses in South West Wales including, study abroad, summer programs and full-time undergraduate and graduate programs.

ON-LINE: Discover your passion with i-humanities. Our lecturers are not only specialists in their subject area but experts in distance-learning provision. We've been delivering distance-learning programs and modules for about 30 years.

STUDY: BA and MA IN CELTIC STUDIES

As well as programs within:

- ANCIENT LANGUAGES
 - ANCIENT WORLDS
 - CULTURAL ASTRONOMY
 - HISTORICAL STUDIES
 - LITERATURE, WRITING & LANGUAGE
 - PHILOSOPHY
 - RELIGIOUS STUDIES
 - THEOLOGY
- and many more...

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

For full details please contact:
Kathleen Griffiths; k.griffiths@uwtsd.ac.uk

For more information about the University of
Wales Trinity Saint David and our courses visit:
www.uwtsd.ac.uk



StudyUWTSD / studyinwales



UWTSD



Eire's The High Kings revisit old favourites with their new recording

It has been just over three years since Celtic Life International last spoke with Irish folk group The High Kings. In that time, the world-renowned quartet has undergone an evolution of sorts.

"The first major change would be that we have found a fantastic multi-instrumentalist and singer named Paul O' Brien from County Laois," says the band's guitarist Finbarr Clancy. "The good news is that the low and high whistles are back in - as is the bouzouki. Paul also adds the harmonica to great effect, the mandolin, and if all that is not enough, he is currently working on the Uilleann pipes."

In addition to gaining a band member, The High Kings have also released their ninth album - a live recording titled *Home From Home*.

"When touring is no longer an option due to present circumstances, you have to get creative and find yourself a project," continues Clancy. "That is when we decided we wanted to come out the other side of this with something to show for it. *Home From Home* is the fruits of our labour."

Darren Holden, the band's vocalist, echoes the sentiment.

"We couldn't tour due to the (COVID-19) virus, so we wanted to give our fans a little bit of what they were missing - and also give them a little bit of hope. We picked songs from places we love around the world and gave each song our signature High Kings stamp."

The 11 tracks that comprise *Home From Home* celebrate classic folk songs, both old and new, including *Streets of London*, *Farewell to Nova Scotia*, *Green Fields of France*, and *Summer in Dublin* - Holden's personal favourite.

"Some songs we have been singing for a while and hadn't already recorded," shares Clancy. "Then there were some great songs we wanted to record about cities we shared a close affinity with. Having performed there so many times, they were considered a home from home. That is really how the album got its name."

Piecing the album together was not without its share of challenges, especially with ongoing COVID-19 concerns and protocols.



"Covid stopped everything in its tracks for us - impacting the music industry so hard," Clancy notes. "As we were forced to stop everything, it gave us an opportunity to plan ahead and think about where we would like to take the band in the future, and how to get there."

"This was a completely different experience when it came to recording an album."

"Ordinarily, especially for a live album, we would get together to rehearse the material. That was not possible with government restrictions in place, so much of the preparation was done remotely. We could only get together to record when government restrictions were eased."

"The biggest surprise was how in sync we were throughout the entire process," adds Holden.

Released in early March, *Home From Home* has already generated great popular and critical acclaim.

"It has been phenomenal," says Holden. "Far beyond anything we could have hoped for. Number 1 on numerous iTunes Charts around the world, including in the USA. Reviews have been very favourable. We are grateful."

Both Clancy and Holden hold out strong hope for the future of Irish music but share

concerns about the long-term effects COVID-19 will have on the industry.

"Ireland's music industry will hopefully boom after the pandemic," says Clancy. "There will, of course, have to be changes to public health guidelines. Exactly what they will be is anyone's guess. One thing is for sure: there is a massive appetite for concerts right now and, once things open up again, it could be a golden age for live music."

"If we want the world of live entertainment to return to what it was - or as close to as possible - then we need to let our government know how important this industry is," adds Holden. "We have spent the last year staring at computer screens and that is soul-destroying. It is just not the same as being out among people at a gig. Obviously, the health and well-being of our elderly, vulnerable and sick are of primary importance, and we will continue to do all we can to protect everyone. So, too, is the mental health of people who are craving a return to normality."

The band has no plans to slow down over the coming months.

"We are going to get back to work and get busy," says Holden. "We have missed our fans and we have some new songs from *Home From Home* to play for them. We are only getting started and the best is yet to come."

www.thehighkings.com

NEXT CHAPTER CAMPAIGN

A STORY UNTOLD IS A CULTURE LOST

For over 60 years, Baile nan Gàidheal | Highland Village has kept Nova Scotia's Gaelic culture alive through a tradition of storytelling.

“Heritage is a fundamental part of personal identity, one of the keys to self-knowledge. We look to our heritage for an understanding of who we are, where we came from. We learn from historical mistakes, but we also find inspiration in the efforts and the ingenuity of our ancestors and the confidence to build on what they left for us.

The Highland Village has become a vital part of Nova Scotia's cultural mosaic, a worthy investment in a future that will draw inspiration from the past as we confront the daunting challenges that lie ahead.

I am Linden MacIntyre. Please support the Highland Village Next Chapter Campaign and its mission to grow Gaelic heritage and culture. For more information and to donate visit highlandvillage.ca”



Baile nan
Gàidheal
Highland Village

MADE OF STORIES

Teenage Fanclub

The Scottish alt-rockers return with a new album





Kurt Cobain once called them “the best band in the world.”

“Yeah, that was a bit something to try and live up to,” jokes Teenage Fanclub’s vocalist and guitarist Raymond McGinley with a roll of the eyes. “I am not sure that we ever really deserved that title, to be honest. I think that any band on any given night can be the best band in the world.”

McGinley comes by his humility honestly. Born and bred in Glasgow, the wiry songsmith is soft spoken, humble, good humoured, and thoughtful in his replies.

“The music industry is a very different beast today,” continues the 57-year-old via Zoom from his home in Glasgow. “Even prior to COVID-19, which has all-but-destroyed live music and touring, it was getting tougher and tougher for musicians to make a living. And not just musicians, but many others involved with the machinery of music; management, record labels, publicists, booking agents, etc. And the Coronavirus pandemic affected everyone in the concert industry - promoters, tickets agents, road crews, etc. It hasn’t been easy on us - we had to postpone a lot of shows - and I imagine that it can’t be easy on younger artists who are looking to carve out a living.”

While revenue has certainly diminished, McGinley says that it was never the point.

“If I had gotten into music to get rich, then I never would have gotten into music - I would have become a banker or a stockbroker. I got into music because I had



to - there was an energy there that I tapped into. And that is still why we do what we do.”

“We” is the band’s current lineup; accompanying McGinley on vocals and guitar is his longtime musical cohort Norman Blake. Original drummer Francis Macdonald continues to keep the beat, while Euros Childs and Dave McGowan bring added texture and colour to the band’s sound with keyboards, bass and backing vocals.

Founded near Glasgow in 1989, Teenage Fanclub released their first album, *A Catholic Education*, the following year. Although it didn’t break any sales records, the recording was a critical success, praised for its blend of pop sensibilities and hard rock guitars.

“We were a part of that post-punk, alternative rock movement,” says McGinley. “The music scene in the late-1970s and into the early 1980s in Glasgow, Belfast and London was dominated by punk and new-wave - the Clash, Stiff Little Fingers, the Alarm, Big Country, Aztec Camera, Depeche

Mode, and so forth. And then you had the American bands like the Ramones, R.E.M., the Replacements, etc.

“There was a spirit there that anyone could pick up a guitar or sing, and that there really were no rules when it came to making music.”

That spirit has remained intact over the course of the band’s 32-year career, which has seen them release a dozen full-length studio recordings and perform thousands of concerts around the world.

“Well, I suppose like anything in life, the secret is to just keep going. Not too long ago, (Mick) Jagger was asked why the Rolling Stones were so successful. His reply was that ‘we simply outlasted everyone else’. It really is a matter of endurance.”

Like the Stones, Teenage Fanclub has endured their fair share of ups and downs over the years; the band’s early-to-mid 1990s “trilogy” - *Bandwagonesque* (1991), *Thirteen* (1993), and *Grand Prix* (1995) - rocketed them to fame and fortune. And though follow-up recordings from 1997-2016 never reached the same number of listeners, each did well on the charts in the U.K. and elsewhere.

“More importantly, we became better songwriters,” notes McGinley. “We have



Norman Blake & Raymond McGinley

never been content to simply rest on our laurels. The commitment, first and foremost, was to evolve as artists, and to simply serve the songs as best we could."

That mindset is at the core of the band's latest recording, *Endless Arcade*, which was written and recorded prior to the pandemic.

"Because it had been a while since releasing our previous record (*Here*, 2016), we had plenty of good new material to work with and, as well, the opportunity to properly craft those elements into stronger songs," McGinley explains.

Time has served the band well, and both longtime fans and new listeners will be pleased; *Endless Arcade* is a minor masterpiece, its 12 tunes a lesson in smart-pop/rock songwriting, clever and deceptive in its easy, Beatles/Byrds-esque melodies and harmonies.

"Oh, those influences are there to be sure," muses McGinley. "There is no sense in trying to deny or downplay one's roots. We all come from somewhere, right?"

"Endless Arcade is very much the result of everything that we have heard, seen, and lived through. Hopefully the sum is greater than the parts, and that our fans take to it."

The April 30 release of *Endless Arcade* was preceded by a series of videos for the songs *Home*, *The Sun Won't Shine on Me*, *I'm More Inclined* and *In Our Dreams*.

"Obviously, with the current situation as it is, those were all filmed close to home," shares McGinley. "Actually, it was great to simply get together with the boys and to be in the same room with everyone at the same time. Even though we live fairly close to one another - Scotland isn't that big of a country - it had been some time since we were all able to connect. And I am sorry - the online thing is great, and I get that it is necessary

these days - but there is no substitute for being there, in-person."

The same can be said for concert experiences. As of now, the band only has a handful of dates scheduled for 2021, including a couple of festivals in Spain this summer. U.K. shows have been reset for the spring and summer of 2022.

"There are likely to be more dates added as things progress, but it has been tough," admits McGinley. "We are very much a live act and we have spent many years on the road honing what we do and growing our audience. That flow of recording and touring has been seriously interrupted."

In the meanwhile, he and his bandmates are making the best of being at home.

"Well, it has given me more time to play music (McGinley lists off an impressive collection of unique guitars), and to noodle around with new sounds and song ideas. I have obligations to family and friends as well, so that keeps me busy. And, you know, if you have to be holed up somewhere for any length of time, then I suppose Scotland is as good a place as any."

Unlike many of their musical contemporaries, the group never felt the need to relocate.

"Scotland, and Glasgow in particular, is just the right size for us. We have everything we could possibly need and want. And I love how unpretentious and unassuming people are here - rock star attitudes and airs don't go over well with Scots. We are down-to-earth folks, and I love just being able to be a regular, run-of-the-mill bloke every day, doing all the routine, around-the-house stuff."

"It may not be London or Paris or New York or Los Angeles, but it is home, and it keeps us humble - which is really good if you are the best band in the world."



circa 1991

Teenage Fanclub Discography

A Catholic Education (1990)
The King (1991)
Bandwagonesque (1991)
Thirteen (1993)
Grand Prix (1995)
Songs from Northern Britain (1997)
Howdy! (2000)
Words of Wisdom and Hope (2002)
Man-Made (2005)
Shadows (2010)
Here (2016)
Endless Arcade (2021)

www.teenagefanclub.com



TREGARON, WALES

01974 298 415 | RHIANNON.CO.UK

Gylfinir | Curlews

Featured item is our
handmade and hand
engraved Rhiannon
Curlews necklet in
Sterling Silver.
One of our impressive
statement pieces.



@RhiannonTregaron



@GemwaithRhiannonJewellery



@RhiannonAnnwn



Cassandra Wilson

*World renowned vocalist Cassandra Wilson
knows the healing power of music.*

Story by Stephen Patrick Clare.

Even with an impressive resume of studio recordings and stage performances - not to mention years of critical and popular acclaim and an array of awards - vocalist Cassandra Wilson has things other than music on her mind these days.

"I believe that there is a spirit in each and every part of nature," shares the 65-year-old singer via Zoom from her current residence in New York. "And that spirit has the power to heal. And our world needs some serious healing right now. Nature can do that."

Wilson will soon be getting back to the garden herself, as she prepares to return full-time to her family's old homestead in Jackson, Mississippi, where she was born and bred.

"I just think it is time for a change of scenery for me. Given the current conditions with COVID-19, I have been a bit depressed over the past year - I haven't picked up my guitar in months, actually - so hopefully I will find some motivation back home. There are some really fantastic players down there, and I won't be that far from one of my favourite cities in the world, New Orleans, which has always been a place of great musical inspiration for me."

Fresh inspiration could not come at a better time for Wilson, who - like others of her profession - has struggled with the stoppage in work brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

"The music industry has been completely decimated," she sighs. "For musicians like myself who need to be on the road in order to earn a proper living, it has been devastating. Along with that loss of income, I miss meeting new people and seeing new places and all of the hustle and bustle of touring and traveling. Actually, I miss just having the opportunity to go somewhere other than the corner store."

On the topic of travel, I relay the tale of my 2019 visit to Donegal where, on the wall of a small village bar called McGrorys Hotel, I spotted one of her concert posters.

"Ah, Culdaff," she smiles, referring to the venue's locale. "What an incredible and beautiful part of Ireland, and the world really. And the people there were so warm and gracious. That was a very special experience for me."

It wasn't her first time on the Emerald Isle.

"I was in Cork in 1985 or 1986, I believe. It may have been part of the (Guinness) Jazz Festival. It was beyond lovely, and I recall feeling like a part of me was home."

"I remember everything being really green. In fact, I don't believe that I had ever seen so much green in my life before."

Wilson's Celtic connection didn't stop there; in 2017, she performed at the Olympia Theatre in Dublin with a bevy of brilliant "trad" players, including Liam O'Maonlai of Hothouse Flowers. The year prior, in Manhattan, she took to the stage with six-time All-Ireland fiddling champion Martin Hayes from Co. Clare and "trad" guitarist Dennis Cahill, whose family hails from Co. Kerry. And, in 2015, she was honoured with the Spirit of Ireland Award from the Irish Arts Center in New York City.



"Of all the awards that I have received over the years, that may be one of the most special and meaningful for me. I think a few people were surprised by that."

While Wilson's West African roots are no surprise to her fans and followers, her personal, ancestral ties to Eire, and to Celtic culture - which she first uncovered in 2014 - might come as a revelation.

"My father's family name, Fowlkes, is Welsh, and my mother's maiden name is McDaniel, which is Irish. Where I grew up, in my neighbourhood, it wasn't uncommon for African American families to have Scottish or Irish or Welsh last names. It wasn't something that we, as a people, ever really spoke about, however, nor do we really speak of it today, mostly as much of that narrative remains tinged with shame."

She points to the heavy influx of Scots and Northern Irish immigrants who settled along the USA's eastern seaboard and deep south during the late 1700s and early 1800s, and the ensuing enslavements of Black people across the region.

"In all likelihood, these were often the family names of plantation owners who assimilated Black slaves into their homesteads. It is a difficult narrative for many African Americans, and the idea of our people having - and honouring - their Celtic ancestry isn't something that has ever really been explored or examined in any depth."

There have been, however, exceptions on that perspective.

"The politician John R. Lynch (1847-1939) is one example of someone of colour from the South who embraced his Celtic roots. He was bi-racial, I believe, and he was quite proud of both sides of his family. And there were also many others in the area at that time, and in the years that followed, who were the result of bi-racial relationships or marriages. That is certainly nothing to be ashamed about."

Given recent events across the United States - the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement and protests - it is clear that the country's longstanding racial divide remains.

"I am not sure which is worse; the blatant, obvious kinds of racism, or the subtler variety that sits just below the surface. Regardless, they are both stupid."

"All I know is that ignorance still exists everywhere, and I believe that it isn't the unknown that tears people apart - it is the fear of the unknown."

She holds out hope, however, in the young people of today.

"With the world at their fingertips, they have greater access to information - and the ability to share those new ideas - than any generation that came before them. They are not only informed, but they are empowered, engaged and proactive about what matters to them. If anyone can change a narrative and heal the planet, they can."

Music "has charms to soothe the savage breast," as well.

"Music can reach inside of people and challenge them, change them. It spoke to me as a young person, and it still speaks to me today, both as a fan of music and as a creator of music. I always have to be ready to answer to the muse, either with a notepad or with some sort of recording device, even if it is three o'clock in the morning. I still get some of my best ideas in the middle of the night. Or on long walks out in nature, by a lake or in the woods, where there is plenty of empty space. It is important, for anyone - and

perhaps now more than ever - to get in touch with those thoughts and those feelings."

Going home will likely give Wilson the time and space to do just that.

"Well, that is my hope. That part of the U.S. is rich and robust in natural beauty, and it is filled with spirits. The culture is very diverse also - sort of this unique, hybrid mix of African, English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, Spanish, some Haitian and Gullah - more spirits. Lots of different types of whiskey too - maybe my favourite kind of spirits!

"And musically, it is all over the place as well, which I love. There are so many distinct styles going on - blues, country, gospel, roots, rock - which is inspiring for artists of any sort, especially those who like to break the rules once in a while."

Bending the notes - i.e., breaking the rules - is something that Wilson has built her career upon.

"My roots may be in jazz, which is wonderful as it has given me a really solid musical foundation, but I have never been constricted to one genre or another. That didn't always please the purists who thought I should 'know my place' - in fact, I have been arrested by the 'jazz police' a few times. I have nothing against those folks - and I completely understand and respect where they are coming from - but I love, and I am inspired by, all types of music."

Often - as evidenced by her stirring version of Son House's classic Death Letter

Blues or her torrid take on Billie Holiday's spellbinding Strange Fruit - that music can be stark and sparse, calling to mind both Leonard Cohen's line "there is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in" and the ages-old adage "music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent."

"The heavier tunes - that is the spirit expressing itself also. Finding my voicing in those songs, singing them, is a natural, organic process and one of the ways that I exorcise whatever demons I might be carrying around. Those darker thoughts and emotions - maybe old wounds - need to come out of the shadows, and into the light, in order to heal."

www.cassandrawilson.com





A NIGHT OF

CHARITY, FASHION & FUN

JULY 24, 2021

**HONORING SIR SEAN CONNERY
& HIS FAMILY**

DRESSED TO KILT 2021

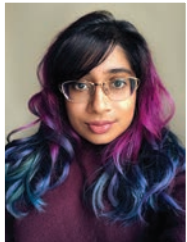
Dressed to Kilt

Scotland's most prestigious and exciting fashion show (Dressed To Kilt 2003-2021) will be returning to New York for a night of charity, fashion and fun you won't forget. This year the event will be livestreaming globally for the first time ever! Purchase tickets today to attend the event virtually via livestream online honoring the late Sir Sean Connery with the world debut of the new Sean Connery Tartan. Proceeds of this event will benefit the Navy Seal Foundation.

**LIVESTREAM TICKETS
AVAILABLE NOW**



WWW.DRESSED TOKILT.COM



Alycia Hirani *Emiah Couture*

My family is originally from India, but I am born and bred in South Wales. Apart from going away to study Fashion Design at Birmingham City University, I have always been - and am currently - based in Cardiff, as I just love the area.

I have always adored art and being creative in whatever capacity and once I started sewing in my high school textiles class, I just never stopped. My love for art and fashion design grew from there and stitching and embellishing became my chosen medium and fashion became the base that I use in order to showcase this. This naturally led on to me creating Emiah and it became an outlet to express myself through beautiful textures and meticulously handcrafted

embellishments.

My skills and level of precision have definitely improved over the years as I have continued to practice and perfect. My love for surface texture and meticulous stitching is something that can be seen in all of my work and, as I have grown as a designer, my signature embellishments combined with my careful craftsmanship and elegant lines has become something that I am now known for.

I have a very detailed approach to luxury, which features expertly handsewn textured embellishments, flowing silks and shimmering laces. I love creating elegant designs for those that desire a lavish experience and crafting unique works of art with highly

detailed craftsmanship that can be cherished for years to come.

Time is definitely a challenge as I have so many ideas, but with limited time and energy, this means I have to be very selective about what I create and take on. Being a one-woman business means I have to wear many different hats and learn as I go to make sure my brand can thrive in this very unpredictable creative field, but it is worth it as it allows me to explore my creativity.

The biggest reward is seeing people's reactions when they wear my garments. It makes all the hard work worth it as my main aim as a designer is to help people look and feel absolutely beautiful.





SCOTLAND



— ESCORTED TOURS —

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

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

British Isles 2022

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 5-19, 2022 • 14 Nights • \$5,995

*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

Philip Stewart Photography

Philip Stewart didn't choose photography, it chose him. Story by Tom Langlands.

Philip Stewart is a 32-year-old rising star on the Scottish landscape photography scene, and is a name to watch. His images adorn homes in over 30 countries around the world, and although most of his photographs hang on walls in the USA, U.K., Australia, and Canada, they can also be found in homes in such diverse locations as Albania, Puerto Rico, South Korea, Hong Kong, Iceland, Finland and more. It is an impressive record for someone who turned professional only nine years ago and, by his own admission, was very much a beginner in a field dominated by some well-known names.

His foray into the world of photography began at the age of 16 when he opted to study Higher Photography while at school. That was back in the days when digital photography was in its infancy and the coursework involved working with film cameras and learning darkroom techniques. With limited resources for this



kind of specialist learning, the school had a partnering arrangement with a local higher-education college, and it was there that Stewart learned the basics of photography as an art form.

"Working with film cameras, photographic papers, chemicals and enlargers helped me to understand aspects of creativity that I still hold dear today. The methods may now be different but the desire to achieve certain artistic results is grounded

in the learning of these early years."

Stewart's last project at school was a landscape photography assignment and he opted to create a portfolio of images taken in the stunning setting of Scotland's beautiful Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park - magnificent mountains, valleys, forests, rivers, lochs and waterfalls. His final submission resulted in him gaining a grade 'A' in his Higher Photography exam, although it would be some years before he returned to explore the medium in earnest.

After leaving school he undertook a course in computer studies at the same college where he had studied photography. Although he was now studying computer science, he used his spare time to explore the emerging software programs for digital photographers that were coming onto the market. He also acknowledges that there were other influences from home that would shape the direction of his career in later years; his father was an architect



and a keen amateur photographer, while his mother worked in the sales department of a large housing developer. Together his parents designed two of their own family homes and - as a child, often found wearing a hard-hat on the building site - Stewart watched the process, learning about space, light and colour. This would later translate into a wider understanding and appreciation of urban spaces and streetscapes.

After leaving college, the need to make a living other than through the sporadic income stream of an unknown landscape photographer resulted in him working for a small graphic and web design company. This was followed by a manual labouring job in a warehouse and, later, employed as a lab technician for an ink manufacturing company. From these jobs he was able save enough money to buy his first digital camera in 2009.

For Stewart, this was a defining moment, and one that he believes switched his life from the humdrum existence of mundane jobs to a true appreciation of the great outdoors.

“My life had become dull and routine, my mental health was suffering, and I was drifting into the only form of escapism I knew at that time - spending evenings and weekends drinking with friends in pubs. I longed for more and the ability to buy that first camera opened the door to a new world.”

From that moment onwards all his free time was spent taking photographs. He would get up before work and head into the nearby

countryside to get early morning shots. After work he would be outdoors with his camera until dusk. For the first time he felt that his life now had a purpose, and he soon learned that it wasn't just about taking photographs; it was the mental health benefits and the inner-peace and happiness that came with spending large amounts of time outdoors. Over the next three years Stewart honed his skills, artistically and technically, and built up a selection of images that would form the basis of his emerging landscape portfolio. In 2012, he decided to take the step of becoming a full-time professional photographer. It wasn't easy, and over the next few years he earned a living by taking property photographs for estate agents. The influence of his parents' background in architecture and property development gave him a unique insight into what constituted good residential property photography and urban streetscape photography. Soon, he garnered a reputation for the quality of his work, although he continued to spend all his free time amassing more landscape images.

Today, Stewart lives on the outskirts of Edinburgh, “It provides the perfect location for undertaking property-related photography, capturing images of Edinburgh's many famous buildings and historic streets, and providing easy access to the countryside beyond which varies from rolling green landscapes to wild coastlines.”

His favourite time of day is just before dawn when he can watch the rising sun and the shadows and colours of a world coming to life. It is a time to savour the tranquility as others sleep.

Similarly, the hour either side of dusk is another favourite, as the sun fades and the moon rises, providing spectacular sunsets and long, evening shadows. He will often be found in a tent atop a mountain or amongst the sand dunes waiting for those special moments of light. He



regards Scotland as the perfect location for this type of photography. The range of photographic possibilities within the natural landscape is never-ending and the changing light and dramatic backdrops open-up countless opportunities. Other countries may offer a more stable, sunnier and warmer climate, but it is precisely the unpredictability of Scotland's weather that makes it so exciting. For Stewart there is no such thing as bad weather - just varied and challenging possibilities. He has captured stunning images from the beaches of the Outer Hebrides to the Cairngorm mountains and most things in-between. Celtic rainforests, water, and waterfalls are favourite subject matter, due to the way light filters through trees or makes rivers and lochs sparkle, and also as this is where most wildlife can be found.

There is nothing more beautiful than taking photographs surrounded by the sounds of nature.

He believes it is what gives life to his images. "Sometimes I look back at my photographs and I can hear the deer bellowing from the hilltops, the birds tweeting in the trees, or the fish jumping in the loch. I don't regard my photographs simply as static images - they are living moments in time."

To date, Stewart has been awarded first place in the Scottish Landscape - The Land category of the Scottish Nature Photography Awards - and has been shortlisted or commended in this competition five times previously. His images have been commended, published and exhibited in the Scottish Landscape Photographer of the Year competition and in the U.K. Landscape Photographer of the Year competition. His photographs have featured in several newspapers

and magazines as well as the 2020 and 2021 calendars published by The Scotsman, while his Instagram account has been highlighted by both The Scotsman and Edinburgh Evening News newspapers as one of the '21 top Scottish Instagram accounts to explore in 2021.' Presently, he is working on a book illustrating his first 10 years in photography and is also preparing for his first solo exhibition having exhibited previously with the Society of Scottish Landscape Photographers. Many of his stunning images can be found on his website and via his social media accounts.

All photographs by Philip Stewart Photography

www.philipstewart.net

www.tomlanglandsphotography.com





IS YOUR HEART IN THE RIGHT PLACE?

McGing's Pub, Westport, County Mayo

Because it wants 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. They're the castles silhouetted against fiery sunsets, the islands that stir you with their beauty, the towns like Westport that pulsate with energy, and the iconics sites like Kylemore Abbey that are etched with true love. And when it comes to those legendary 100,000 welcomes, well...

They say you should always listen to your heart, and it wants to be in the right place.

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

Find your way home at

 **Ireland.com**

Niall Gibbons

As the CEO of Tourism Ireland, Niall Gibbons is excited to roll out the Green Carpet when the time is right.



What are your own roots?

I was the last of my siblings, born in Dublin. My family background is actually in the west of Ireland - my dad was from Mayo, and my mother was from Roscommon. They lived in Sligo for a while and that is where my siblings were born. Then, in the mid-1960s, they moved to Dublin, and that is where I was born.

Where do you currently reside?

I still live in the area; I went to school only up the road. I am one of the lucky people in Ireland, able to walk into the office from home in about 15 minutes or hop on a bike in less than 10.

When and why did you get involved with the Irish tourism business?

I fell into tourism by accident. I used to work in marine research, in the public service. The company I worked for, The Marine Institute, were moving to Galway from Dub-

lin, and from a family perspective, it didn't suit me at the time. At that time, Tourism Ireland was a new initiative that was set up after the Good Friday Agreement to do the promotional work for Ireland abroad that had previously been done separately by the Northern Ireland tourist board and the Irish tourist board. We now promote the whole of Ireland, north and south. I came into that company to help set that up and, eight years later, I became the chief executive and I have been there ever since.

What are the reasons you continue to espouse Ireland's virtues to travellers today?

Well, I think it is hard to think of anything that I am prouder to do than to promote my country abroad, in the 21 locations that we do it in. Tourism is very much a people-based business. If you ask people abroad one of the things that comes into your mind when you mention Ireland, there are three big things that stand out. Firstly, beautiful landscape and scenery. Secondly, Irish culture - and that could be expressed through Riverdance or music, poetry, and literature. But I think

the biggest one of the whole lot - the third one - is the friendliness and warmth of our people. There is a very positive, up-beat side to this business where - no matter how difficult things get - people pull together really well. I like that positive spirit; it is a forward-looking industry in that it connects people and brings them together. Globally, tourism breaks down barriers between different cultures. For all those reasons, and more, I have never grown tired of it and I believe it to be something that has a lot more to give.

What are the challenges of this vocation, especially during COVID-19?

The challenges fall into two buckets, I suppose. If you had asked me that question a year ago, from an Irish perspective, we would be keeping an eye on Brexit and what it would mean for the British to leave the European Union. We had issues around movement and exchange rates. We had concerns that, economically, things had hit a high and we might be going into a downwards slope on the cycle. But all those things now are completely overshadowed by the COVID-19

situation - it is unbelievably, phenomenally difficult for everybody as it is a global phenomenon. We have never seen the whole world simply come to a stop because of something that is completely outside of our control. I mean, I came into tourism just at the end of 9/11. That was a very difficult time - it was shocking, and it had a big effect on the North American market - but it didn't stop everything, so to speak. After that, we had SARS, and also terrorism incidents in Europe that had a huge impact on safety and security. However, nothing brought everything to a grinding halt like COVID-19 did. We have a major challenge ahead of us to get everything started again, not just on an Irish scale, but on a global scale.

How are you facing the challenges brought on by COVID-19?

We are conducting a lot of research in our top markets to see how our consumers are managing during this pandemic. What are they thinking of doing? Where are they thinking of going? What is important to them? Emerging from that, there are a few things that have become quite clear; first of all, customers are telling us that there is a pent-up demand to travel - they are really keen to get going again when the time is right. Secondly, they are saying they want to go back to familiar destinations, they want to visit places that are near to home, and they want to reconnect with friends and family. What that is telling us is that it is very different from two years ago, when people wanted to go on long-haul, braggable destinations. People want to get back to the familiar, which is going to be really important when we get going again. We are keeping in touch with all our air and sea carriers because we can have all the pent-up demand that we want, but unless you can actually get here, that won't be enough. And we are also supporting many small-and-medium-sized businesses in our industry to stay connected with the travel trade abroad. It is going to rely on relationships to get the world moving again, and the Irish are very good at that. The green carpet will be rolled out when the time is right.

What are the rewards of the vocation?

I spent a lot of my last 20 years travelling abroad and meeting people that have been to Ireland, learning how it has impacted them. They may have been people that came here on vacation, or who came to study, or who

may have lived here. It is hard to put into words the emotional impact that Ireland has had on people, but I see it consistently, across the globe. There is no question about it; when people come here, they leave with a part of Ireland inside of them. It is really satisfying when I go abroad and meet people who have been to Ireland and I can feel that emotional connection that they have had.

Where are your favourite places in Ireland to visit? Say, your Top 3.

It is hard to pick my top three from the other 300! But for me, because I am from Dublin, I always pick here. It is great to go to the Guinness Store and have a pint. That is a real treat, and it is always very popular with tourists. I think Titanic Belfast represents an aspect of Irish history that has really come to life over the last 10 years, since the building of the new visitor's centre up there. It tells the tale of how the Titanic was built, and it is part of a renaissance in tourism in Northern Ireland that we have seen over the last while. I also like the west coast, where my family come from. Particularly a place like Westport in Co. Mayo, which is a beautiful town with some really good pubs, good Irish music, and fun, friendly people. Oh, and the food is outstanding, as well. Yeah, those are definitely my three top places. But there are many more.

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

It is really important that we keep this to the fore. One of the things that distinguishes us is our culture and our heritage, and that gets expressed in many ways - through our diaspora, our music, dance, poetry, literature, art, and more. It is terrific that some places around the world have announced an Irish heritage month. The fact that whole countries abroad are prepared to celebrate that diversity and Irishness is a great matter of pride for us. It has been fantastic over the last year that we have been able to put Irish culture to the fore on all our digital platforms abroad. We have noticed a huge interest in some of the things that we have been broadcasting.

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

I think you could always do more, but we are depending on our broader family to do

that. A lot of that involves the Irish diaspora, groups abroad, along with the Irish embassies and consulates who give support also, who are dedicated to preserving Irish heritage. Really, what we are talking about is one generation passing it down to the next. One thing that we are seeing is the "new" Irish - people who are Canadian or American or some other ethnicity - embracing things like Riverdance, playing traditional Irish instruments, etc. And it is also about having a sense of fun, which is what being Irish is about. So, I believe that we are seeing a gradual expansion of Irish culture.

What is on your agenda for the remainder of 2021, and going forward?

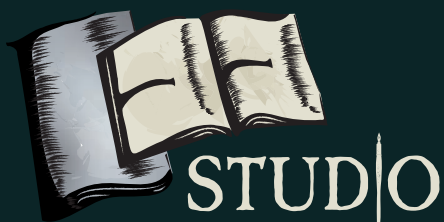
What we are preparing for right now is the re-start of global tourism. We are unfolding a new campaign, and we have relaunched all of our 33 international websites in 12 different languages. We have a major digital campaign planned, including a Liam Neeson video which will be released later on during the summer. What we are hoping for is to get that re-start in the second half of 2021, and ultimately rebuild and redesign Irish tourism to make it sustainable so as to support all the communities around the island, to deliver and build on the peace process over the last 20 years, and to be here with open arms to welcome people when they come back.

What lessons from the COVID-19 situation will you carry into the future of Irish tourism?

Probably nothing hugely different from what was there before, but I will be paying greater attention to be kind to people and to support people. That is what our industry is generally about, but it is a time when all of us around the globe have been very vulnerable. It has been a tough time for small businesses - everybody has been affected, and everyone has to support each other in tough times. And we have to support each other in the good times, too, and remember that the good times will come back, so just try and maintain a sense of hope. That is really my job, as a leader of Irish tourism; yes, things will get better, but the bottom line is we are here to support everybody for now, and we will be here to support everybody in the future.

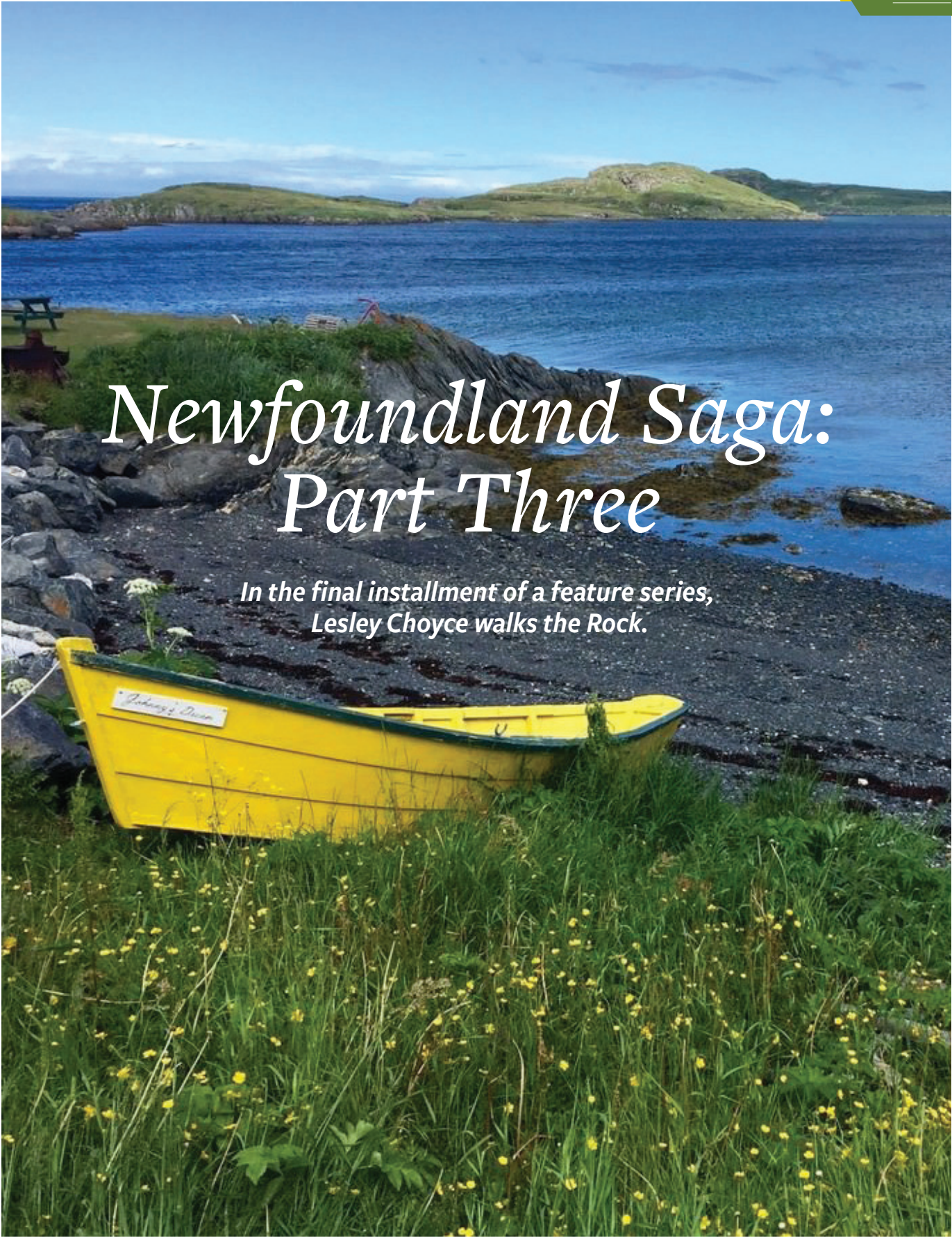
www.ireland.com

TRAVEL GUIDES & GIFTS *for Celtic Journeys*



Unique Celtic Books, Notecards, Fine Art and more at:

www.leestudiotc.com



Newfoundland Saga: Part Three

*In the final installment of a feature series,
Lesley Choyce walks the Rock.*



Cape St Francis

The morning found us on the road again, this time to the most northerly tip of the Avalon Peninsula directly above St. John's. Why there? Well, for one, there is another lighthouse and a longish unpaved road leading there to what appeared to be a remote coastal spot within driving distance for us - yet another end-of-the-world type place, at least in my mind. And to top that off, the name on the map read Cape St. Francis. I have fond memories of another Cape St. Francis that my wife Linda and I visited in South Africa. That cape was immortalized in the classic surf movie, *The Endless Summer*, and it was considered to have "the perfect wave."

Mere names of places attract some people to seek them out. I am one of those

people. The town of Dildo in Newfoundland attracts multitudes of visitors most years simply because it has that funny name. But, for me, Cape St. Francis - surprisingly far down a very difficult dirt pot-holed road - was a must. So off we went, north through Outer Cove, Middle Cove, Flatrock and Pouch Cove until the pavement ran out. We didn't exactly have the right vehicle for the wilderness road with its jutting granite rocks and potholes the size of kitchen sinks, but I proceeded at a snail's pace while Linda, impatient to get her morning exercise, got out and ran ahead a fair bit faster than I could go. About a half hour in, after the local squirrels continued to make fun of my progress, I ditched the Mazda and hoofed it ahead, hoping to catch up with my wife.

was a helicopter pad with a No Trespassing sign that simply called out for us to visit. So, we walked out onto the concrete slab and took some photos as the gulls egged us on to dance beneath the cloudless sky. I am not much of a dancer, but wilderness dancing is far superior to underwear dancing in your living room even if you don't have an appropriate soundtrack. The wind and the gulls were enough for me. And a No Trespassing sign always helps.

The famous East Coast Trail comes through here as well, so we hiked a chunk of it going south and west. It is more of a steep rock scramble rather than a trail and we concluded that in the next lifetime we would take it all the way to Bauline but not today. We hiked back down to eat lunch on the helicopter pad, and I could readily envision how cool it would be to be landing here after settling the whirring machine down out of the brilliant blue sky. It was then that I noticed a fair amount of graffiti on the concrete and some on the rocks. Nothing nasty, mind you, but disconcerting all the same. Given how difficult it was to get out here, I wondered who the graffiti vandals were and what they were thinking. Despondent youths from downtown St. John's who were tired of skateboarding on Water Street when one said, "Hey, let's drive our old Ford Escort up to Cape St. Francis with our spray cans and leave stupid messages on the helicopter pad." Maybe...I don't know.

It was a long hike and then a slow, slow drive back to the paved civility of Pouch

The terrain is completely uninteresting until you get to the cape and then the visual impact is enough to knock you off your feet.

It was another blue day, and the sea was gorgeous. There were a few cottages out here but not a soul anywhere to be seen. And sure enough, there was a somewhat small squat lighthouse riveted to the ledge of rocks near the very tip. Here was a jagged, rugged promontory where we climbed over rocks and dutifully scraped knees and elbows until they bled on the exotic bits of geology whittled by the glaciers long before man arrived at this outpost. Beside the lighthouse



Lesley and Linda



Signal Hill

Cove. On the way, we were accompanied by a squadron of dragonflies. Big ones, the size of model airplanes, I'd say. We were listening to Billy Idol's "White Wedding" on one of the St. John's rock stations when one buzzed up to the open window and seemed to want to come inside for the party until he realized we were going so slow that he could get to wherever he was going much quicker under his own power. And then I began to wonder where is it that dragonflies go to each day on their excursions, what do they eat and what happens to them in the long, cold Newfoundland winters?

We drove back home via Bauline (named for Baleine on the Isle of Sark, they say), Portugal Cove and St. Philips and, along the way, I was on the lookout for Beachy Cove. I can't remember how we found it, but we did. It was a short steep hike down from Route 41 and we crossed the East Coast Trail again where a young athletic couple bragged to us that they had tromped all the way north from Paradise that morning. I had forgotten that there was a town called Paradise on the

outskirts of the city and wanted to ask them about it, but they seemed to want to keep moving. Alas, we wished them well on what looked like an arduous trek that took them down to the water, and then up again into the forested hills.

Beachy Cove was on my radar because my old friend Harold Horwood once wrote a book called *The Foxes of Beachy Cove* that I rather admired.

As Linda and I made our way down to the water at this little pocket beach tucked between two steep hills, I definitely felt the magic of the place.

A couple of families were there with their kids splashing around in the icy clear water and I dipped my hands into the stream that gushed down into the sea here thinking there is always something special about a place where fresh water enters into the big salty mother sea. There were no foxes, but I could feel the spirit of feisty, white-bearded Harold present. He had coached me as a young writer, and I remember he chastised me once for writing a love scene in one of my early novels where the couple had not fully taken off all their clothes. He was of the opinion that any consensual act of sexual union, fictional or otherwise, required total nakedness.

Harold had introduced his legendary friend, Farley Mowat, to the intricacies of Newfoundland life many decades ago and helped persuade Farley to move to that remote outpost where he wrote some of his finest work including *A Whale for the Killing*.

I could see why anyone would be inspired to write here on the Rock. It is indeed a place of spirit and magic. I could still feel Harold hovering over my shoulder when I looked up to my right to see a very modern, very ostentatious home not far from the clifftop. It was a beautiful edifice, obviously owned by someone quite wealthy, but it seemed out of place to my eye and not at all in the spirit of *The Foxes of Beachy Cove*. I counselled Harold not to look but he did anyway and vanished. It was time to move on.

I checked the map and discovered we were not far from Paradise so I thought we should head that way before calling it a day. I probably was not the first person to be disappointed in Paradise, as it was part of that suburban sprawl that seemed to choke St. John's off from the grander aspects of the Avalon Peninsula. "So, this is Paradise," I said more than once to Linda who didn't scowl at me until the third time.

If you go to the town's homepage on the internet, you will discover that, "With a population of approximately 21,000, the Town of Paradise is proud to be one of Atlantic Canada's fastest-growing municipalities with the youngest average-aged population in Newfoundland and Labrador." If that doesn't make you want to run for the hills, the town promoters also add, "In the Town of Paradise, you are in the middle of everything, with room to breathe and an abundance of green space to enjoy with your family. Our name truly says it all!"

Not seeing any of that available green space, I pulled into the Paradise Plaza so Linda could buy some item of make-up from a familiar-looking drug store. I wanted to point out to my wife that Joni Mitchell had sung it right - they really did pave paradise and put up a parking lot. Many of them. But I pushed the mute button in the back of my head. So, instead, I sat in the car, studying the other shoppers entering the store and made judgements on them based on their clothing and face masks, thinking about the irony of the town's name but also wondering about the origin. A couple of skateboarders caught my eye rolling by on long boards and, with the window down, I could smell the sweet musty smell of cannabis before looking over to some other school kids in uniforms coming out of a fast-food hamburger joint (I can't remember which one) and was also reminded of the Jimmy Buffet song, "Cheeseburger in Paradise." But enough of that.

We still had some time before food or beer would call us, so we went to visit The Rooms - a mammoth art gallery/museum



Cape St. Francis Lighthouse



St John's

in St. John's that is supposed to look like a big fish shed. It was cool, calm and quiet as we wandered around looking at historical displays of fishing equipment and scale models of dories. I wished then that I had more genuine enthusiasm for such places but had been wowed by nature yet again on this blessed day, so I just followed my wife from room to room, even one that had a very fine display of the Group of Seven painters.

We made a point of packing as much of something new and different into each and every day.

When the next morning dawned, however, we made a beeline for Cape Spear again so Linda could run while I searched for the elusive bakeapples in the low scrubby growth of the headlands. It was another hot, clear day and I was cataloguing the smells of all the low-lying plants and studying the wind-sculpted shrubs and trees. The evidence was clear - like poetry written in their branches - that here was a truly windswept piece of real estate where deciduous anything would not survive long. Whatever species of plants inhabited this land had the fortitude to survive some supremely harsh conditions and allow the salty blasts of the North Atlantic to sculpt them into whatever the elements desired.

On the way back to town, we decided to explore the south side of St. John's Harbour and drove past the Coast Guard docks and industrial buildings out to Fort Amherst, directly across the narrows from Signal Hill. According to Canada's Historic Places, the fort was "first completed on this site in 1777, guarded the mouth of St. John's harbour, and was named after Colonel William Amherst, who had recaptured St. John's from the French in 1762." There is a lighthouse there guiding vessels to the narrow mouth of the

harbour and, during World War II, guns were mounted here to shoot at the pesky German U-boats trying to fire torpedoes past the cliffs right into St. John's Harbour.

The next day we were to fly home to Nova Scotia with our masked companions, but the flight didn't leave until afternoon, so we figured one more hike/run was in order. The weather had turned on us at last and we decided not to go too far from town or the airport, so we drove again to the top of Signal Hill where we had seen an enticing trail map that showed a looped path dipping down to the open sea from the top and then winding along the north side of the entrance to the harbour. The parking lot was mostly empty as we got ready for another jaunt on what looked like a semi-difficult path, down and up on the barefaced headland. A Parks Canada employee had previously told me that it was an easy hike from the top down

into the city streets below and back up to the top and that any fool could do it. But today the sky looked defiantly dark, and the trail was already wet and slippery from an overnight squall as I took to the stairs leading down to the rocks while Linda jogged off beyond my view.

Most modern couples would probably each carry a cell phone to keep in touch when undertaking something like this, but I have always been of the opinion that any bit of technological gadgetry would diminish my ability to appreciate nature, so only Linda had a phone. We agreed that if it started to seriously rain, we would retreat back to the car despite the fact that the trail was supposedly one-way (as a COVID precaution).

By the time I made it down to the Narrows, I had lost track of Linda and the drizzle had turned to something more





tangible. The sky was looking mean, and the wind was up off the sea as I opened up a brand-new package of one of those little raincoats you buy at the Dollar Store - bright yellow, and as thin as those little bags you put your Brussel sprouts in at the vegetable section of the grocery store. It was, I discovered, a poncho - a very, very thin poncho that ripped as soon as I tried to put my arms through. I paused beneath a rock overhang and wondered whether I should turn back according to Plan B, but not wanting to appear to be a wimp to my fleet-footed wife, I soldiered on. The Parks guy had indicated the hike was a piece of cake and that his 95-year-old grandmother walked it even on her bad days, so I figured it would not take long to loop all the way back to the parking lot on the pinnacle of Signal Hill where Marconi received the first ever wireless signal from across the broad Atlantic. (The message was "pip, pip, pip," by the way, Morse code for the letter S.)

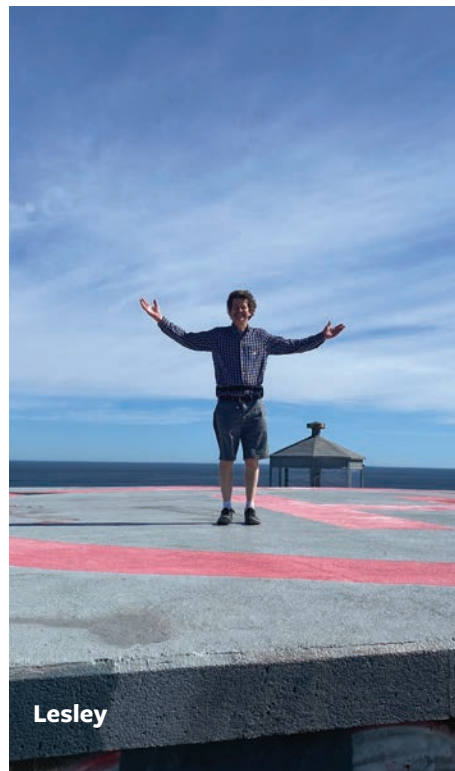
It turned out that there is a narrow section of the trail perched high above the harbour entrance where you are obliged to cling to a cable attached to the bare rock face so that a gust of wind like the blasts hammering away today will not blow you into the cold seawater far below. It was around there that I began to worry about the safety of my wife and wondered why she hadn't looped back my way once or twice to show me she was still alive. So, with my flimsy yellow flag of a poncho whipping about in the wind and a body quickly soaked from the incessant rain, I plodded on, hoping for the best and looking into the waters below to make sure there were no bodies floating about.

*After trying to convince myself
that the situation couldn't
possibly be as bad as it seemed, I
found myself on
an empty city street with no
signage of any sort.*

I tried a couple of dead-end avenues that offered no consolation at all but kept at it until I found the main artery which I recognized would take me past the visitor center and the Johnson Geo-Vista Park at the base of the damn hill and back to the top.

Just for the record, I will say that when you drive the nicely paved road up to the top of Signal Hill, it is a lovely drive on most any day and the views of the city are pleasant enough, so that when you arrive at the top, you are ready to sniff the fresh sea air and read all of the historical plaques reminding you of the grand history of this magnificent place. But when you are on foot, soaking wet and struggling against a villainous cold wind as you worry about the safety of your wife, it is another matter altogether. I daresay the hill is much steeper than it ever seems when you are driving. For me on this day, it was a fairly hateful thing, a veritable mountain that just kept getting steeper and steeper as you ascended the heights.

My favourite moment was when I was approaching one of those solar powered electronic speed warning signs that tell motorists how fast they are driving and if you are driving too fast, project an electronic scowling face. There were no cars whatsoever as I approached the speed sign on my soggiethan-thou attempt to scale Signal Hill and the robotic sign, having nothing better to do, projected in bright LED numerals that I was approaching it at 3 kilometres per hour.



Just to see if it was really reading my speed, I started walking faster and, yes, it bumped up to 4 kph before I began to feel even more winded than before.

But the kicker then, was the smiley face that gleamed down on me as I was passing it. The arrogant thing approved of me because I was not going over the speed limit. I considered revenge on the damn contraption, but my Buddhist nature reminded me to let go of the animosity and keep moving one sodden foot ahead of the other. Besides, hadn't I just recently read in my The Art of War book that, "He will win when he knows when to fight and when not to fight?"

Linda was waltzing around with apprehension in the rain at the pinnacle parking lot as she observed me make the hairpin turn at 2 kph for the final leg to the top. When I finally reached her, she was still frantic with worry. She was soaked as well, of course. "I assumed you had turned back when it started raining," she said.

"But I was worried about you," I countered, huffing and puffing. She said that she was about to call for help, assuming the worst had happened to her husband. We tried to sort out whose judgement was flawed as we spilled ourselves back into the rental car and eventually gave up on the discourse, happy that we were both more or less alive and in out of the rain.

I drove to the visitor's center at the bottom of the hill to go inside and change but it was closed. So, we shed our wet clothes inside the car and steamed up all the windows like a couple of teenage lovers out on a wild date as we wiggled into drier attire. Linda, obviously feeling an appropriate amount of guilt over the morning's fiasco, offered to buy me lunch so we drove back to Quidi Vidi and ate fish at the Mallard Cabin looking out on a small pond where the signature mallard ducks seemed to have no qualms whatsoever with the ceaseless and insidious rain.

On the flight home, we tried once more to determine whose fault it was that the morning events had gone so sour but, as the skies cleared and we winged our way south over the vast stretch of empty wilderness that was the interior of Newfoundland, we decided that - all things considered - we had fallen in love with our neighbouring province and would return soon to explore the Rock yet again.

www.lesleychoyce.com

HEAVENLY SPIRITS

FROM FRANCE WITH LOVE

A Oui Celtic dram from your Breton cousins



What better way to share a dram at the end of a long day, than with one of these award-winning single malt whiskies? Heavenly Spirits is proud to represent the finest Celtic French whiskies for your pleasure and enjoyment. A votre santé!

Be well - drink well.

Imported by: HeavenlySpirits.



What does it mean to be Celtic and queer?

Celtic Life International Associate Editor

Rebecca Dingwell gives us the details.

A photograph of two women in white lace dresses embracing and kissing. The woman on the left has long brown hair with a floral hair accessory, and the woman on the right has long dark hair with a tiara. They are both wearing white lace dresses and jewelry. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

the Celtic
Rainbow



Ladies of Llangollen

While some terminology for diverse gender and sexual identities may be new, LGBTQ+ people have existed for centuries. The Ancient Celts were no exception. Gayle Gibson of the Royal Ontario Museum wrote on the topic for Xtra magazine back in 2005, and she noted that “the Celts were renowned as much for their erotic energy and multiple love affairs as for their warlike habits. Male warriors were often part of sodalities, groups of ‘special friends,’ who engaged freely and openly in same-sex relationships. Ancient Greeks such as Aristotle and Strabo mention Celtic homosexuality as one of the few good things about what they considered a barbarian culture.” Primary sources on the ancient Celts are few and far-between, but “nonprocreative relationships outside of marriage were also acceptable and legal for men and women,” so it is not unreasonable to conclude that, as with other ancient cultures, same-sex relationships existed between male Celts as well as between female Celts.

Paving the Way

More recent history is a bit more accessible. Although little is known about his life, Patrick McCormack could be the

first transgender person recorded in Dublin. Irish History Podcast touched on the topic in 2018. A famine survivor and labourer, McCormack died in 1871, after which it was discovered that he had been assigned female at birth. Then, there are more high-profile examples, such as Irish poet Oscar Wilde - a name synonymous with homosexuality in the Victorian era. However, it is impossible to say how much queer history has been buried or glossed over in general - let alone when we look at the Celtic nations specifically.

“For everything we have done so far on LGBT history, I think it is just the tip of the iceberg,” says Norena Shopland, an LGBTQ+ historian in Wales.

Shopland started her career as an archeologist and hadn’t been especially interested in queer history until she got a job working at The Lesbian and Gay Newsmedia Archive in London. She also participated in the Museum of London’s “Reassessing What We Collect” - a project about lack of diversity in the museum’s collections.

In 2007, after returning to her home country of Wales with her wife, she found that there was nothing being done about Welsh LGBTQ+ history, save “a couple of half-hearted history month” projects. A few years later, Shopland applied for - and received - funding for an exhibition on Welsh LGBTQ+

people, allies and events. With a relatively short time period to prepare the exhibition, Shopland was effectively “starting from scratch” with the research. One difficulty, she notes, is that “Wales is often subsumed into England” - meaning that people such as Ivor Novello or the Ladies of Llangollen were often identified simply as part of British history, or even English history. “We didn’t have a list of anybody, really. So, it was having to put a list together that we could then build the exhibition on.” The work was worth it in the end, as the exhibition was popular with audiences.

Then, in 2017, Shopland published her book *Forbidden Lives: LGBT Histories from Wales*. The work was the first completely nonfiction book on the queer history of Wales. As LGBTQ+ terminology only dates back to the late 19th century, “I had to stop looking at what people were” in terms of identity, “and I had to look at what people were doing.” Crossdressing, for instance. This method of research helped her find people beyond the well-known or “famous” queer people. “I wanted ordinary, working class people, because working class people are so underrepresented.”

Marged Uch Evans (or Marged ferch Ifan) was a figure who Shopland found particularly fascinating and included her in *Forbidden Lives*. “The only reason that she is included in the historical record is because she was so masculine.” At that time, “a lot of women would have been masculine as they were doing very heavy work,” such as farm work. “So, when you bear in mind that this woman’s fame is centered around her extreme masculinity, that tells you



Norena Shopland

something.” While it is important not to make definitive claims about her gender or sexual identity, Shopland says the way that Evans is reflected in historical record does raise questions. In addition to her extreme masculinity, Evans was very close to her maid - a fact that was noted during the 18th century, a time when servants were hardly noted about at all. Still, Shopland refrains from calling her a lesbian, as such a term did not exist at the time.

“There was no concept of how we consider a lesbian today, or a gay man today, or trans or bisexual. So, we are in danger of inflicting upon our readers an image of someone from the past that simply didn’t exist.”

“I stick to more neutral terms like sexually fluid, gender fluid, that sort of thing.”

Because of the success of her research, Shopland helped compile an online LGBTQ+ research guide for the Glamorgan Archives. She also published a book called *A Practical Guide to Searching LGBTQIA Historical Records*. Her upcoming book, *A History of Women in Men’s Clothes: From Cross-Dressing to Empowerment*, is expected to be released in August.

Keeping in mind that Shopland is limited to English language research and mainly Western historical records, there remains much global LGBTQ+ history still uncovered. “All this horrendous amount of research still needs to be done. And once we do that, it is just going to blow open the floodgates of LGBTQ+ history.”

Progress and Pitfalls

LGBTQ+ identities are much more visible than they once were. But it took time - and some serious advocating for change - to get here.

Activist Alan Shea is one such advocate. Shea challenged the Isle of Man’s criminalization of homosexuality on Tynwald Day (the National Day of the Isle of Man) in 1991. According to tradition, people may present their grievances on this day each year during Tynwald ceremony at St Johns, and so Shea did just that. He wore pyjama jacket and trousers, painted with grey and black stripes. The protest outfit also



included a pink triangle with the Isle of Man triskelion on it, as well as the number 626262 - the Isle of Man Government phone number. The attire resembled a Nazi concentration camp uniform, as Shea was drawing parallels between the criminalization of homosexuality and the Nazi persecution of LGBTQ+ folks.

Today, not only has homosexuality been decriminalized, but same-sex marriage is now legal in all of the Celtic nations. Northern Ireland was the last to catch up in January of 2020, after the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc.) Act 2019 was amended.

Journalist Lyra McKee famously spoke about what it was like to grow up queer in Northern Ireland during a TEDx Talk:

“Within the LGBT community, we have a saying that we tell people. We tell them that ‘It Gets Better’ - it gets better for some of us; it gets better for those of us who live long enough to see it get better.”

Tragically, McKee was murdered while covering a riot in Derry in 2019.

Sharni and Robyn Edwards-Peoples were the first same-sex couple to get married in Northern Ireland. The pair even posed in front of a mural featuring McKee as part of a photoshoot. At the time of her death, McKee had a girlfriend she hoped to marry. So, Sharni and Robyn’s marriage symbolized

something beyond the couple themselves - it marked the beginning of a new era, and one that many had been wishing and fighting for. Some of them, like McKee, never got to see it with their own eyes.

There is no overstating the importance the right to marry has for many. However, other issues of discrimination persist. Transphobia has been on the rise across the United Kingdom in particular, as confirmed in a recent report from the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA-Europe). Challenges are especially apparent for transgender youth. As the result of a High Court ruling last year, the only National Health Service clinic for minors in the U.K. stopped referring transgender youth for puberty blockers.

“Despite evidence that puberty blockers help trans teens feel happier and healthier and improve their mental health outcomes, the court ruled that teens were too young to make long-term decisions about their gender and gender affirming medical care would have to be approved by the courts,” reads a report from *Them* magazine.

Still, activists and advocates persist, as ever. And the more LGBTQ+ people who make themselves known and take up space, the harder it will be to ignore these issues. The proof is in the progress.

Nearly 19 years after Alan Shea stood up for gay rights on Tynwald Day, the Manx Government gave a formal apology for its discriminatory law. Luke Adebiyi, a board member for the Isle of Pride charity, says the Isle of Man has progressed “massively” in terms of LGBTQ+ rights and acceptance.

"There is still more to do," he shares via email, "and I think from an educational perspective, there are more activities that could take place. The Isle of Man truly is so welcoming."

The Isle of Pride festival, intended to be the first of its kind for the nation, was cancelled last year due to the pandemic. "We will be releasing further details in due course on this year's activities," says Adebisi. "We have huge support from the local community, so we are sure this is going to be a weekend like no other."

"We are very keen not just in the LGBTQ+ space (although this is our primary agenda) but look at the wider diversity activity. We have plans for the future to create safe spaces for members of the LGBTQ+ charity and will look at collaborating off-island for some activities."

Queer Visibility in Celtic Dance

In Ireland, Breandán de Gallaí - formerly of Riverdance - says there have been major strides in the last few decades. For him, though, the journey was a long one. He didn't tell his parents he was gay until he was 30 years old.

"People might imagine that being part of a dance organization, coming out as a gay man is easy. It wasn't," de Gallaí, now 51, shares in an interview.

Currently the artistic director of the Dublin-based Ériu Dance Company, de Gallaí was nudged into Irish dance by his parents at age seven. "I think about it differently now because of the opportunities that came with it, but at the time it was extremely difficult," he says, reflecting on the experience of being a boy in dance. "Kids are cruel, so they will



Breandán de Gallaí

find a reason to pick on you anyway, but it was very much because I was doing dance."

De Gallaí attended secondary school in the 1980s, which he calls a very conservative time in Ireland.

"It was so oppressive that I didn't even identify myself privately as a gay person. I didn't have any gay role models where I grew up."

During his time at the Gus Giordano Dance Academy in Chicago, de Gallaí did meet men who, upon reflection, he realizes were probably gay. But he wasn't yet ready for self-exploration. That came much later, while he was touring with Riverdance in his mid-20s.

This led to de Gallaí's girlfriend breaking up with him, and "I really had to deal with this new direction," he says. "You might imagine in showbiz, you might find it much, much easier, because everyone in musical theatre is queer. Riverdance wasn't like that."

Eventually, de Gallaí met someone on tour, and when Riverdance returned to Ireland, he decided to tell his parents. It went well. "After that, it was easy to take the subsequent steps. The relief is so monumental - you just know people know."

After leaving Riverdance, his identity "became a central part in what I did. Not just being a gay man, but the sense of being 'othered' - no matter what that is - and that deeper sense of authentic identity." This was exemplified in de Gallaí's Linger: a duet he choreographed, then performed with fellow gay dancer Nick O'Connell in 2016.

While things have changed for the better, de Gallaí says the ideas of gender

roles in Irish dance have persisted. "There is this unquestioned (idea) - girls need to be graceful, and boys need to be strong, so that needs to be addressed."

Jo Troll, a nonbinary dancer and artist based in the Boston area, says they often come upon people who simply haven't had conversations about gender or queerness. Some don't even make the effort, which can become an issue during classes. For instance, a teacher will instruct a particular arm position "for boys" and another position "for girls."

"When you are met with information that you don't know how to handle it is just easier to ignore it, most of the time," says Troll. "That is usually what seems to happen."

Generally disinterested in competitive or company dancing, Troll choreographs their own dances, and the "building blocks" of their work are rooted in Irish dance.

"I am comfortable moving in certain ways because of training and just who I am, and what my body is, and that is what I want to do. I know that is not what every dancer wants to do, but at this point, that is what I am doing."

As a teacher themselves, Troll says that they are seeing younger folks (who are more used to queer-inclusive spaces) bringing more inclusive energy into dance classes. Recently, when going over introductions with a new set of students, each student shared their pronouns along with their name. "I definitely see things like that. I think I am still waiting to see how that then plays out in other spaces and for the culture as a whole."

Michiko Bown-Kai notices gendered aspects in the world of Highland dance as well. They are a United Church minister in Ontario, who also happens to have a passion for dancing. Unlike Troll, however, they do participate in competitions.

"In a really competitive, small world, when you are working really hard to do well at competitions and you don't know exactly how judges might feel about things, I can see how that creates a different sort of pressure to not want to rock the boat in any way," says Bown-Kai. For them, their hairstyle has to change, and their facial piercings have to be removed based on competitive regulations.

"I would love to be able to compete wearing the 'men's outfit,' but that would ruffle so many feathers."



Michiko Bown-Kai

In recent years, “the Highland dance community is much more connected online.” In this way, they have been able to connect with other Highland dancers who are “out” as queer. “I also do get messages from people from time-to-time, being like, ‘I am not out yet. I am not sure what that would look like at my dance studio, or my home, or just the Highland world in general.’”

Similarly, de Gallaí says more Irish dancers are “out” these days. Based on conversations he has had, though, progress is slower when it comes to the traditional music scene.

“The thing about Irish dance organizations is that they are quite liberal in comparison to the Irish music organizations, which is weird.”

Music

“I am always looking to find other gay pipers,” Kevin Loud says over a video call from his home in Florida. “It is like being a unicorn or Bigfoot or something.”



Loud first picked up the bagpipes when he was living on Long Island, New York. He always had an affinity for the instrument. “I love the way the ground vibrates, and you feel it,” he says. When Loud’s husband signed him up for a free bagpipe lesson at the local Hibernian Hall, his life changed.

“I was just a nervous wreck going into it,” recalls Loud. “I was so focused on (the other pipers) reacting to me, when a big part of it was me reacting to them, and my own stereotypes of bagpipers.”

In his mind, he had pictured a group of burly men and wasn’t sure how he would fit in. As it turned out, the group included men and woman of various ages.

“I absolutely fell in love with the whole process of learning. It was therapy to go there once a week.”



He eventually became part of the band, playing at parades and events. He doesn’t even really remember how he “came out” to the other band members - it just happened naturally.

“It didn’t matter that I was gay. It just mattered that I was a bagpiper.”

Six years ago, Loud and his husband moved to Fort Lauderdale. There, Loud played in a police band for a time, but he found it wasn’t the right fit for him. He took a break from piping and has since found his way back to it. For now, he calls himself a “backyard piper.” That said, he misses playing in a band. He likes to imagine being part of an LGBTQ+ group of pipers “with rainbow kilts, playing traditional songs and not-so-traditional tunes.”

“I know nothing about doing any of that, but I think if there were veterans who knew what to do...to have the Pride Pipers and Drummers would just be fantastic.”

People like Loud might feel like “unicorns,” but they are not necessarily rare. For instance, Celtic folk musicians have formed queer-friendly collectives such as Bogha-frois and Femfolk, challenging the idea of what it means to be a “trad” artist.

Like Loud, Nova Scotian fiddler Ashley MacIsaac finds that most people only care about how he plays. His sexuality is hardly relevant. “Real music fans couldn’t care less about my personal life. They don’t want to hear about my visit to some really awesome dance club in New York’s Gay Village. They want to hear my music,” he wrote in a 2018 piece for Celtic Life International.

Culture Shift

As MacIsaac put it: “The irony of it all is that while the music of the Celts has been around a long time, being gay has been around even longer.”

Hatred and gatekeeping won’t change the fact that LGBTQ+ people exist in all corners of the world, in every vocation. Scholars are even adapting traditional languages, such as Gaelic and Scots language, to be inclusive of queer identities. And, as Norena Shopland pointed out, we have only scratched the surface of queer history.

What about the queer future? With young people coming out every day, we can only hope the artistic and political spheres will continue to move with the times.

JEN DELYTH

Direct from the Artist's Studio

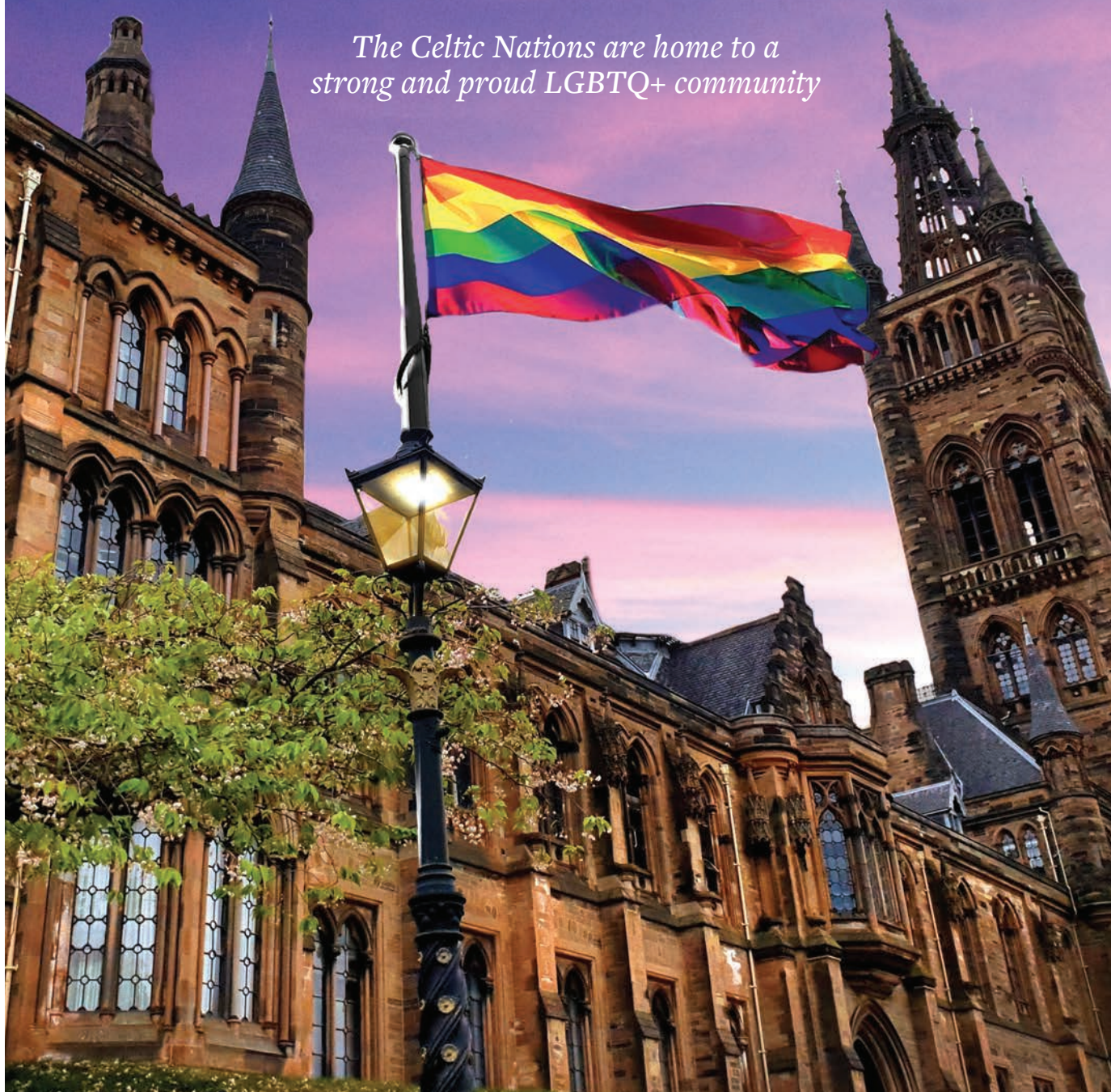
Gifts of
Beauty &
Meaning

- Fine Art Prints
- Tapestries
- Journals
- Jewelry
- Tshirts
- Gifts

www.celticartstudio.com

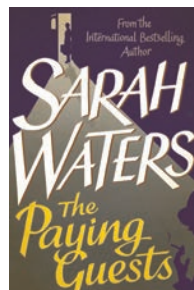
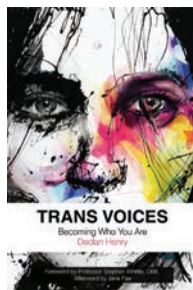
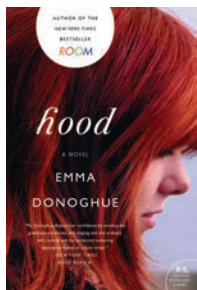
Celtic & Queer

The Celtic Nations are home to a strong and proud LGBTQ+ community



Literature

Books give a powerful and poignant voice to the Celtic queer community.



Trans Voices: Becoming Who You Are

By Declan Henry

Celtic Life International spoke with Irish creative non-fiction author Declan Henry in 2017 about *Trans Voices*, which had just been published. A long-form narrative, the book explores the experiences of trans people living on The Emerald Isle. While Henry himself is cisgender - his personal identity and gender corresponds with his sex assigned at birth - *Trans Voices* includes interviews with over 100 trans individuals. The book highlights a myriad of subjects, including hormone treatments, reassignment surgery, mental health, discrimination and more. *Trans Voices* also includes several interviews with individuals who are nonbinary or gender nonconforming.

Hood

By Emma Donoghue

Irish Canadian author Emma Donoghue is best known for her 2010 bestselling novel *Room*, but her earlier works include several gems with LGBTQ+ themes. One such title is *Hood* (1995) - her second novel - which tells the tale of one woman coming to terms with the death of her female lover. The novel explores a variety of topics, such as grief and relationships, and touches on the trials and triumphs of lesbians residing in Ireland. *Hood* was the recipient of the 1997 Stonewall Award in the U.K. and was said to be thematically inspired by the Irish classic, *Ulysses* by James Joyce.

The Paying Guests

By Sarah Waters

No discussion of Celtic LGBTQ+ authors would be complete without mention of Welsh scribe Sarah Waters. While perhaps best known for her 1998 novel *Tipping the Velvet*, it was her 2014 narrative *The Paying Guests* that garnered high praise for its realistic portrayal of a woman living in London in the 1920s who strikes up an intimate relationship with a housewife living in an upstairs apartment. Along with an extended stay atop many bestseller's lists, the book was also shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2014.

At Swim, Two Boys

By Jamie O'Neill

Another Irish narrative inspired by James Joyce's *Ulysses* is the 2001 novel *At Swim, Two Boys* by Jamie O'Neill. Considered by both critics and readers to be his most notable work, *At Swim, Two Boys* follows two young Irish men in Dublin during the 1916 Easter Rising. A love story at heart, the book nonetheless tackles several themes, including identity, religion, adolescence, and the difference between good and evil. Since its release, the novel has won several awards - including the 2002 Lambda Literary Award - and has been adapted into both a dance and a play.

Resources

Unlike only a generation ago, there are plenty of resources available for the Celtic queer community today.

Ireland and Northern Ireland

OutFront Ireland ~ www.outinfrontireland.com
Black Pride Ireland ~ www.blackprideireland.ie
Bi+Ireland ~ www.biireland.com
BelongTo ~ www.belongto.org
The Outhouse ~ www.outhouse.ie
Trans Equality Network Ireland ~ www.teni.ie
Queer Diaspora Ireland ~ www.queerdiaspora.com
LGBT Ireland ~ www.lgbt.ie
National LGBT Federation ~ www.nxf.ie
GOSHH Ireland ~ www.goshh.ie
The Rainbow Project ~ www.rainbow-project.org
LINC Ireland ~ www.linc.ie
ALMAC! LGBT ~ www.amachlgbt.com
Cara-Friend ~ www.cara-friend.org.uk
TransgenderNI ~ www.transgenderni.org.uk

Scotland

Equality Network ~ www.equality-network.org
Time for Inclusive Education ~ www.tie.scot
Our Story Scotland ~ www.ourstoryscotland.org.uk
LGBT Youth Scotland ~ www.lgbtyouth.org.uk
Scottish Trans ~ www.scottishtrans.org
LGBT Scotland ~ www.lgbt.scot
Stonewall Scotland ~ www.stonewallscotland.org.uk
LGBT Health and Wellbeing ~ www.lgbthealth.org.uk
SWAN Scotland ~ www.swanlgbt.org.uk
Scottish Bi+ Network ~ www.scottishbinet.org

Wales

Umbrella Cymru ~ www.consortium.lgbt/member-directory/umbrella-cymru
LGBT South Wales ~ www.lgbtsouthwales.org.uk
Stonewall Cymru ~ www.stonewallcymru.org.uk
LGBT Cymru Helpine ~ www.lgbtcymru.org.uk
The Dyn Project ~ www.dynwales.org
Glitter Cymru ~ www.facebook.com/GlitterCymru
Bi Cymru ~ www.bicymru.org.uk
Pride Cymru ~ www.pridecymru.com

Cornwall

YAY Youth Cornwall ~ www.lgbtqyouthcornwall.co.uk
Cornwall Pride ~ www.cornwallpride.org

Isle of Mann

Isle of Pride ~ www.facebook.com/isleofpride
IOM LGBTI ~ www.lgbti.iom.int

Bretagne

Gay Bretagne (Gay Sejour) ~ www.gay-sejour.com/fr/r-5/bretagne.html
CGLBT Rennes ~ www.cglbtrennes.org

Queer Celts in the Community

A number of LGBTQ+ leaders prove that people have the power



Aoife Martin

Trans and LGBT activist and columnist, Ireland

Aoife Martin is a transwoman and writer based in Ireland. Her work has been published in a variety of publications, including *The Journal*, *The Irish Examiner* and more. Throughout her career, Martin has worked tirelessly to spread awareness and education about transgender issues within Ireland, garnering her respect and praise; she was listed as one of Top 50 Future LGBT+ Leaders for two consecutive years (2018, 2019) by OUTstanding, a professional network in the U.K. that celebrates LGBTQ+ leaders, future leaders and allies. She was also elected to be a board member with the Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI). In a column she wrote for *The Journal.ie* in March, she said, “We saw the same prejudice against gay people 30 years ago and we are seeing the same thing against trans people now. We see it in the campaigns to exclude trans women from sport, from changing rooms, from bathrooms.”



Kez Rush

Positive Change Arts Project, Scotland

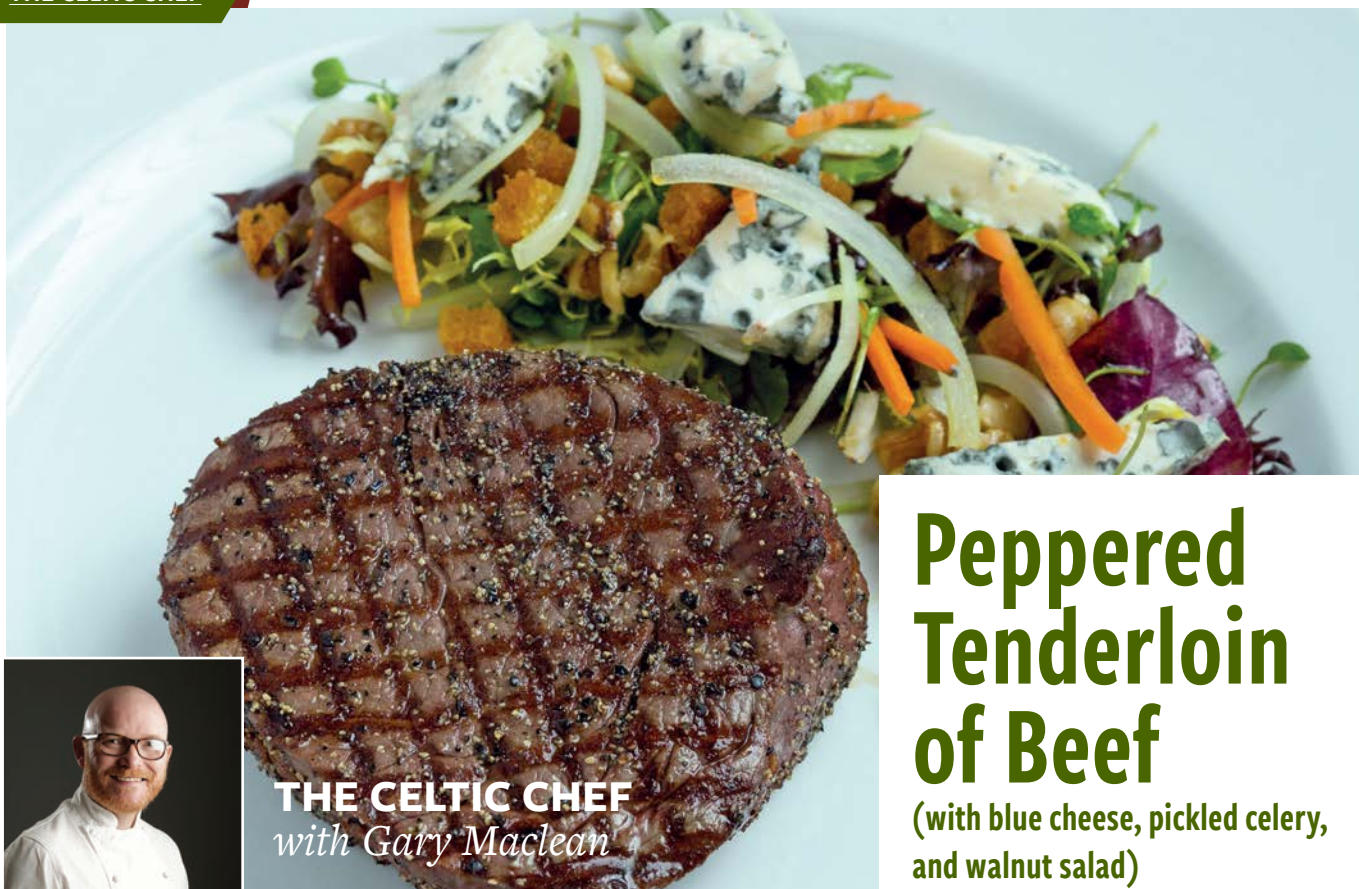
To say Kez Rush has been busy the last couple of years would be an incredible understatement. Based in Edinburgh, Rush - who uses they/them pronouns - is the brainchild behind the Positive Change Art Project, a creative organization that works to support LGBTQ+ people while generating important conversations about mental health. Rush has also worked with several organizations to further their cause, including MATE (Mutual Aid Trans Edinburgh) Edinburgh, an initiative created during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide “direct support for and by trans and queer people in Edinburgh.” The pandemic was personally challenging for Rush, who experienced kidney damage in October of last year after catching COVID-19. They said: “I have lost everything from being so ill, and right now I am trying to figure out how to have some resemblance of a life.” Even with all the challenges they have faced over the last few months, Rush remains active within the LGBT community, including holding Saturday Socials to support LGBT+ people and those with chronic illnesses, as well as allies.



Shash Appan

Glitter Cymru, Wales

Welsh activist Shash Appan has been working incredibly hard over the last year. A member of Glittery Cymru - a social support group for LGBTQ+ ethnic minorities in Wales - Appan has also been involved in several COVID-19-related protests and events in recent months. In an interview with Wales Online, she said: “I feel the trans community felt despondent. It was more to show, as a community, we have each other and we can lean on each other during these trying times.” In addition to the protest work she does, Appan is also active online - she has over 1k followers on Twitter - and is the co-founder of Trans Aid Cymru, a mutual aid network for Trans, Nonbinary and Intersex people living in Wales. She can also be found on her personal blog, titled *It's Shash*, where she posts personal musings, information on Trans rights, and much more.



THE CELTIC CHEF
with Gary Maclean

Peppered Tenderloin of Beef

(with blue cheese, pickled celery, and walnut salad)

Scotland is world-renowned for the quality of its beef, with farms that have been run by the same family for 10 generations or more. We also have the perfect landscape and weather for rearing very high-quality beef. When it comes to cooking steaks, experts like to debate the correct pans, cuts, cooking times, etc. I hope this recipe proves straightforward, enjoyable, and tasty.

Ingredients

4 x 160g / 5½ oz beef tenderloin (fillet) steaks
2 sticks celery, peeled and cut into fine strips
70ml / 3fl oz white wine vinegar
50g / 2 oz honey
2 sprigs thyme
1 carrot, peeled and cut into fine strips
100g / 3½ oz blue cheese
2 slice bread
20g / ¾ oz butter, unsalted
Handful mixed leaves
50ml / 2fl oz rapeseed oil
75g / 3oz walnuts
1 tsp cracked black pepper
Flake sea salt

Instructions

Take the steak out of the fridge and bring it to room temperature. Next, sort the salad, starting with the pickled celery. Place the vinegar and honey into a pot with the thyme, bring to boil, and check the balance - it should be a pleasant, sweet pickle flavour. Add celery strips to the pickling liquid. Then, cut the bread into a fine dice and pan-fry in a little butter until crisp. In a bowl add mixed leaves, cut carrot, crispy croutons, pickled celery, cheese, and walnuts put to one side. Pre-heat oven to 200°C / 400°F. Pre-heat a heavy-based non-stick pan or griddle pan on a high heat, add a touch of oil. Once the pan is hot, the oil will start to haze slightly. Season the steak with flaked sea salt and cracked black pepper. Add the steak to the pan and “seal” the meat to create colour and flavour. Don’t shake the pan as that will only cool it down and end up boiling the meat - juices come out, losing colour and moisture. It is up to you how you like your steak cooked, and this is determined by how long you seal the meat and leave it in the pan. With a tenderloin steak I always suggest popping it into the oven for a few minutes unless you like your steak blue or rare. Allow the steak to rest, this will allow the meat to settle and let the juices relax, resulting in a much more flavoursome meat and giving it a beautiful blush and even colour. Drizzle a little rapeseed oil over the top of the salad and toss the bowl until everything is mixed. Serve the fillet with salad.

Slàinte! Gary
www.garymacchef.com



Roasted Dressed Vegetable Medley



Perhaps I did not notice time creeping up on me - however, it has! It has been 34 years since we began publishing Celtic Life International. What started out as a local newsprint tabloid morphed into a glossy global magazine. It goes without saying that I am very proud of the publication and the staff that embody it. From the editor, the writers, our salespeople, and our production team, I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart - you have all worked diligently and our success could never have been achieved without

you. I also want to thank each and every reader of my column and to those who contributed recipes. It is what makes what I do fun and vibrant.

For my last recipe, I have yet another person to thank - my sister-in-law, Ann Macquarrie. On Holy Weekend, we all gathered inside our Covid bubble for an Easter meal. Ann brought a delicious vegetable dish that she has kindly consented to share. With gardens maturing, this will be a dish you will make again and again this summer.

Ingredients

2 lbs. brussels sprouts trimmed and halved
 1 pkg. asparagus with stems removed
 3 parsnip
 1 zucchini
 1 fennel
 1/2 cup olive oil
 2 tsp. salt
 4 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
 3 tsp. honey

Instructions

Heat the oven to 425 degrees and bake 25-30 minutes. Toss all the vegetables with olive oil and place on a rimmed baking sheet. Add more oil to coat and add seasonings. Roast in hot oven. Stir vegetables halfway through as they are browning. Drizzle with balsamic vinegar and honey again. Toss one more time. Serve in your favorite dish.

Ith do shàth! Cabrini
 - cabrini@celticlife.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!

For instance our new exclusive
cask of Kilchoman 12 Year Islay
Single Malt Scotch!



kensingtonwinemarket.com
@KensingtonWM

Uniting The North American Scottish Community Thru Our Heritage & Cultural Programs

Virtual & Live Scottish Heritage Events

Virtual & Live Cultural Lectures

Sounds From Scotland Monthly Webcasts

ScotsInUS Bi-Monthly Podcasts

Wallace Awards

Burns Night Supper

Tartan Week Events

Tartan Kiltskate

Member Benefits



**AMERICAN-SCOTTISH
FOUNDATION®**

www.americanscottishfoundation.org

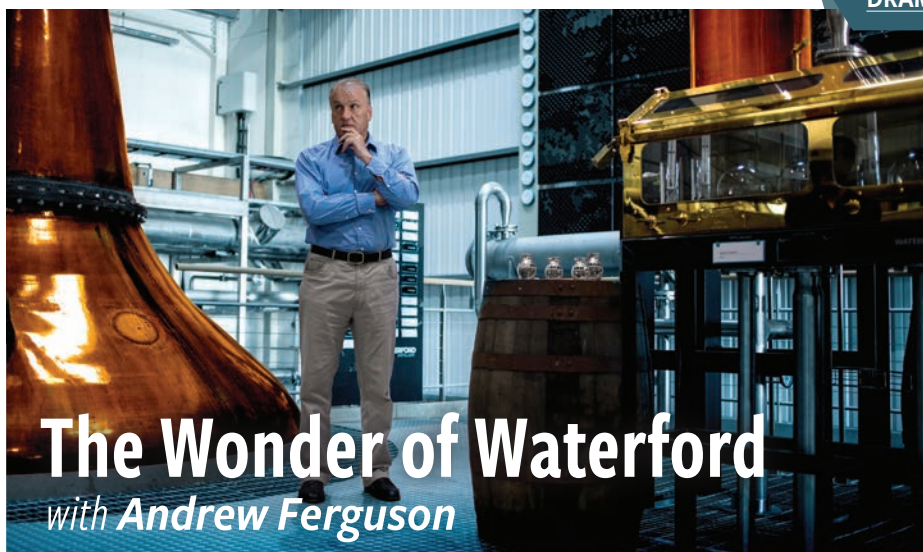
ASFevents

americanscottish

ASFevents

#ASFevents

#ScotsInUSA



The Wonder of Waterford

with Andrew Ferguson

The Irish whiskey industry is going through a renaissance at the moment, and no distillery better exemplifies this than Mark Reynier's Waterford Distillery.

Waterford was opened in 2015, in the recently decommissioned Waterford Brewery, in the town of the same name, about 100 miles south of Dublin. The original brewery opened in 1792 but was replaced in 2004 with a state-of-the-art facility built by Diageo at huge expense to brew Guinness. It was closed in 2013, with the site put up for sale after Diageo opened yet another massive new brewery at St. James Gate in Dublin. And that is where Mark Reynier enters the picture.

Before we wade into the deep end of Waterford, we need to first touch on Bruichladdich, the plucky distillery on Scotland's west coast Isle of Islay. Bruichladdich, which originally dates to 1883, was in a sorry state at the end of the 20th Century. In 2000, the distillery was purchased by Murray McDavid, an independent bottler headed by Mark Reynier, a former London wine merchant. When Bruichladdich was brought back to life a lot of focus was put on barley, terroir, and cask selection. Since its revival in 2000, Bruichladdich has only ever made whisky with Scottish barley, and has managed to source up to 40 per cent of its annual production from Islay - a considerable feat considering the storm-battered island is not exactly ideal for cultivating barley. Bruichladdich worked closely with local farmers to achieve this. Reviving Bruichladdich wasn't easy, but in 2012 the distillery was sold to Remy Cointreau for an impressive £58,000,000.00.

Mark did not want to sell as he was just starting to see the fruits of his labours at Bruichladdich. His passion and curiosity about the role terroir played in whisky was

born during his time in the wine trade. But in 2012 he found himself looking for a new challenge, still full of passion, and with some capital in hand. In 2015, along with some investors, Mark bought the old Waterford Brewery from Diageo, and began converting it into a distillery. That same year he began sourcing barley from Irish farms, playing close detail to what they creatively call *Téireoir*; a blend of the French word *terroir* and *Éire*, the Irish word for Ireland. Impressively the first spirit trickled off the stills in January of 2016.

The distillery takes barley and *téireoir* very seriously, storing the production from individual farms and harvests separately. The distillery tracks huge amounts of data on all of its barley, including the soil and growing conditions. They even employ their own full-time agronomist to analyze the data to see how the terroir influences flavour development. Waterford is uniquely outfitted with a wet mill and a mash filter, pieces of equipment found in few other malt whisky distilleries, but which may be huge assets. The distillery employs a long fermentation by industry standards, tweaking it depending on the barley's traits.

Distillation is also slow and precise, resulting in a very fruity spirit with distinct profiles to reflect the barley and its téireoir.

The whisky is matured in only fresh oak, including a mix of ex-Bourbon, Virgin American Oak, ex-French Oak wine barriques, and Mark's prized Vin Doux Naturel casks.

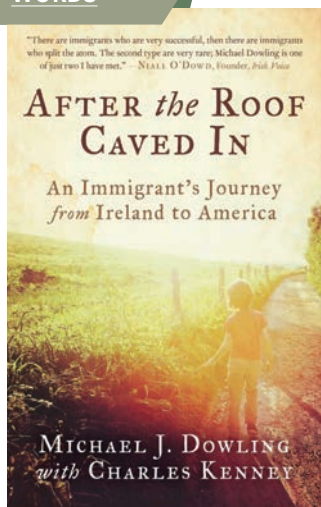
The first Waterford whisky was launched in March of 2020, just as the COVID-19 pandemic was taking hold. The distillery wasn't

able to give its whisky the launch they wanted, but it has quickly caught on internationally, garnering high praise from respected critics and experts. Over the last year Waterford has released at least two dozen different whiskies, mostly Single Farm Origin Single Malts, each produced from a single harvest at a single Irish farm. There have also been two releases of the "Arcadian Series Organic Gaia" single malts, as well as their first Cuvee called *Lómhar*, which is Irish Gaelic for 'gem.'

I had the pleasure to visit Waterford in early March last year, just before the world turned upside down. It was nice seeing Mark Reynier again, whom I have known for nearly two decades from his time at Bruichladdich. The distillery is impressive, both technically and aesthetically, with a great team. Waterford is a distillery to keep your eye on; the spirit it is producing is world class, and they are filling it in to good quality wood. While I am not yet a true believer in the concept of barley terroir, I do think Waterford is following a recipe for success. High quality barley, long fermentations and precise distillations combined with a great wood policy is as good a recipe for world class whisky as I can think of, and the proof is in the pudding. The first whiskies may be young, but they are excellent!

Waterford Distillery can be visited, but only by appointment. The whisky is currently available in Alberta and British Columbia in Canada, as well as in a handful of American states.

www.waterfordwhisky.com
www.kensingtonwinemarket.com



After the Roof Caved In

By Michael J. Dowling
& Charles Kenney
Arcade
272 pp / \$24.95

Michael J. Dowling is the poster child for the modern Irish immigrant experience.

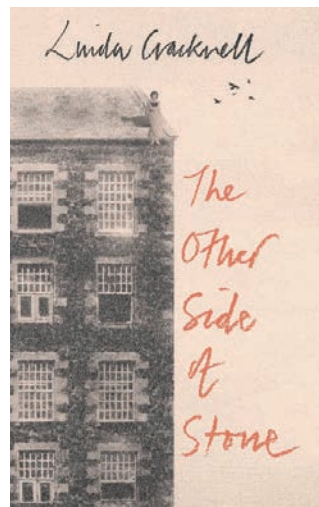
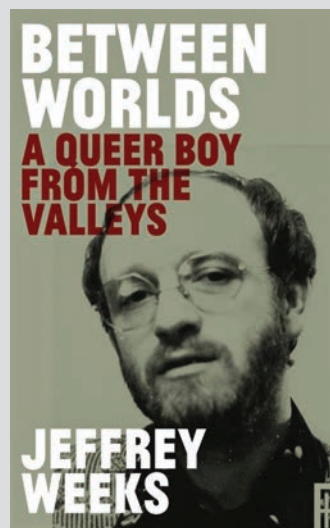
Born and raised in the small rural community of Knockaderry, Co. Limerick, the young man dreamed of a better life for himself and his family. After graduating from university in Cork he relocated to the United States where, today, he is the president and CEO of Northwell Health, New York state's largest healthcare provider and private employer, with over 68,000 employees and more than 700 facilities. As with most autobiographies, the journey is the destination, and Dowling's was challenging - not unlike those shared by many immigrants past and present. More than a memoir or a rags-to-riches recounting, however, *After the Roof Caved In* is an informative insight into the immigrant experience. ~ SPC

Between Worlds; A Queer Boy from the Valley

By Jeffrey Weeks
Parthian Press
300 pp / £20.00

It seemed fitting that I received an advance reading copy of this book in time for our June 2021 edition (see our Cover Story). Long a gay rights activist in his native Wales, with more than a dozen seminal works on sexuality to his name, Jeffrey

Weeks' autobiography is both long-overdue and well-timed. Growing up in the country's old-school, male-dominated Rhondda Valley, the scribe escaped to more liberal London in the 1970s before finding his voice and celebrating his identity. An academic at heart, Weeks has since confronted the challenges of homophobia through the weaponry of words. Important and insightful, *Between Worlds* examines both the life of a single man and the impact that one determined individual with a dream can have upon cultural change. ~ SPC



The Other Side of Stone

By Linda Cracknell
Taproot Press
152 pp / £14.99

Like the Irish, the Scots are born storytellers. And, some might argue, Scotland's literary yield is now on par with the Emerald Isle. After all the critical and popular acclaim for her previous novels - *The Searching Glance* (2008), *Call of the Undertow* (2013), and *Doubling Back: Ten Paths Trodden in Memory* (2014) - author Linda Cracknell returns to the forefront of tale telling with this sweeping series of stories set over three centuries against the backdrop of Perthshire's wool industry. Through stone masons and suffragettes, the scribe explores both the role of women's rights amidst Scotland's long march to industrialization, and the role that modernity has had upon that country's rural regions. A powerful portrait of a people and a place coming of age. ~ SPC

Flossie McFluff; An Irish Fairy

By Eoin O'Brien
& Audrey Dowling
O'Brien Press
32 pp / €8.99

Every so often I find myself looking through old photos of my kids when they were infants. I smile and sigh as I remember reading to them at bedside each night. Both my son and daughter would have loved *Flossie McFluff*. Author Eoin O'Brien must have children of her own that served as the inspiration for these three rhymed tales of a young fairy who looks after the forest. Charming and quaint, with beautiful illustrations by Audrey Dowling, each story shares easy-to-understand life experiences - giving litter louts a scare, helping a lonely banshee find friends, and helping her leprechaun friend Paddy Potts find his missing gold. And while I do miss reading to my kids, I am not quite ready to be a grandfather! ~ SPC





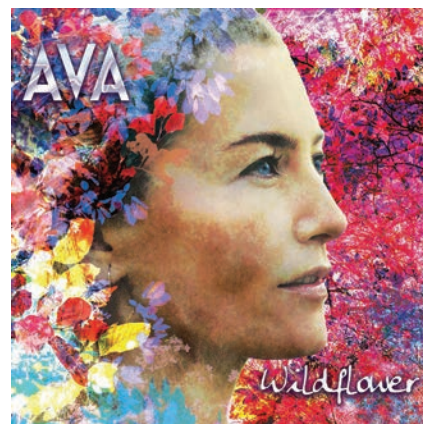
Imelda May

11 Past the Hour

After turning to poppy hooks and rhythmic samples on her previous two recordings - *Life Love Flesh Blood* (2017) and *Tribal* (2014) - Eire's super songstress returns to her rock 'n' roll roots with her most authentic album since 2010's *Mayhem*. *11 Past the Hour* features 11 tough and tender tunes that showcase May's strengths as both a singer and songwriter. The title track is gorgeous and gritty, while *Made to Love* and *What We Did in the Dark* bring the heat and the beats. However, it is the beautiful, breathy ballads - *Diamonds*, *Can't Say*, *Solace* - where the Dublin native is at her best, highlighting her lovely and lush lilt through themes of love, loss, regret and redemption. A terrific and triumphant effort! ~ SPC

AVA

Wildflower



As a core member of Irish supergroup Celtic Woman, Éabha McMahon enjoyed great success, recording five full albums, filming several hit television specials, performing hundreds of concerts around the world, topping global music charts, and receiving a Grammy nomination. Her debut solo album, *Wildflower*, is proof that she is more than just a pretty face, however.

Featuring all-original material, the organic 13-track release holds its own with strong compositions and solid arrangements, drawing upon both classic and contemporary Celtic melodies and presenting them in a fresh and refreshing light. Brave and bold, the work also benefits from the production skills of Gavin Murphy (Van Morrison, The Corrs, Glen Hansard, Sinéad O'Connor, The Chieftains). The moniker AVA, by the way, is the phonetic spelling of Éabha. ~ SPC



Beòlach

All Hands

Nova Scotia collective Beòlach hit all the right notes on their latest album *All Hands*. A moving and masterful melange of nine traditional tunes from Ireland, Scotland, and the quartet's native Cape Breton, the recording features both the individual and collective talents of Wendy MacIsaac (fiddle, piano), Mac Morin (piano, accordion), Màiri Rankin (fiddle), and Matt MacIsaac (bagpipes, whistles, guitar). The band's gifted line-up alone is a sure-fire formula for success, and the album has already been nominated for a Juno (Canada's version of the Grammys), 4 East Coast Music Awards (Atlantic Canada's version of the Junos), and 2 Canadian Folk Music awards. All of the accolades are more than merited and - with any luck - the rest of the world will catch on. ~ SPC

Edel Meade

Brigids and Patricias

There have certainly been some uniquely creative female singer/songwriters over the years - Bjork, Laurie Anderson, Jane Siberry and Patti Smith to name but a few - and Ireland's Edel Meade is a welcome addition to that troupe. From her days busking on Grafton Street in downtown Dublin, through her studies in jazz, and onto her Joni Mitchell and Billie Holiday projects, Meade's quirky and quaint vocal style and avant-garde approach were evident on her critically acclaimed 2017 debut *Blue Fantasia*. She takes it to the next level with *Brigids and Patricias*, an eight-song sojourn of stripped-down original tunes and spoken-word pieces that celebrate the feminine spirit. While perhaps not to everyone's taste, the album is sure to grow on both new and long-time listeners. ~ SPC



ENJOY THE MUSIC!

WE ARE NORTH AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SOURCE
FOR FRED MORRISON UILLEANN PIPES, REELPIPES, AND SMALLPIPES,
AND A TRUSTED SOURCE FOR ALL YOUR PIPING
AND PIPE BAND REQUIREMENTS.



DUNCAN MACRAE • MCCALLUM • R.G. HARDIE
PETER HENDERSON • DUNBAR • STRATHMORE
G1 CHANTERS & REEDS • CHESNEY • MACLELLAN • MACPHEE
MK WHISTLES • LARGE MUSIC SELECTION

reelpipes.com 

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

Valerie Byrnes

Valerie Byrnes is passionate about the pipes, both as a player and podcaster



Valerie Byrnes first heard the call of the bagpipes when she was just 10 years old. “The high school in my hometown of Upland (California) has a bagpipe band and they performed at my elementary school,” she recalls via email. “I decided that day that I would learn to play once I got into high school. It stirred something inside of me that I had not felt before.”

Now 34, Byrnes lives in Riverside County and has been a piper for 20 years. “I have taken breaks, but I keep coming back to it because I am so in love with the sound and the feeling that it gives me. I also appreciate what it is that pipers do, carrying on a craft - and all of its traditions - that have been around for hundreds of years.”

While there are opportunities for piping jobs in California, Byrnes admits that getting consistent work in a full-time capacity can be difficult, and that gigs and events have mostly served as a side business. She also hosts the Lady Pipers’ Podcast, which she records out of her home and which showcases female pipers and bands both past and present. One episode, for example, shares the story of Elizabeth “Bessie” Watson - a young Scottish suffragette and piper who played at feminist demonstrations as a child.

“I will take my podcast as far as it takes me and continue to tell amazing stories of women in piping history.”

Since picking up the pipes, Byrnes has performed at a number of high-profile events and venues “that I never could have dreamed of playing. Most importantly though, I have met some remarkable people, including my best friend, who is also a piper.”

She plies her trade on a set of David Naill bagpipes that she bought in 2004 and describes her sonic style as a mix of classic and contemporary.

“I love mixing the pipes with other instruments, such as guitar, and playing modern songs on the pipes. I think one of my favorite newer tunes to play is ‘We Will Rock You’ by Queen.”

To date, career highlights include playing for World War II veterans’ funerals, performing at the memorial of Jeremiah MacKay (a piper and sheriff who was killed in the line of duty), gigging at the World Championships in Scotland with the Kevin R. Memorial Pipe Band in 2004, playing in a Celtic Rock Band, and co-running and performing with the Scottish Rejects Pipe Band with her best friends.

Perhaps her most prominent gig, however, was playing the pipes for promotional events for the smash STARZ TV series *Outlander*. There, she had the opportunity to meet Diana Gabaldon, the author of the *Outlander* book series (Byrnes even played “Happy Birthday” for the scribe), as well as the show’s cast members and executive producer Ronald Moore. She notes that both the book and TV series “have gone a long way to promote Celtic culture,” especially Scottish history.

As someone of Irish heritage, Byrnes hopes that her home state does more to preserve and promote Eire’s unique culture. “Personally, I would love to see more Irish festivals out here in California, like I have seen in the mid-west. The festivals out there take over whole towns for the weekend during the summer and it is great fun.”

Although public performances are currently limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she still believes that the best way to get young people involved in bagpiping is by allowing them to hear the music in person. “Anytime I play in public I get great feedback. Kids are curious about the world and what it has to offer and just giving them a little encouragement - showing them that this can be fun - helps to spark interest.”

For the most part, Byrnes is staying mum on her plans for this year. She notes, however, that she plans to continue playing solo for the immediate future. “You never know what life will throw at you and bands are always looking for pipers, so maybe I will give that some thought when there is opportunity. Until then, my pipes and my podcast will keep me happy.”

www.anchor.fm/piper-valerie



49TH ANNUAL Stone Mountain Scottish Festival & HIGHLAND GAMES

October 16th & 17th, 2021

Attend "The Friendly Games."

Meet your fellow clansmen and celebrate the 49th Anniversary games along with our Honored guests and many old friends who will gather in this picturesque setting so rich in heritage.

Scottish Festival & Highland Games

**Atlanta, Georgia and Stone Mountain Park Meadow
October 16th & 17th, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Exhibits

Demonstrations
Highland Games
Children's Games
Gathering of Clans

Pipe Bands

Scottish Dancing
Scottish Shops & Foods
Scottish Harping & Fiddling
Scottish Musical Entertainment



Adult (Sat.) \$20, (Sun.) \$20 | Child (4-12) \$5

Park vehicle entrance fee required in addition to event tickets.
No pets allowed.

Presented by
Stone Mountain Highland Games, Inc.
P.O. Box 384 • Marietta, GA 30061
(770) 521-0228 • www.SMHG.org

©All rights reserved Stone Mountain Highland Games, Inc. 2021



Katie McNally

Katie McNally first became enamoured with the violin after hearing Itzhak Perlman on the radio when she was five years old. Although her mother signed her up for lessons right away, she wouldn't get "really serious about traditional music" until several years later when her fiddle teacher, Hanneke Cassel, sent her to the Gaelic Roots summer program at Boston College.

"I had been playing some Irish and American tunes before that, but I heard Catriona MacDonald from Shetland, and David Greenberg and Doug MacPhee from Nova Scotia, for the first time," she recalls via email from her home in Portland, Maine. "I became totally obsessed with Scottish music that week."

Those initial musical influences also included Laura Risk, Jerry Holland, and Natalie MacMaster, as well as several other players in the Scottish American and Cape Breton music scenes.

"For me, having female role models who were in their 20s was very inspiring and made trad music cool. Having peers who were playing the fiddle made it fun and brought out just the tiniest competitive edge for me to keep getting better. We discovered Celtic fiddle music together when the kids at school were discovering Eminem together. And it was even cooler when I learned a new tune that none of my friends knew."

Today, McNally has a number of albums under her belt - both as a musician and a producer - as well as several video credits. She has performed with the traditional folk quartet Fàrsan, the indie fiddle group Childsplay, and with her own band the Katie McNally Trio.

She remains enamoured with her instrument of choice - specifically, a fiddle crafted by luthier Bob Childs of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"I am still completely entranced by the fiddle itself - the tone of it, the incredible versatility of the instrument, the way it makes me curious."

"The other reason I continue to play is because of the friendships that I have made through the music and the community that



I can't imagine living without. New projects and personalities can make me think about the fiddle differently. Chance gigs that I have had no particular expectations for have led to some of my best friendships and most exciting collaborations."

Scottish and Cape Breton traditional musicians continue to dominate much of her listening, but McNally notes that contemporary work is part of her inspiration as well. Beolach's album *All Hands*, and Mike Katz and Alasdair White's *Best Sets* are among her recent favourites.

"My favourite tunes are usually the simplest ones that distill a musical idea to its best parts. Gaelic puirt a beul ("mouth music") melodies and some pipe tunes fulfill this role a lot of the time. I could literally play 'Jenny Dang the Weaver' every day of my life and never get tired of it. Alternately, I often find that I love tunes written by guitar or piano players who are composing more harmonically than melodically."

Of her own style and sound, McNally says "ultimately, I don't quite sound like I am from Scotland or from Cape Breton and it has taken me a long time to think of that as a strength rather than a weakness."

Creativity, she explains, is part inspiration and part perspiration.

"Sometimes I will write a new tune in a matter of minutes and other times it will take me days to feel like I have really learned and inhabited all the variations in an old pipe tune. I find that the harder I work at my music, the easier it comes the next time around."

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, McNally has taken advantage of the break from the hustle and bustle of travel. "I have been able to prioritize my health and relationships as well as getting the chance to regularly practice again."

With no plans to venture far from home anytime soon, she still has a number of projects in the works to keep her busy in 2021, including producing a debut album for fiddler Leland Martin and scoring a documentary film about three Olympic athletes from Galicia.

"I also hope that the camp I co-founded in 2020, the Boston States Fiddle Camp, will be able to happen in some capacity later in the year."

www.katiemcnally.com

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6TH



**CHARLESTON
SCOTTISH GAMES
AND HIGHLAND GATHERING**

Heavy Athletics, Piping and Drumming, Highland Dancing, Scottish Fiddling

**Craft Beer from Highland Brewing
Scottish Food and Merchandise
Whisky Tasting**

Live Celtic Rock from Albannach

**Children's Area, Sheep Dog Demonstration
Over 40 Scottish Clans**

HONORED CLAN: CLAN MACKENZIE

RIVERFRONT PARK

CharlestonScottishGames.com
#WeRScots



Alba Galimany

One woman brings Irish dance to Barcelona

While most of Alba Galimany's family is Catalan (from the north-east of Spain), she also has roots in Andalucía - the birthplace of flamenco folk music and dance. It is perhaps ironic, then, that she ended up falling in love with Irish dance.

When Galimany was 13 years old she saw Michael Flatley's *The Lord of the Dance* on television. Although she had never seen anything like it before, it inspired her to take up tap dance - one of only a few styles available to study in her hometown at the time.

"Eight years later, my teacher asked me why I started to tap dance and I talked about that TV show I saw years ago," she recalls via email from Barcelona. "That was the moment when I discovered Irish dance and that a woman named Ella King was teaching it in town."

Galimany ended up attending Gemma O'Connor's School of Irish Dance in Barcelona, and she cites O'Connor (alongside Michael Flatley, of course) as one of her key inspirations.

"I learned a lot in her school, and she was probably the first dancer who had a major impact upon me."

More recent influences include Fusion Fighters - an Irish dance company with a modern twist - and the Galway-based Gardiner Brothers.

"I must admit that I love traditional style, but after two workshops with the Fusion Fighters I like the possibilities that come with modern style."

Galimany has also studied jazz, contemporary, classical, and hip-hop dance. In 2013 she was attending the Aires Celtes/Maria Singal Irish Dance School and was offered a teaching job. Four years later, she took on the role of director and has held that position ever since. In addition to classes, the school offers "social dances" (célidhs) and summer camps. Most of her students are adults who discovered Irish dance on a trip to Ireland or, like Galimany, became interested after watching a performance.

"They love to learn and to improve. Most of them compete and we also do performances. They train hard, but what I want most is that they enjoy every single moment of dancing. I believe that this is the most important thing."

Although there are still not many Irish dance schools in Spain - Galimany estimates there are a total of five - competing in other regions gives students a chance to see other dancers perform.

"My students can't watch other dancers very often and they can only compete once or twice a year at most, as travelling is expensive. Their faces on the podium are the most rewarding thing for me. It is amazing to see that we can be at the same level even though we have the feeling of being a bit alone in this corner of Europe."

Luckily, Aires Celtes isn't alone, due in part to a sister school in Moscow. Galimany also has friends in Ireland with whom she can discuss challenges.

"I can still learn a lot through distance. We managed to organize two Fusion Fighters workshops in Barcelona but it's really rare to have these types of events here. Schools are small and the numbers are difficult."

With so little awareness about Irish dance in Spain it is at times difficult to garner interest among the younger generation. "It isn't easy to find young people who want to dance. They have no references or influences anywhere. It is different from what happens in many countries, where schools have more kids than adults. I think we can do more, especially in countries like ours where there is very little Irish tradition at all."

She also wishes that there was greater communication and collaboration between the few schools within Spain. "It is sad that all of these lovely connections I have with people from other schools is not possible with other facilities in Barcelona. If we could work together to create bigger events, then more people could discover Irish dancing and get more involved."

In addition to her love of dance, Galimany also enjoys other aspects of Irish culture. For instance, she recently began playing the bodhrán in a folk band.

Currently, her students are training for online competitions, while she herself is preparing for the World Irish Dancing Championships in 2022 in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

"I can't imagine my life without Irish dancing."

www.airesceltesbarcelona.com

*"Dancing must bring joy and happiness.
If not, what's the point?"*

15th Annual Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival and Gathering of the Clans

August 27 & 28, 2021

Friday ~ 5PM - 9:00PM

Saturday ~ 9AM - 9PM

Mayville Lakeside Park, Mayville, New York

Presented by the 96th Highlanders Pipes & Drums Inc.

- ♦ 28 Clans
- ♦ Beer & Wine Garden
- ♦ Celtic & Craft Vendors
- ♦ Celtic & Great Food
- ♦ 8 Pipe Bands
- ♦ 6 Celtic Bands
- ♦ 50 Heavy Athletes NYS Championships
- ♦ Scottish & Irish Dancers
- ♦ Erie / Jamestown Celtic Seisiúns



Saturday — \$10 DONATION

Saturday — \$8 SENIORS

Children 13 & Under Are Free



Free Parking
&
Shuttle Service

Handicap Accessible

An Festival Atmosphere for the Whole Family!!

For more information go to: www.96thhighlanders.com

Phone: 814.323.7360 or 716 .484.2833

Special performances by

“TUATHA DEA”

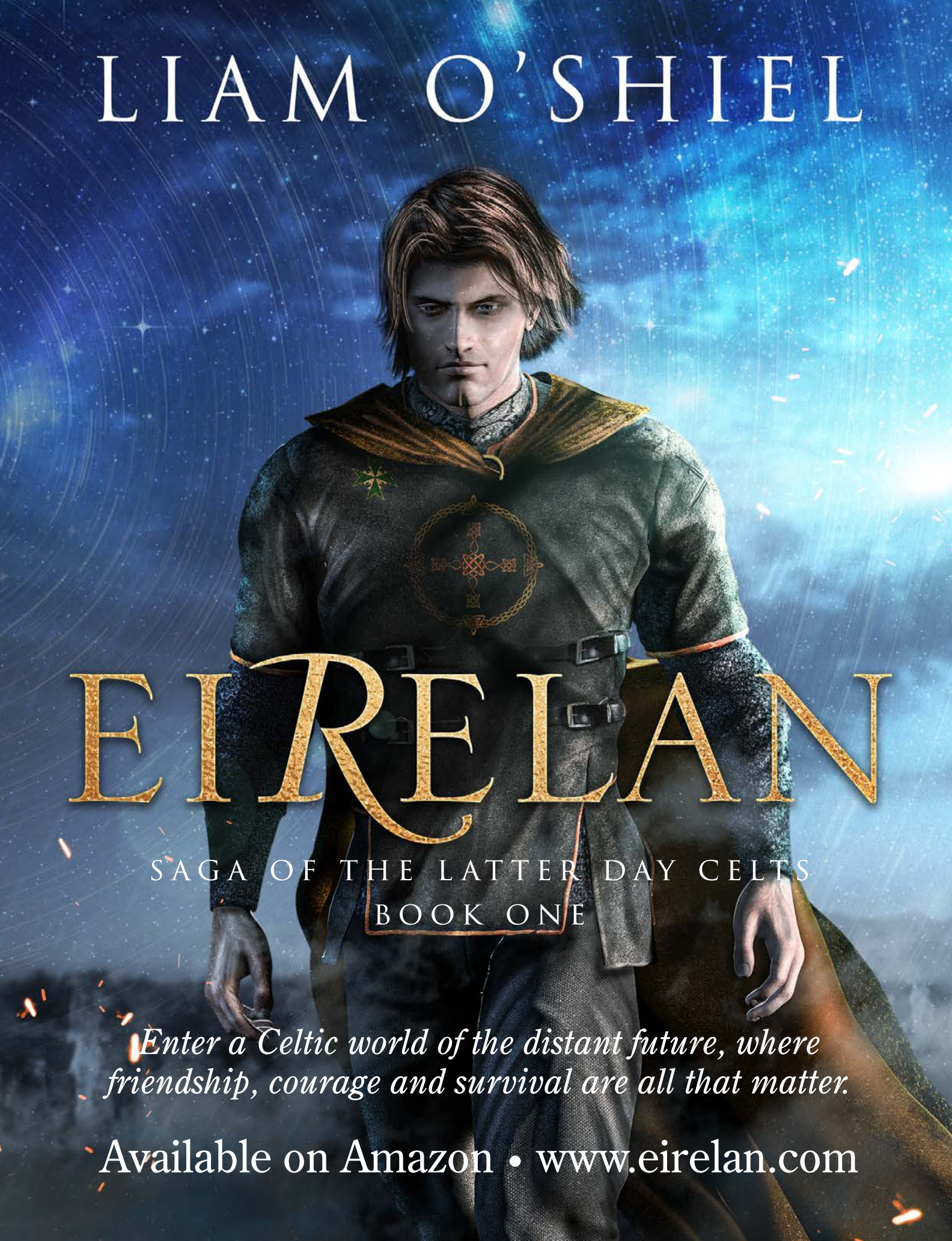
from Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Friday Evening August 27 ~ 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

New York State Championships

Scottish Heavy Athletes Men & Women's





LIAM O'SHIEL

EIRELAN

SAGA OF THE LATTER DAY CELTS
BOOK ONE

*Enter a Celtic world of the distant future, where
friendship, courage and survival are all that matter.*

Available on Amazon • www.eirelan.com



Just kilt me
Celtic Apparel & More



**Enjoy Summer...
in a kilt!**

Over 70 tartans to choose from
(many rare or hard to find).



Also check out our...
Branded Celtic Apparel.
justkiltme.com

**When Celtic & Viking traders
come together,
You won't want to miss it!**



FREE
Viking Compass
Coin with
every order



You never know what you'll find!
Jewelry • Rune Sets • Treasure Boxes • Lucky Charms & More
FREE US Shipping
VikingCelt.com

The free coin is a limited time offer. Start your Viking treasure horde today!

100%
EAST
COAST

EAST COAST
MUSIC ASSOCIATION

ECMA.COM / @EASTCOASTMUSIC



- THE INDEPENDENT

"A REWARDING MOTHER-DAUGHTER
ROMANCE."

- FIONNUALA HALLIGAN, SCREEN INTERNATIONAL



AVAILABLE
ON DEMAND & DIGITAL HD
MAY 7th



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: Instagram @4kdesign • 4KDesign-Tees.com



Scotlandscapes

Bespoke Landscape Photography from Scotland

The ideal gift for expats and lovers of Scotland - unique landscape and urban photography taken to order by published and exhibited landscape photographer John McKenna. 100% Scotland coverage.



Single prints - multi image print sets - Gift packs (multiple images + 15 minute video from location)



For more information visit
www.scotlandscapes.net

ALMONTE | 25TH CELT FEST ANNIVERSARY

JOIN US VIRTUALLY JULY 2-4, 2021

ALMONTECELT FEST.COM    @ALMONTECELT FEST

(613) 566-7067

**CANMORE,
ALBERTA**



**SEPT 4-5,
2021**



Join us! | canmorehighlandgames.ca



mackenzie®
COUTURE ACCESSORIES



Introducing our new 1" Claddagh collars and leashes symbolizing loyalty, love and friendship. Visit our website, leave us your e-mail address and receive special discounts and new product introductions.

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

Use Code "INSTA 10" for 10% off any purchase. (Insert code at checkout.)

Tie the Celtic Knot

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



Celtic Wedding Rings
www.celtic-weddingrings.com



Scottish Morn - This is a strong tea, perhaps our strongest tea. When you stand up your spoon in this tea, it might just stand up straight. Each tin earns a 10% royalty from Harney & Sons to benefit the charitable works of the American Scottish Foundation

The Celtic Teas

Bold Brews - Select your tea of choice



A Passion for Tea



Supreme Irish Breakfast Tea - a blend of teas exclusive to the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The tea that is most drunk in Ireland comes from Kenya, so we developed a strong tea from 2 tea estates in Kenya. It can handle the milk and sugar that most Irish like to add. Each tin earns a 10 % royalty from Harney & Sons to help support the charitable works of the AOH in North America

To purchase: go to harney.com or call 800 832 8463 (toll free)

Available on line in Canada at premiumteas.ca • Distributed by Harney & Sons , 5723 Route 22 . Millerton NY 12546



Imports from Scotland, Ireland, England, and Wales

 @ScotIrishShop

*Women's Clothing
Celtic Jewelry
Kilts & Accessories
Pewter Flasks
Bears in your Tartan*

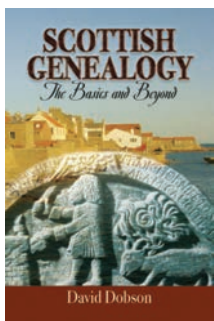


*30 Years in Business!
We Specialize in Rare Tartans*

Look us up online
www.CelticCorner.NET

(619) 435-1880
scottishtreasures@gmail.com

916 Orange Ave.
Coronado, CA 92118

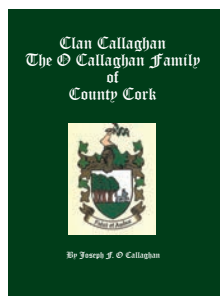


Scottish Genealogy: The Basics and Beyond

By David Dobson

While this publication identifies the major sources and repositories for those just getting started on their research, what makes this book stand out from all the rest is its focus on the other, less commonly used, sources that will allow researchers to advance their research. For each research topic—including statutory registers, church records, tax records, sasines and land registers, court records, military and maritime sources, burgh and estate records, emigration records, and much more—Dr. Dobson has compiled an extensive list of the publications and archival records that most researchers have not heard of. It would take years for any other individual to compile such a far-reaching bibliography and compilation of relevant records in Scottish archives. David Dobson was born in 1940 in Carnoustie, Scotland. Most of his working life was spent at Madras College, St. Andrews. He has been an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen, the University of Edinburgh, and at present, at the University of St. Andrews. He is the author of more than 200 books, including *Scottish Emigration to Colonial America, 1607-1785*, *Scottish Trade with Colonial Charleston, 1683-1783*, and numerous historical and genealogical source books. He now lives in Dundee and is working on further source books.

xiv, 158 pp., indexed (main index & surname index), illus., paper. 2021 ISBN 9780806321134. #1459. \$25.95



Clan Callaghan: The O Callaghan Family of County Cork

By Joseph F. O Callaghan

This impeccably researched and stylishly written family history traces the O Callaghans (Callaghan, Callahan) from their mythic beginnings in Ireland to their present-day progeny in County Cork,

Spain, the United States, Canada, Australia, and other places. Prepared by Fordham University Professor Emeritus Joseph F. O Callaghan, the book narrates the clan's fortunes from the 17th-century extension of English control throughout Ireland to the great Irish diaspora of the 19th and 20th centuries. Included are genealogical charts that outline the O Callaghan lines of Rathmore, Clare, Tipperary, Muskerry, Banteer, Dromore, Glynn, Lismehane, Spain, and Philadelphia, the author's place of origin. Persons with the following surnames are likely to have Callaghan connections: Barry, Butler, Callaghan, Callahan, Condon, Fitzgerald, Gillman, Gould, Grehan, Lacy, Lismore, Lombard, MacAuliffe, MacCallaghan, MacCarthy, MacSweeney, O'Brien, O'Connell, O'Keeffe, O'Mullane, O'Neill, O'Sullivan, Roche, and White.



3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Suite 229, Baltimore, MD 21211

U.S. customers, please order from www.genealogical.com • Canadian customers, please order from Amazon.ca • British Isles customers, please order from Amazon.co.uk

Scoti Creations



TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

STEP BACK INTO THE WORLD OF CELTS, PICTS
AND VIKINGS WITH OUR EXTENSIVE
COLLECTION OF ARTISAN JEWELRY
CONNECTING YOU TO YOUR HERITAGE.

www.etsy.com/shop/scoticcreations
www.scoticcreations.com





Wales, land of castles and coastlines, dragons and daffodils, myths and minerals.



DreigAnn jewellery celebrates the rich industrial heritage, scenery and magical history of Wales with an elemental mix of tin, copper, brass, steel, lava and petrified wooden components, threaded with handmade solid pewter beads and charms. Everything is beautifully packaged and 100% handmade in Wales, UK.

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



ART ■ PUZZLES ■ GAMES

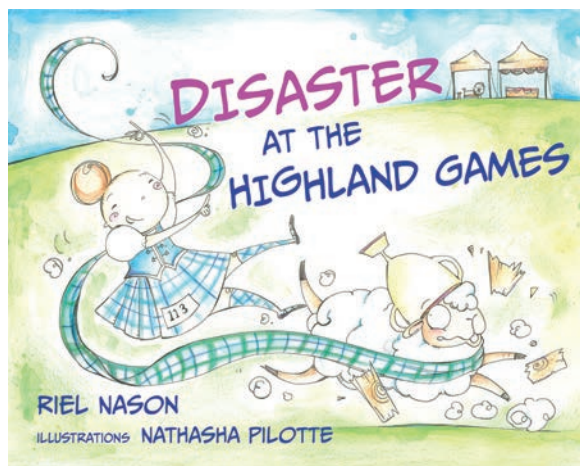
Create your own Celtic knots
with these beautiful dice

KNOT DICE
from
BLACK OAK GAMES



www.BlackOakGames.com/CelticLife

Coming in June! Highland Dance Picture Book



Disaster at the Highland Games

By Riel Nason
Illustrated by Nathasha Pilotte
10 x 8 inches, 32 pages
ISBN: 978-1-989817-06-3

Kate doesn't really need to practice her dancing for the upcoming Highland Games, does she? Dancing alone is no fun, and she's good enough already, isn't she? Everything will be fine, won't it?

And it is, until a single misstep sets off a hilarious chain of events across the whole Highland Games field. This high-energy picture book by award-winning author and Highland dance teacher Riel Nason is brought to life by the whimsical illustrations of Nathasha Pilotte.



Chocolate River Publishing
www.chocolateriver.ca



Spring's arrived
and brighter days
are coming



Scottish
Creations
Scotland by Design

Representing the very best
designs and gifts from Scotland.
www.scottishcreations.com

With her latest cookbook,
Teatime in Ireland, Margaret Johnson
proves again to be one of Irish
gastronomy's most fervent, accomplished,
and artful ambassadors. The book now
stands as the definitive guide to the rich
culture of Irish tea rooms!

GERRY REGAN, Editorial Director, thewildgeese.irish



Teatime in Ireland pays tribute to the delightful ritual of "taking tea," both formal and informal, and invites you on a tasting tour of Ireland where tea-drinking serves as a symbol of hospitality, friendship and pleasure. This colorful collection offers more than 70 recipes that will takeyou seamlessly from a morning cuppa to an afternoon tea party.

\$19.99USD

Plus Shipping

To order a signed copy,
visit www.irishcook.com

Celticgirl Travels Photography



Cindy Reville, of Celticgirl Travels Photography, would like to help take you on a tour of some of the most iconic and hidden locations in Ireland and Scotland through her unaltered, unfiltered, and untouched photography. Celticgirl

Travels Photography offers a selection of photographic images highlighting the landscape's rich and raw beauty.

Photos are fully customizable and are available in print, canvas, metal or acrylic.

www.celticgirltravels.com

celticgirltravels@gmail.com



75th
Version 2,021
Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games
Scotland... Without the Airfare!
AUGUST 13-15, 2021
IN BEAUTIFUL FERGUS, ONT.
HEAVIES
PIPES & DRUMS
HIGHLAND DANCE
HERITAGE
fergusscottishfestival.com



just
The place to be on the Cabot Trail



48678 Cabot Trail, North River Bridge, Nova Scotia

Chanterelle Reservations 1-866-277-0577

SCOTLANDSHOP
VIRTUAL CLAN CONSULTATIONS & MEASURING APPOINTMENTS
JOIN US VIA VIDEO CALL TO FIND YOUR FAMILY OR CLAN TARTAN, SEE SWATCHES & FABRICS, AND TALK THROUGH THE MEASUREMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE GARMENT OF YOUR CHOICE.
SHOP ONLINE OR GIVE US A CALL
+44 (0)1890860770 | +1-(833)-612-0064 | www.ScotlandShop.com | info@scotlandshop.com
10 QUEENSFERRY STREET, EDINBURGH, EH2 4PG



*Heather Knight
Clothing & Gifts*

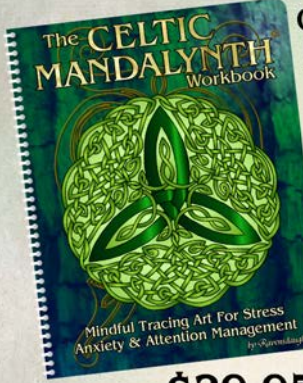
Handcrafted in Nova Scotia
Since 1992

Creative and a little sassy, Heather Knight handcrafts clothing at her studio in rural Nova Scotia. Artistry and originality combine to create unique clothing infused with the spirit of Celtic and Canadian culture.

Wholesale & Retail
HeatherKnight.ca

CELTIC ART MINDFULNESS



Celtic Knots You Trace for Focus, Meditation and Mindfulness

21 Full-Color Images
Simple, Medium, Complex
Inspiration Verse for Each

\$29.95

THE SIMPLE CELTIC TRINITY KNOT
The Simple Celtic Trinity Knot is an "open" knotwork that flows in a continuous, never-ending loop. The knot is a symbol of the Holy Trinity and is often used in Celtic art and design.

THE CELTIC CURLZ
The Celtic Curlz is a "medium" knotwork that is a variation of the Celtic Trinity Knot. It is a symbol of the Holy Trinity and is often used in Celtic art and design.

THE CELTIC SEAHORSE
The Celtic Seahorse is a "complex" knotwork that is a variation of the Celtic Trinity Knot. It is a symbol of the Holy Trinity and is often used in Celtic art and design.

CelticArtStore.net CODE CL605
For 5% OFF

Old Friends Genealogy, LLC

Kate and Mike Lancor
*Genealogy Researchers
Association of Professional
Genealogists Members*

Let us "chase" your Celtic ancestors!
Discover your Irish or Scottish roots!
It's personal ~ Their story & legacy!
Find out where your ancestors
lived in Scotland or Ireland!
Zoom consultations available!

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



Ireland's language and culture

Adult Irish language Courses

- all learning levels
- weekend and week-long

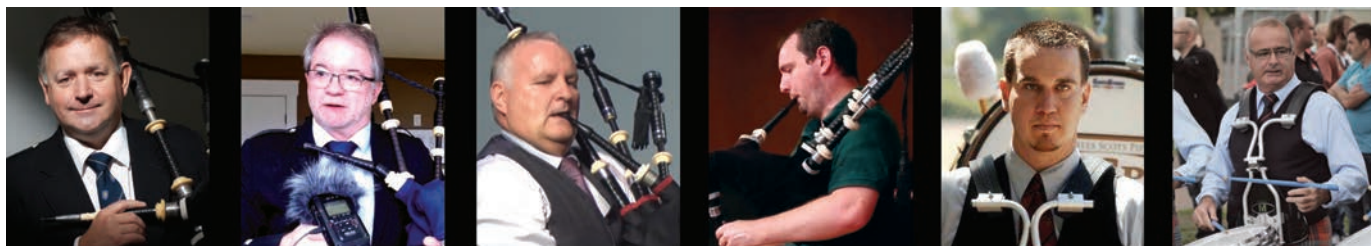
Cultural Activity Holidays
Hill Walking, Archaeology, Environment, Photography, Painting, Tapestry Weaving, Flute & Whistle, Bodhrán, Harp





 1984
Oideas Gael
www.oideasgael.ie
Tel: +353 (0)74 97 30 248
oifig@oideasgael.ie


Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority



MacLeod Gandy Mathieson Carlisle Best Kilpatrick

Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming

Study with the Greats ! Online this Summer - July 18-23, 2021 @bagpiping.org



Keltic Nations
Celtic Jewellery

Handcrafted in Canada
www.kelticnations.com



Unique Handcrafted Art, Prints & Tapestries.
KevinDyerArt.com

Preferred Merchandiser of North American Venues – Midwest Region.



Great Celtic Gifts & Merchandise!

3 Celts & Company

Kilts and Essentials
Music, Books, T-shirts

www.3Celts.com




School of Celtic Studies
Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies
10 Burlington Road
Dublin 4



Scoil an Léinn Cheiltrigh
Institiúid Ard-Léinn Bhaile Átha Cliath
10 Bc. Burlington Road
Baile Átha Cliath 4

MEDIEVAL MULTILINGUAL MANUSCRIPTS: TEXTS, SCRIBES, AND PATRONS

Pre-recorded papers sent out from Monday 17th May
at 1.00pm, until Thursday 27th May 2021.

Live Conference day with key note speakers
and live Q&A on Friday 28th May.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Esther Miriam Wagner
(Woofe Institute and University of Cambridge)
Jacopo Bisagni (NUI Galway)
Bart Besamusca, Jenneke Jansen (Universiteit Utrecht)

The aim of this conference is to bring together scholars working on medieval bilingual or multilingual sources from a variety of linguistic backgrounds, geographical areas, and literary genres. It will provide a platform which will further discussion on historical code-switching and multilingual communities. This will benefit greatly from a multi-layered approach, in which questions about the linguistic make-up of individual texts in terms of, for example, code-switching, might also be placed in the context of the manuscripts that contain them, the scribes who copied them and the patrons who commissioned them.

Registration opening soon

DIAS

Institiúid Ard-Léinn | Dublin Institute for
Advanced Studies

www.celt.dias.ie



UK EXPO
INTERNATIONAL

We are most welcome to
wholesaler, Ebay and
Amazon sellers.



Looking for a Unique Products ?

Best Customer Service.

20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

GET 15% DISCOUNT

SCAN BARCODE
AND
WIN DISCOUNT



www.bagpipers.eu

info@bagpipers.eu

Full Kilt Outfits
Clan-Crested Gifts
All Made in Scotland



Engraved Quichs



Sgian Dubhs



Brooches



Visit our online store
stkildastore.com

enter offer code **CELTIC01**
for an introductory 5% discount



Part of the
St Kilda Group

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



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

carbyny™
CELTIC WINDS



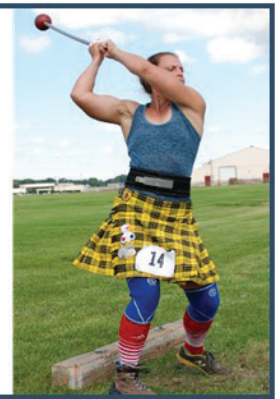


Wisconsin Highland Games September 5-6, 2021

Waukesha County Expo Center
Waukesha, WI

See our website for Hotel Partners and Event Info

www.wisconsinsscottish.org



RBANA

Robert Burns Association of North America



Welcomes membership of all who are interested in the Life and Works of the Scottish Bard, Robert Burns, as well as Scottish literature and culture. RBANA is an association dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of the life, works and philosophy of Scotland's National Bard – Robert Burns, as well as to promote Scottish culture and heritage in North America.

Contact Details:

Secretary: secretary@rbana.com
President: president@rbana.com
Website: www.rbana.org



Celebrate your love of all things Outlander!

We may not be able to transport you into Jamie's arms, but these candles will take you on a trip into the pages of your favorite Outlander book!

The perfect gift for your favorite Outlander fan.



Jamie - Claire - Roger - Brianna
Through the Stones - The Gathering
Echoes from Scotland
...and so much more!

bookscentscandles.com



Kilt Totes

Perfectly imperfect
accessories,
handmade from
once-loved kilts.

TARTAN WAVE



"Stunning new voice in Irish Literature"

www.awicklowgirl.com



Contemporary celtic design and illustration
from the Highlands of Scotland
Giftware, trade orders and commissions available at

www.highlandcelticart.co.uk

CULNAKIRK DRUMNADROCHIT INVERNESS SCOTLAND
Tel: +441456450938 Email: highlandcelticart@gmail.com





Annie Wealleans; 1952-2021

Celtic Life International recently received a sad update from across the sea; Annie Wealleans - better known in many circles as The Black Dragon - has spread her wings and flown to the land of the young, Tír na nÓg.

Annie's son Robin sent us the news that his mother recently passed away at her hillside lair in Wales, ending a battle she had been quietly waging for some time.

"Mum flew from her nest for the last time at 1:31 in the morning," Robin shares. "She departed peacefully and pain-free in her sleep, surrounded by her family.

"She had been secretly battling lung cancer since last summer despite having quit smoking for the millennium. Tragically she was one of around 4,000 people in Wales who did not get the treatment they deserved due to COVID-19. It has been a horrendous

time for us, as it has for so many others, but there were also some bittersweet moments.

"Throughout it all she was as solid as a rock - she didn't want people to know and tried to get on with life as best she could. She has always been hard as nails; we were raised without running water or electricity, and 16-hour days were normal to her."

Long-time readers will remember Annie for her leatherwork and her lapidary labours, crafting exquisite jewelry and apparel from rawhide, gemstones, and pewter beads, often adorned with hand-spun Celtic knot designs.

"I developed a technique to stamp Celtic knots into leather using zinc plates with a fly press, and all of a sudden, my leatherwork was original and Celtic," Annie told Celtic Life International a few years back. "Some say that Celtic knots are Symbols of Eternity. There is certainly something delightful, per-

fect, and complete about them. Perhaps that is why there is so much satisfaction in drawing a knot."

She was known as a dragon, but perhaps a phoenix is just as apt a description; everywhere she went, she brought new life with her. She turned the barren land around her hillside cottage into a beautiful garden, and she took the raw elements of the earth and turned them into elegant symbols of her culture that are enjoyed the world over.

"We have recently transformed a dingy old shop into a vibrant gallery, where the work of 34 co-op members is on sale," she said. "People come in off the street and are amazed at the wealth of local talent and the beautiful products we all make. This is Celtic culture; these are tomorrow's antiques.

*"My beads aren't just
a commodity like coal,
rice or paper; they
are original, unique,
and unusual.
They are my life."*

Robin tells Celtic Life International that, despite her illness, she lived life to the fullest, cobbling her craft and crafting cherished memories until her dying day.

"She made time to reconnect with many friends, but our best moment of all came a couple of weeks ago, when we managed to smuggle her out of hospital for a civil partnership at home with her longstanding partner, Rob Evans. She arrived in an ambulance, danced to her favourite music, and left to the sound of fireworks. It was such a beautiful day.

"She was hardcore to the very last - even in her final days she was working in her beloved workshop. Amazingly, in the middle of all of this, she launched a whole new range of Welsh jewellery."

The Black Dragon herself may be gone, but her legacy will never fade. The Celtic knots she crafted continue to be worn across the globe and will be cherished for generations.

www.blackdragon.co.uk
www.dreigann.com

KIDS are
FREE*

OKANAGAN



MILITARY TATTOO



July 23 & 24, 2021

Armstrong Fairgrounds | Armstrong, BC Canada

Tickets available at
ticketseller.ca

toll free **1.866.311.1011**

*One FREE youth ticket with purchase
of one adult or senior ticket

Canada



TOURISM
vernon



City of Armstrong

okanagantattoo.ca f t i y



SHEENCO TRAVEL

Luxury Travel Specialists

Imagine waking up surrounded by hundreds of years of history. Sleeping within walls that have stood for over seven hundred years. Now imagine five star luxury within these walls and you will have some idea of what it's like to spend a night in a Castle.

LUXURY VACATIONS IN IRELAND AND THE UK

Sheenco Travel are ready to customize your dream vacation. Call now to make your dreams come true

Toll Free: 888-674-3244

www.sheencotravel.com

Book with confidence thanks to our flexible
Coronavirus Travel Policy

