

VOL. 35 NO. 5 | \$6.95 CDN/USA | SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER - 2021 | CELTICLIFEINTL.COM

CelticLife

INTERNATIONAL

Crafting Celtic Spirits

INSIDE!

*Fall for Photography, Witch Hunts
Albert Watson, Danny O'Carroll
Fall Fashion, Larry Kirwan*



DISPLAY IN LIFESTYLES
UNTIL NOVEMBER 2021

Celtic Knot Works



"Fast Service, Nice Product,
 Nice People!
 Love the necklace
 & was blown away that
 I got a thank you email
 from the owner!"
 - Andrew G.



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



Celtic Necklaces



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



KeithJack.com

f Keith Jack Inc. Vancouver, Canada

keithjackinc

Put It On!

...***Your
Wall***

...***Your
Desk***



OBRIEN
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!

EST 2002

SCOTLANDSHOP

TAILORED TARTAN CLOTHING & INTERIORS

*Scotland is coming
Stateside*

Opening Spring 2022

Hear the latest news & updates first as
we bring over 500 tartans to the USA

Scan here →



Can't wait? Shop Online or Book a
Virtual Appointment

WEBSITE: www.scotlandshop.com

US TOLL FREE: 1-(833)-612-0064

PHONE: +44(0)1890860770

EMAIL: info@scotlandshop.com

10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4PG

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

Dara Knot Inc.
10 Peter St
Markham, Ontario, Canada
L3P 2A4

Celtic Life International is an ethnic journal
published in Canada six times a year by
Dara Knot Inc.

Siobhán L. Covington, Publisher
Stephen Patrick Clare, Editor-in-Chief
Rebecca Dingwell, Managing Editor
Chris Muise, Managing Editor
Caitlyn Elizabeth Mearns, Managing Editor
Carol Moreira, Senior Copy Editor

Celtic Life International Office:
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
11 Hubleys Drive, Halifax, Nova Scotia,
Canada, B3P 1G9

Please return undeliverable copies of Celtic Life
International to: Dara Knot Inc.
10 Peter St, Markham, Ontario,
Canada, L3P 2A4

Publication Mail Registration:
No. 40050439 ISSN 1918-0497

Contributors
Lesley Choyce
Andrew Ferguson
Tom Langlands
Gary Maclean
Michael Newton
Ailie Robertson

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

Crafting Celtic Spirits

The history of human civilization is so intertwined with the production of spirits of every conceivable variation that it is impossible not to be fascinated with its origins - not just its heritage, but the science behind it as well.

Discovering that yeast - presented with the chance to convert sugar - resulted in a delicious drink was a simple stroke of luck that has influenced agriculture, launched exploration, and has shaped economies ever since.

The Celtic nations are renowned for their culture of crafting and, by extension, the crafting of spirits. The Celts have a long and storied connection to liquid libations both fermented and distilled. Today, innumerable craftspeople across the Celtic world are elevating the production of spirits to a fine art.

The Rookery Craft Mead in Perthshire, Scotland, has turned to traditional techniques in resurrecting the ancient ale better known as mead. Archaeological studies suggest that mead is likely the oldest alcoholic beverage in the world, much admired by the Vikings and Celts alike.

No less so beer. By the time Arthur Guinness started brewing his Irish dry stout at St. James's Gate, Dublin, Ireland, in 1759, beer had been crafted, consumed, and enjoyed by Celts for over 4,700 years. While Uisge beatha - or Scotch whisky - has a particularly rich heritage spanning over 500 years, micro distilleries are transforming the industry today with exciting new options. And then there is gin - my personal favourite - which has enjoyed a renaissance in recent times. Craft producers are now boldly pairing the venerated juniper berry with chili pepper, orange peel, pea flower, and a multitude of other locally sourced botanicals, to create a spirit that is as unique as each distiller.

Over the years I have enjoyed discovering craft breweries and micro distilleries both here at home in my own backyard or in distant vacation spots. Whether nestled in breathtaking landscapes or in repurposed brick buildings in the heart of a busy city, it has been an excellent opportunity to take an informative tour, learn all there is to know about different shaped stills or how a Fusarium canker can blight a hop crop, sample the nectar on tap, and pick up a few bottles for sharing with family and friends.

These days - with an estimated 10,000 craft breweries worldwide, and as many as 3,400 craft distillers - it isn't difficult to find an atmospheric, barrel-lined cellar or a lively tap room to call in at.

Our September/October edition celebrates the crafting of our culture. I hope that as the world emerges from lockdown, we will inspire you to seek out an establishment near or far so that you can once again enjoy the experience of hearing "the light music of whiskey (or any spirit that you delight in) falling into..." your glass!

Sláinte!

Siobhán L. Covington, Publisher



57

Crafting Celtic Spirits

17

Moondot Music seeks the sound of sustainability

19

Ailie Robertson builds a global Celtic harp community

25

Larry Kirwin tackles family trauma in his latest release

27

Daniel O'Carroll on being Buster Brady

31

Tracing the influence of Scottish Gaelic on English

35

Tom Langlands remembers the Dalkeith Witches

39

Lesley Choyce walks The Rock

45

Fall fashion with Celtic Fusion

49

Fall for Photography

53

Albert Watson shares his passion for his profession

73

Chef Gary Maclean serves up Glasgow Macaroon

9. First Word / **11.** De Tha Dol / **13.** Celts in the Community
77. The Piper / **79.** The Fiddler / **81.** The Dancer / **98.** Last Word

WORLD
PEACE
TARTAN

CELTICLIFEINTL.COM

SUBSCRIBE & WIN!

Subscribe (new or renewal) to our print or digital edition and you could win a World Peace Tartan Scarf! 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 one of several weekly prizes! See our website for details!

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

What's in an Accent?



“Have you had a good time here, Carol?” Margaret’s soft Irish voice is light, but a crinkle of concern shades her eyes. “Have people been...okay with you?”

“It’s been good,” I reply. And I am relieved, for I had been apprehensive about travelling to Cork, Ireland. In fact, people haven’t been especially friendly - I saw a few wincing when I asked for something in a store - but no one has been hostile.

I was in Cork preparing to research my father’s family; in particular, my great-grandmother Margaret E. Kelly, born in nearby Enniscorthy in 1849.

My bloodline is primarily Irish-Scottish, and my maiden name is Scott. But I was raised in the British military and attended an English boarding school. At times - especially after a drink or two - my accent sounds as crisply English as the Queen’s did in the 1950s. It is not an accent that goes down well in Celtic lands.

The year I turned 10, we moved to R.A.F. Lossiemouth in Scotland. My teacher, a kind man with warm eyes and a red beard - Mr. Lewis, I think - introduced me to my classmates as “Carol, our visiting English rose,” probably hoping to forestall any animosity.

I didn’t feel like an English rose, but I already understood how another’s reaction to your accent can make you an outsider. Bullying English children on previous military bases had taught me the dangers of being an officer’s child and sounding “posh”. So, in Scotland, where highway graffiti exhorted the English to “Go home,” I was cautiously quiet and remained so.

In my twenties, I accompanied my Canadian fiancé to the Scottish Highlands so he could

explore the roots of some of his ancestors. In Ardnamurchan, Peter was treated like a returning son when he said he was from Nova Scotia.

“Drink up, laddie. Our beer is much better than that p*** they serve in England,” his generous hosts said.

I could have responded that England produces some great beers, but I didn’t wish to carry the weight of the past and mostly sat mute.

Working with Celtic Life International, I am very aware of Celtic culture. I am not sure, however, what it means to have unlied, unexplored Celtic roots. It is tempting to claim to be Scots/Irish rather than English.

*It is cool to be Celtic.
The Celtic image is of a wild
creativity, cultural vibrancy, and
brave rebelliousness.*

Our family lore has it that one Irish ancestor was shipped to Australia for “anti-British activities.” We are proud of that person, whether or not they existed.

It is different in England, where many patriots feel apprehensive because of all that was done by their forebears in the name of “king and country.” Scots and others also colonized/emigrated to distant lands, but England represents Empire.

I call myself British. Genetic studies have shown that modern Brits are mostly mongrels, their bloodlines a hybrid of the many peoples who have lived on this group of islands.

This is what I am. But the word Celtic has its

magic. We have learned that my paternal Irish great-grandfather was born on a sailing ship off the coast of Chile. It is easy to romanticize such ancestors, to imagine that my own dislike of staying in one place is born of his family’s adventurous spirit.

I have worked around the world but, in the interests of being a reliable parent, have stayed in Nova Scotia for some years. Occasionally, when I meet new people, I unconsciously adopt Canadian pronunciations to fit in and avoid preconceptions around my accent.

My children tell me this sounds phoney, so I try not to do it, but sometimes I do want to blend in. I am considering learning Gaelic, but don’t know whether to focus on Irish or Scots Gaelic as my ancestors came from both countries.

My Enniscorthy-born great-grandmother, Margaret Kelly, died in 1928 in Cheshire, England after becoming one of the many Irish to leave their homeland.

The sudden arrival of the pandemic meant I never got to explore Margaret’s hometown, but I will. I feel an affinity with Ireland. My accent may be alien but physically I fit in, having the pale colouring and slight build of many Irish.

I would like to walk the streets Margaret knew and listen to the voices she heard every day until she left for new streets and strange accents. In England, she likely encountered prejudice and resentment, but I hope she eventually settled. I like to think that she didn’t always feel like an outsider.

Carol Moreira
Senior Copy Editor

TheCelticMarket



1 Heart
7 Nations - T Shirt
\$10.99



Cookbook - 2012 &
2018 bundle
\$11.99



Ellis Island
Tartan Scarf
\$44.99



Nova Scotia Scottish
Tartan Pot Holder
\$9.75



Nova Scotia
Oven Mitts
\$12.99



World Peace
Tartan Tie
\$14.99



World Peace
Tartan Scarf
\$44.99

Pricing in USD. All purchases include a complimentary 1 Heart 7 Nations Tote Bag
+ a complimentary 1-year digital subscription to Celtic Life International Magazine!

Subscriptions - Print and Digital

Use **PROMO10%** for 10% off any subscription.

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 _____

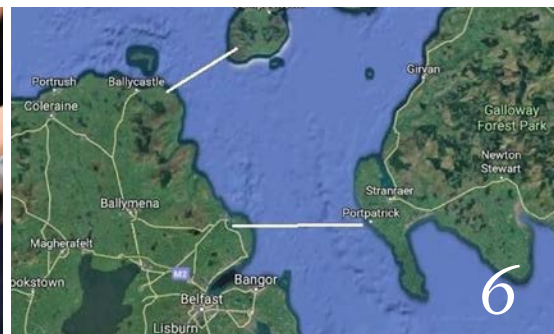
Credit Card; VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX ☐

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

Bretagne Birdman

An 80-year-old in Bretagne has formed a bond with an unlikely companion. Xavier Bouget, who lives in the northwest region of the nation, came upon a tiny pigeon struggling to escape from a cat. According to Reuters, Bouget went home and mentioned the scene to his wife, who suggested he should have helped the pigeon. So, Bouget went back. The bird, still alive, came home in his pocket. Bouget named the pigeon Blanchon and the pair have been together ever since. Now, Blanchon accompanies Bouget on his bicycle, in the garden and more.

two

Highland Clearance Village

During the Highland Clearances, many inhabitants of the Highlands and western islands of Scotland were evicted from their homes and land. One of these areas, Rosal in Strathnaver, was cleared between 1814 and 1818. Now, however, a community buyout could mean re-population for the region. As reported in The Scotsman, residents in North Sutherland are exploring the idea of a small settlement around the village (the abandoned village itself is a historic monument). The Strathnaver Museum, the North Sutherland Community Forest Trust, Altnaharra Community Council, and other groups are hoping to move forward with the buyout, if there is community support.

three

Manx Gin

A Manx-made gin was recently declared "gin of the month" for a popular gin subscription service based in the United Kingdom. The gin, made by Isle of Man distillery called Fynoderee, was sent out as part of the Craft Gin Club for the month of June. Manx Dry Gin: Elder Shee Special Edition was made by Fynoderee especially for the club. According to the distillery, the spirit was "inspired by the myths and folklore that make our island so unique" and tastes of elderflower, citrus, rosemary, and thyme.

four

Resident Evil Scotch

Resident Evil - a popular horror game franchise - is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. The games have inspired films, comic books and more. Now, it has also inspired a scotch whisky. To celebrate the anniversary, the franchise has teamed up with Glenfarclas distillery to release a scotch whisky that's been aged for 25 years. The Biohazard 25th Anniversary scotch comes in a wooden box, stamped with the logo and the 25th-anniversary crest. Unfortunately for some fans, the release appears to be exclusive to Japan.

five

Welsh Immersion

Funding from the Welsh Government will help establish more Welsh language immersion centres for school-aged children who aren't yet fluent in the language. In July, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet backed the £1.1 million plans, which aim to improve existing resources in Porthmadog, as well as set up new centres at Tywyn and Bangor. These centres are expected to provide classes for primary and secondary students four days a week, and the students would attend their designated local school on the remaining weekday. The hope is that the new system and facilities will be in place by September 2022.

six

Celtic Crossing

What if you could drive from Northern Ireland to Scotland, or vice versa? In 2018, United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson voiced his support for a transport bridge that would connect the two nations. That said, the idea for a link isn't exactly new: according to a report from EuroNews, plans for a bridge or tunnel go back as far as the 1890s. The project is an ambitious one, with environmental and geological challenges to consider - not to mention the financial side of things, as such a bridge could cost upwards of £20 billion.

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



AT
HOME
2021

Celtic COLOURS

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Presented By



Join us online for an
experience like no other

Streaming live from
Cape Breton Island



TUNE IN
8-16 OCTOBER 2021
CELTIC-COLOURS.COM



Ian Cottier

Manxman Ian Cottier has helped his community in many ways over his 85 years. Born in the village of Port St. Mary in 1936, Cottier attended Manchester University and took up a life of teaching thereafter, working at schools throughout the United Kingdom before eventually returning home. He became headmaster of Douglas High School in 1976, later moving on to the role of headmaster of St Ninian's High School in 1986. He held this position until his retirement in 1994. In teaching and in life, Cottier has been a strong advocate for the Manx culture and language. His retirement didn't mean an end to hard work, however: he kept busy by volunteering for multiple charities on the Isle. For more than three decades, he has helped Friends of the Gaiety: "a charity which aims to fund projects that restore the original Victorian splendour of the theatre as well as providing Front of House volunteers during performances" at the VillaGaiety theatre. He has also pitched in for Manx Blind Welfare and Isle of Man Hospice, among others. In addition, Cottier is known for his participation in the local brass band scene. In July, he was officially recognized for his teaching career, his work in the arts as well as his long-term dedication to volunteer work. He was presented with The Tynwald Honour: a medal presented "to recipients who have made an outstanding contribution to Manx life over a significant period of time and have demonstrated a selfless commitment in doing so."



My City, My Shirt Project

More than a year ago, Maimuna Indjai unexpectedly became part of an art project. Now, her likeness is depicted through a large, colourful mural in Cardiff, Wales. Indjai met photographer Yusuf Ismail by chance on a rainy day, and he asked to photograph her for the My City, My Shirt project he had been working on with Shawqi Hasson. "My City, My Shirt is an identity thing. Shawqi is Yemeni and he is from Cardiff, I am Somali, and I am from Cardiff. Growing up we didn't understand dual heritage, I didn't know if I was from Somaliland or Wales," Ismail recently told Wales Online. "Being a football fan is about an identity, looking at a club and identifying with what that club represents, it forms your identity." The project involved photographing Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) Cardiff residents wearing Cardiff City Football Club shirts. Indjai, who was pregnant with her daughter at the time, agreed to participate. Ismail instantly knew the photographs were something special, and thus began the mural idea. Street artist Bradley Rmer painted the mural over just a few days back in the spring. Indjai, who now calls Wales home, was born in the African country of Guinea-Bissau - so the project's theme of dual heritage resonates with her, as well. "It means a lot for me to represent my community," she told BBC News. "I think it is very important." Ismail and Hasson hope the mural will be the first of many.



Dawn McCarty

An Irish American woman is advocating for change while sharing the story of how she was abducted by her own mother as a child. Dawn McCarty now works for the National Parents Organization (NPO) in the United States. When she was only two years old, her parents separated, and she lived with her father exclusively. She only saw her mother on occasional visits. Two years later, McCarty's mother kidnapped her (with the help of her new husband). McCarty stopped living with her mother and stepfather when she was 16 and eventually tried to find her biological father but was unsuccessful for years. Finally, 44 years after she was abducted, McCarty found her father, Patrick, and was able to rekindle a relationship with him until he passed away. She has worked for NPO since 2019 and advocates for joint custody and co-parenting among separated and divorced parents. "A major misconception is that the court system is fair. The reality is that it is an adversarial system; one parent comes out as the winner and the other as the loser. The way I see it is that the child loses every time," McCarty told Forbes in June. She is now fighting for legislation that she hopes will mitigate the risk of childhood abductions. She worked on a bill "that promoted the rebuttable presumption of equal shared parenting when both parents are safe to be present in the child's life." The bill passed the State Congress but unfortunately stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, she plans to continue pushing for the legislation.



Virginia Scottish Games

September 4 & 5, 2021 ~ Plains, VA

www.vascottishgames.org

After postponing last year's event due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Virginia Scottish Games returns in 2021 with two days of fun and festivities for the whole family. Located in the gorgeous heart of Great Meadows, Plains, the annual gathering promises something for everyone this Labour Day weekend, including Clan tents, history and heritage, Highland athletics, piping and drumming competitions, fiddling, Scottish dancing, whisky tasting, a British car show, a Scottish dog exhibition, a Kirkin' of the Tartan, and more. In addition, visitors will enjoy a full slate of live entertainment, with performances from the Glengarry Bhoys, Ardmores, North of Argyll, the Steel City Rollers and many others. Celtic fare and wares will be available from a variety of vendors, and the wee ones will be busy with an array of engaging activities.



Celtic Colours International

Festival At Home 2021

October 8-16, 2021 ~ Cape Breton, NS

www.celtic-colours.com

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the possibility of large gatherings and international travel, and with no ability to determine what conditions may be in the fall, Celtic Colours International Festival will once again deliver a celebration of music and culture online this October. Celtic Colours At Home 2021, presented by TD Bank Group, will build upon the experience gained by hosting an online version of the festival last year. Working with partners NovaStream, Soundpark Studios, and Sound Source Pro Audio, Celtic Colours will be presenting livestreamed concerts, as they did last year. In addition to these nightly concerts, event organizers are also developing more online events to be enjoyed at home, while providing the opportunity to employ more artists. This year's online gathering will be streamed free of charge, with more details to be released in September.



Stone Mountain Highland Games

October 15-17, 2021 ~ Atlanta, GA

www.smhg.org

After 2020's virtual event, organizers of the Stone Mountain Highland Games are thrilled to welcome guests back to this year's gathering. Working with government mandates and the advice of medical authorities, including the CDC in Atlanta, safety will be at the forefront of the 2021 festivities. As such, visitors will once again enjoy a unique, authentic, in-person Scottish experience throughout the course of the weekend, which will include opening ceremonies, live musical concerts, Highland games athletics, harp and fiddle competitions, lectures on history and heritage, Clan tents, a dance gala, a massed band performance, a Parade of Tartans, a Kirk in the Woods, and much more. As well, attendees are invited to explore an array of wares and fares from a variety of vendors. A fun, family-friendly event that truly exemplifies Southern hospitality, the annual festival is open to folks of all ages and backgrounds. All are encouraged to wear tartan!

Charleston Scottish Games

November 5-7, 2021 ~ Charleston, SC

www.charlestonsscottishgames.com

Celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2021, the Charleston Scottish Games is one of the oldest and most renowned events in the southeastern United States.

Hosted by the Scottish Society of Charleston, the annual gathering is a must for anyone looking to explore their Celtic roots. Each year, thousands of guests travel to Riverfront Park to partake in an array of Scottish-themed activities, including music, dance, history and heritage. This year, guests are invited to Riverfront Park to partake in an array of Scottish-themed activities, including music, dance, history and heritage. The festivities get underway on Friday evening with an opening night reception, followed by the traditional Calling of the Clans. Saturday morning will see the official Opening Ceremonies, followed by hours of Heavy Athletics, where hundreds of contestants showcase their physical skills and strength. The weekend also highlights competitions in piping, drumming and Highland dance alongside a myriad of cultural activities, including sheepdog demonstrations, live musical performances and a small children's area, where the wee ones will enjoy face painting, storytelling, craft-making and more. Saturday also features the always-popular Scotch Whisky Tasting event, while the gathering comes to a close on Sunday with the annual Kirkin' o' the Tartan Ceremony at the First (Scots) Presbyterian Church.



Asheville Celtic Festival

February 19, 2022 ~ Asheville, NC

www.ashevillecelticfest.com

At the heart of the stunning Appalachian Mountains - and home to the Smokey Mountains, the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail - Asheville, North Carolina is rich in the heritage of the Scottish, Irish, Welsh, and other peoples of the seven Celtic nations of Europe. Against this inspirational backdrop, where so many immigrants found hope and solace in the similarities between their new Highland home and the one they left behind, the Asheville Celtic Festival offers visitors an authentic cultural experience each February. After a year break, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual gathering returns in 2022 with an array of amazing activities, including Highland games, bagpiping, live music, hand crafting, dog herding, livestock exhibits, Scotch tasting, warrior battles, a castle and more. On site vendors will serve up traditional food, drink and Celtic wares. Tickets will be available online starting October 1st via eventbrite.com.



St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival

March 12 & 13, 2022 ~ St. Augustine, FL

www.celticstaugustine.com

The St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival returns in 2022 to commemorate the 422nd anniversary of the first Celtic celebrations in the New World. Hosted in St. Augustine, Florida, America's oldest Celtic city enjoys an Irish presence that goes back to 1597 when Father Ricardo Artur, America's first Irish priest, became vicar to the Spanish Colony here.

In 1601, Artur held the first St. Patrick Day celebration in the New World, and the following year he led the first historically documented St. Patrick procession in the world. Naturally, the 2022 festival kicks off with a rousing St. Patrick parade. After the parade, the gathering moves to Francis Field, with two full days of live performances from top international and U.S. Celtic bands, and the St. Augustine Highland Games. Visitors are welcome to stroll through the grounds and enjoy workshops, lectures, as well as an array of Celtic fares and wares.



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
Gathering of Clans
Scottish Shops & Foods

Pipe Bands

Scottish Dancing
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





Moondot Music



One Irish company seeks the sound of sustainability

Moondot Music aims to craft quality guitars and basses with an environmentally friendly slant. Darren Mooney and Holly Lennon are the faces behind the Ireland-based business: the pair resides in Annyalla near Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.

Lennon and Mooney are both from Castleblayney originally. “We like to refer to it as the Nashville of Ireland,” explains Mooney. “Mainly because it is home to the late great ‘Big Tom’ and because of the number of hard working and successful musicians and bands from the area. It is quite amazing considering we are in the middle of rural Ireland with only a population of a few thousand.”

Mooney took an interest in music at a young age and picked up the guitar as a teen, eventually forming a cover band with some school friends. Today, his instrument of choice is the bass. “The power and clarity from a hand-built bass excels, and when you use a good signal chain the sound presence can’t be beat. This is what first inspired us both to keep building and making other accessories.”

For a time, the pair left rural life and lived in Galway City. However, it was difficult to live and make music there on a tight budget - and they couldn’t help but notice how quickly instruments and equipment became outworn.

“We have always shopped local and chose ethical and were finding it more and more difficult to buy ethically produced equipment for making music,” shares Mooney. “We began sourcing good quality materials and building basses and guitars, making our own guitar and mic leads, and hand-winding pickups. We very quickly realized things can be built to last, sound great,

and be a pleasure to use.”

In 2017, they established Moondot Music “as an alternative to the throwaway society.”

“Moondot began with a small budget, gradually building its reputation,” notes Mooney. “Our customer base started relatively small and is growing quite quickly. We love our endorsing artists, and they send a lot of business our way.”

“Ireland is a small place, and it is great to be able to work with musicians all around the country.”

“Many customers find us through our website if they seek an Irish-made custom guitar, and they can read about our ethos and the steps we take to provide ethically produced musical equipment. We love all of our customers, and we are always delighted by the wonderful, talented people who seek us out.”

Mooney focuses on product design and the fine details of guitar building, while Lennon designs and makes the pickups (components that capture the vibration of the instrument’s strings).

“All of the promotional materials, packaging and website are designed in-house to cut costs and reduce environmental impact. We put thought and consideration into finding suppliers and manufacturers with good ethical standards.” For example, Moondot reduces plastic use by relying on paper packaging, wooden accessories, and other unique materials.

“We are providing an alternative to mass production, reducing air miles, always considering ethics and the environment,” he

continues. “The primary purpose in mass production is profit, rather than music and art creation. Designed from scratch and built from the ground up, we never cut cost at the expense of quality. Our pricing is affordable. Each instrument is unique and handmade using hand tools.”

Many of those tools were passed down from Mooney’s grandparents, then restored. “It is nice quiet work. With care and attention, you can listen to music (and to the piece you are working on) and produce wood shavings and small off cuts of tone-woods instead of copious amounts of hazardous wood dusts.”

In addition, the company avoids using animal products in its guitars. While some animal products - ivory, for instance - have been phased out from guitars, some remain. Hide glue, abalone shell inlays and shellac finish are a few examples. Moondot provides vegan options, while also staying away from plastics.

Coming up on five years in the business, Mooney and Lennon are thrilled with how far they have come. “We have many of our products being enjoyed by musicians around Ireland and the world. It is still early days for Moondot Music and our aim is to bring sustainable, ethically produced and also great sounding, reliable gear to the musicians of the world.”

They are also working on making Moondot even more environmentally friendly.

“We have lots of plans for the future, we are quite flexible, and we will have to see what opportunities present themselves.”

www.moondotmusic.com

Handmade Jewellery Steeped In Myths and Legends

~ From The Heart of Wales ~



*Necled Cwn Annwn
Hounds of Annwn Necklet*

 **Rhannon**

TREGARON, WALES

(+44) 01974 298 415 | RHANNON.CO.UK



@RhannonTregaron



@GemwaithRhannonJewellery



@RhannonAnnwn

~ item dimensions c. 75x40mm

~ rope chain 16inch (40cm)

Building a Global Celtic Harp Community

Story by Ailie Robertson



Harp, cruit, clarsach, telyn...whatever name you call it, the Celtic harp is a vital piece of Celtic culture and identity. Indeed, there is no other instrument, including the bagpipes, that can be as closely associated with the term Celtic as the harp - it references history, national identity and, of course, it sounds heavenly.

Harp playing in the Celtic countries can be traced back over a thousand years. Today, visit any Celtic music session around the world and you are likely to hear tunes written by the 17th-century blind Irish harper Turlough O'Carolan. Images of the Celtic harp appear everywhere - from the Irish currency to pints of Guinness.

The mystical qualities of the harp also appear in the Celtic folklore. In Irish tradition, Dagda - the father-figure of Celtic gods - had a harp that could make anyone who heard it laugh for joy or weep with sorrow, and playing it made the seasons arrive in correct order.

Despite its cultural importance, the Celtic Harp was almost extinct due to socio-political factors. However, thanks to a revival of interest that began in the 1960s - spearheaded by the likes of Breton harpist Alan Stivell and organizations such as Cairde na Cruite and the Clarsach Society - passion for the instrument has grown. The Celtic harp has never been as widespread or as popular as it is now, and this new surge of interest has encouraged harp makers to further develop the instrument, with the cost of a harp becoming less prohibitive and rentals more readily available.

And it is not just in the Celtic countries that the harp is booming. With many people looking to connect with their Celtic heritage through music, the instrument has become more popular in North America, Europe, and Asia. In the USA, the International Society of Folk Harpers and Craftsmen has over sixteen hundred members. There is also the Scottish Harp Society of America, and a Welsh

Harp Society. There are Celtic harp festivals from Norway to New Zealand, and Facebook groups for Celtic harp enthusiasts now have thousands of members.

Growing up in Scotland, I was lucky to be immersed in Celtic music from a young age and have been playing the harp since I was 12 years old. Since 2005, I have been performing and teaching audiences and learners around the globe. I have showcased in the USA, Australia, Hong Kong, South Korea, Canada, Argentina and, in 2022, I will be playing on the remote island Svalbard.

At the start of the pandemic in March of 2020, like so many other musicians, my career came to an abrupt halt. From touring the world, playing 200 concerts a year, suddenly I was stuck in my little house in the West Highlands of Scotland, with no idea when touring would restart.

The thing I missed most about performing was the connection I had with people.

And so, I decided to create a positive, warm, music-loving community that would connect harp lovers all over the world, and that might become a resource for anyone, anywhere, who wanted to learn the instrument.

I started going live on Facebook twice a week to teach a harp tune to anyone who wanted to join in. Participation grew as people realized that learning online didn't have to be an isolating experience. A thriving online community started to form that spanned the globe, with people of all ages and experiences, who shared a common love for the harp.

It became clear that there was a huge demand, particularly internationally, for harp tuition. Although interest in learning is at an all-time high, many people don't have a local teacher, and the cost of private lessons

can be prohibitive, so the Internet could help to deliver high-quality video harp tutorials. Suddenly geographic borders and time-zone differences were irrelevant, and students were able to receive tuition in the comfort of their own home at whatever time suited. In this way, students could engage with the harp in an innovative way.

It has been exciting to watch this online harp community grow, and I am constantly thinking about new ideas on how to serve it better. I have now created two 10-week courses to teach the basics to beginners. In addition, I have had two Online Festivals with guest tutors from around the world, hosted weekend masterclasses, started monthly virtual jam sessions and formed a "Harp Chat" Facebook Group so that learners can share progress and get feedback from others. I love it when students post videos of their playing for their fellow students to see. It is amazing to see players of all ages and standards develop their skills and experience the joy of learning.

It is particularly exciting to see so many adult learners, as playing the harp also has benefits for physical and mental wellbeing, including improved memory and cognition, reduced stress, and relief from arthritis.

Of course, whilst the digital space has been incredible for developing and sharing music, you can't beat the thrill of a live concert or playing with others. Hopefully, festivals such as the Edinburgh International Harp Festival in Scotland and the Dinan Harp Festival in Bretagne will return in 2022.

My goal now is to grow the reach to as many harp lovers as possible and to help people realize that it is never too late to learn this wonderful instrument.

www.ailierobertson.com



BACK LIVE IN 2022!

TOP CELTIC BANDS

Albannach

Dublin City Ramblers

Seven Nations

Syr

And More to Come!

Highland Games • St. Patrick Parade • Food

March 12 -13, 2022

www.celticstaugustine.com



St. Augustine CELTIC Music & HERITAGE FESTIVAL



ST AUGUSTINE | PONTE VEDRA
ST JOHN'S COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

HistoricCoastCulture.com



Steve Gibb

Scottish guitarist Steve Gibb releases his first solo recording in two decades

Steve Gibb may be a virtuoso on the guitar these days, but his very first instrument was far more...rudimentary.

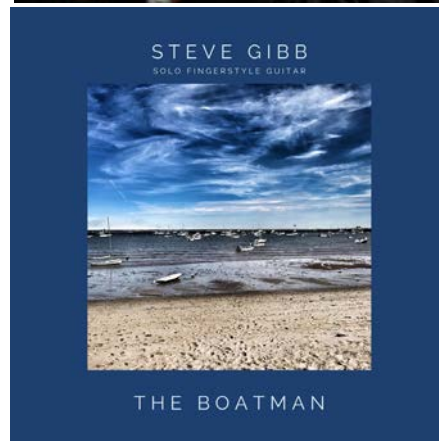
"I would mime to music acts on the TV with a tennis racket a lot," he shares via email, "so my mum got me a guitar when I was around five years old. It was only slightly more in tune than the tennis racket. It was a clunky old acoustic with tuning pegs which were almost impossible for my feeble hands to turn, and even my dad had to use pliers to turn them."

Gibb, who grew up in Inverness, Scotland, recalls the turning point when his interest in the guitar went from childhood plaything to life-long obsession.

"I was allowed to sit on Dad's special leather chair and, pulling out a record from his massive album collection, he put it on the turntable, placed huge headphones around my head, and the sounds of the 'Peter Gunn Theme' by Duane Eddy swirled around my head, totally captivating me. I was maybe about six, and I pretty much decided then and there that the guitar was what I was going to do."

Gibb spent his childhood learning his favourite tunes - including songs by Eddy, The Shadows, and the many solos in the Buddy Holly, Elvis, and Eddie Cochran catalogues - by ear. However, to be admitted to any musical college worth its salt, he would have to take actual lessons.

"My music teacher taught me, via the piano, how to play some classical guitar pieces. She would hammer out the notes



on the piano, and I would find them on the guitar. That worked out pretty well, as I eventually got enrolled at Napier College (now University) in Edinburgh to study music, where I got my first 'proper' guitar lessons, and eventually gained a place at The Royal Academy of Music in London."

Since then, he has enjoyed a wide swath of gigs; he has worked as a theatre musician, performed in productions in London's West End and New York's Broadway, and recorded tunes for television stock catalogues. You may have even heard some of his work, even if you don't recognize it - sometimes, even Gibb himself nearly fails to.

"Not long ago, my wife and I were watching something on TV when the ads came on. I heard some groovy guitar music underneath a voiceover for something. I said to my wife that I thought it sounded familiar, then I realized, it was my music!"

Through all the years and the different jobs, his passion has remained the solo acoustic guitar. However, between moving to New Jersey, and keeping a roof above his wife, daughter, and new puppy's heads, it has been a while since he could dedicate himself fully to the vocation. That all changed with the release of his latest recording, *The Boatman*.

"I have recorded a lot of music over the years, but it has been mostly for other people, or for production libraries. My first album *ZigZag* (2002) was really a mix of styles, and was kind of a calling card, showcasing what I could do. But funnily enough, the one track on that album that gets the most play is a solo acoustic piece. So, I decided a while ago to do an album in that particular genre.

*"I wanted *The Boatman* to tell my story, so, it is a very personal album for me..."*

"I think my Scottish background, the Celtic flavours - mixed with my classical training and other inspirations - allow me to have a unique voice."

Several songs draw on his life experiences; the title track was the first piece of Celtic music he remembers truly inspiring him; *River Falls* was one of the first tunes he wrote after moving to the U.S.; *Mackenzie's Eyes* is dedicated to his daughter; and *Elegy for a Rainbow* is in honour of his first guitar teacher, Tim Walker, who passed away while Gibb was producing the album.

With the project now finished, Gibb is keeping his calendar relatively open, given the uncertainty of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but he is looking forward to returning to Broadway soon. He is currently promoting *The Boatman* where possible, while staying open to future opportunities to write, record and perform music.

He also has well-earned advice for aspiring musicians, who themselves might be plucking away at an old tennis racket on their living room floors.

"If you want to be a performer, learn your craft and don't be put off by naysayers and negativity. If you have the heart, and feel you have something to say, then people will listen."

www.stevegibb.com

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6TH



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

Craft Beer from Highland Brewing
Scottish Food and Merchandise
Whisky Tasting

Live Celtic Rock from Tea and Whiskey

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

HONORED CLAN: CLAN MACKENZIE

RIVERFRONT PARK



Charleston Patrons Reception

Join us for drinks, dancing, and music.

November 5th, 2021

CharlestonScottishGames.com
#WeRScots

Lewis Barfoot

Lewis Barfoot draws upon the personal and professional for her first full-length recording

When English/Irish songstress Lewis Barfoot began her career in the entertainment industry, she dipped her toes in a very different pool than she wound up wading in.

"I started out life in performance as an actor," she shares with Celtic Life International via email. "I went to drama school and spent several years acting, singing, and performing in theatre, largely in the sort of experimental collaborative realms, where I was co-creating, cowriting, and song writing, and also in much more mainstream work. I spent some time working at the old Vic with Trevor Nunn in classical Shakespearean text, and all of that was hugely informative for my practice as an artist.

"I got to work with some amazing creators and collaborators, and I got to sing some beautiful music. I performed on some enormous stages around the world, and also some incredibly intimate spaces. I learned about street theatre, and about integrating music into performance; those opportunities all gave me a huge wealth of experience to draw upon."

As formative as her time as a thespian was, Barfoot soon recognized that her path led elsewhere.

"In 2012, I did a world tour with a theatre company called 1927, and we travelled to 21 countries in 11 months. At that point, I realized I had enough of acting and wanted to be a songwriter, so I decided to write a song in every country. That really was the segue

into me becoming a professional solo artist in music and marked the end of my work as an actor."

That initial songwriting exercise eventually led to her debut five-track EP, *Catch Me*, which features the best songs she crafted on that tour. Her future compositions would draw inspiration from a wider radius than just her travels, however.

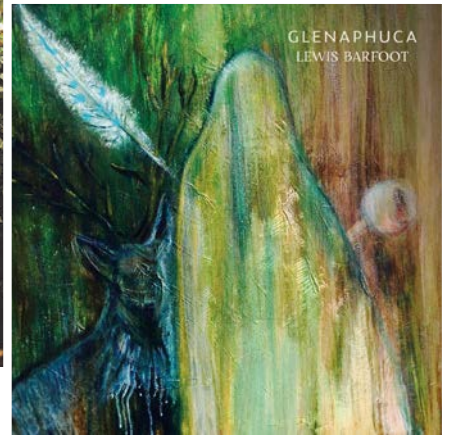
"I think in those early days, my work was inspired by location and experience, but since doing that - and making my debut album - my work has become a much more personal narrative; an expression of my deeper roots, with a deeper connection to my heritage, ancestry, and to healing.

"The death of my mum has hugely influenced my album - the grieving process, becoming radically honest and open about how grief affected me, and also how to turn it into a beautiful thing. The journey of grief totally reconnected me with my mother's homeland - Ireland - and it is what brought me back to live in Ireland now.

"Death has taught me a lot and has been a huge influence."

The album *Barfoot* speaks of is the recently released 11-track *Glenaphuca*. She admits that it is challenging to pin down her favourite songs from the recording.

"I love playing 'The Fox,' because that reminds me of my dad singing it to me as a kid.



And I really enjoy playing *Sister Lover* live to an audience, because I can feel the audience enjoying it. Similarly, I really enjoy playing *White Dress*. Every time I play it, it fills me with love and delight at the memory of my mum. So, I don't have a particular favourite, I love a lot of them."

The singer/songwriter says she has received nothing but praise for the new album, though some responses have certainly stood out more than others.

"In particular, the feedback about the song *Ballinatray* has been breathtaking. That is a hard song, and a hard story. But I have been getting reaction from some people who strongly relate to that experience, and say it has deeply impacted them, and sort of helped them on their own path.

"For me, a good song is one that touches my soul and speaks to my heart. It could be two chords and a voice, or an incredibly complex arrangement, but it needs to come from a place of authenticity; from the heart of the creator, free from ego."

Barfoot will be busy for the rest of 2021, with a residency at Dublin City Arts, developing a new work called "Mother Ireland," and touring across the U.K. in November and December.

www.lewisbarfoot.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



WINNER
COURSE & LECTURERS



WINNER
ACCOMMODATION

Larry Kirwan

Larry Kirwan tackles family trauma in his latest release

While a prominent name in Irish American culture, writer Larry Kirwan admits that he has no memory of his vocation's origin.

"I would imagine it was just instinct," he tells Celtic Life International via email. "I was always a big reader though, and early on I came under the influence of Graham Greene, WB Yeats, John Lennon, Van Morrison, and Sean O'Riada. I began with some putrid songs in my early teens and eventually branched out to plays, novels, and a weekly column for the Irish Echo."

Born in Wexford, Ireland, Kirwan lived in Dublin before moving to New York City in the 1970s. Professionally, he has split his time between creative writing and being the frontman of renowned American rock band Black 47.

Writing, he shares, helped him to keep a level head over the decades.

"If you are in a hard partying, touring band like Black 47 for 25 years, it would behoove you to have some literary project to work on when you go back to your hotel room, or to keep you occupied while traveling from gig to gig."

Kirwan has penned numerous books, including *Mad Angels* (1993) -- a collection of five of his plays - an in-depth look into Black 47 titled *Livin' in America* (2004), his debut novel *Liverpool Fantasy* (2003), his autobiography *Green Suede Shoes: An Irish-American Odyssey* (2005) and his sophomore novel *Rockin' the Bronx* (2010).

His most recent narrative, *Rockaway Blue*, was released this past spring. The story tells the tale of Lieutenant Brian Murphy - a Vietnam veteran and retired NYPD detective-sergeant who was on duty during the events of 9/11 - as he searches to find the truth about



"I have always gone with the Yeats adage: 'Poetry should be cold and passionate as the dawn.'"

"I took that to mean that you should exercise balance in whatever you do. The challenge was to drain some of the emotion out of the experience and yet come to terms with such an enormous tragedy. Certainly, the biggest reward was finishing it and finally feeling that I had said exactly what I wished to say. On the debit side, you could say that it only took 20 years to achieve that goal.

"You had better be thrilled with your inspiration because you will spend years of perspiration realizing it," he continues. "But I would never begin writing something unless I felt there was a strong inspiration propelling it. As for the perspiration, a fine carpenter invests much time in his/her work, and it is no different for a writer. You work until you are at peace with what you have created."

The new book has already received great critical and popular acclaim. Ireland's Eoin Colfer, the bestselling author of the Artemis Fowl series, described the novel as an "Irish-American masterpiece."

"The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive," Kirwan says. "The most rewarding responses have come from people who feel that the book has helped put those times into perspective."

Kirwan notes he has much planned for the coming months, including a major project called Paradise Square.

"Paradise Square is a musical I conceived and co-wrote. It will open in Chicago this November before transferring to Broadway in February of 2022. I have three other musicals - Iraqi Rose, All The Rage, and The Catacombs (a life and times of Brendan Behan) - ready to workshop as well. That should keep me occupied."

www.black47.com



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS...

Titanic Belfast

Home to the hum of festivals. To the thrilling notes of traditional music. To the chatter of family and feasts shared with friends. And to the legendary buzz of the Irish pub.

Listen carefully because Ireland is calling, from the fast-paced beat of the Titanic city to cozy corners where laughter rises to the roof. There, against a backdrop of Ireland's one hundred thousand welcomes, memories are prompted, acquaintances rekindled and promises made to stay connected.

They say you should always listen to your heart, and it's telling you to come home.

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

Find your way home at

 **Ireland.com**



Being Buster Brady

Mrs. Brown's Boys star Danny O'Carroll opens up about his home life, his desire to return to work, being Buster Brady, and the importance of keeping a sense of humour. Story by Stephen Patrick Clare.

Even with so much time and space on his hands, 38-year-old Irish actor and producer Danny O'Carroll is keeping busy on the home front. Recently we spoke with the star of Mrs. Brown's Boys from his home in northwest Ireland.



You are in Donegal, correct?

Yes, I am. I was born in Dublin, but I bought a home here in Donegal when I was 19, so I have been in the area half of my life. We moved down the road a while back to be closer to my wife Amanda's parents, and we are one big happy family these days. And it is a great place to raise our two kids (Jamie and Blake) - the community is very safe, and everyone is really friendly and there are lots of opportunities for them to keep busy with outdoor activities. It is a very beautiful part of the world, and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What has life been like for you during lock down?

I suppose that it hasn't been that different for us than it has been for anyone else. Everything just came to a full stop, and we really haven't gone anywhere. That has been both a blessing and a curse. On the plus side, I have enjoyed just being at home with my wife and my kids - playing games, going for walks, cooking, and having these big, sit-down meals together each day. On the other hand, I do miss travelling and performing in other parts of the world. Mostly, though, I miss my dad (show founder Brendan O'Carroll - a.k.a Mrs. Brown). He has been in Florida during all of this, so at least he has had good weather, but I would give anything to visit with him - just to see him in person and give him a big hug and know that he is healthy and happy.

What do you miss most about touring the show?

It's funny, y'know - at first, when COVID-19 hit and we were just forced to close-up shop, I was ready for a break. Between the series, the movie, the live show, and other work-related commitments, it has been pretty much non-stop for all of us for years. And that catches up with you over time. The little holidays here and there help, but you never really get the time and space to just be and breathe for very long. So, the first six months were like 'oh, this is great, all this time and space'. And then, like everyone else, I started getting a little restless, wondering 'gee, when is this going to end?' I kept busy, but more and more that little voice in my head was like 'I can't wait to get back to doing what I love'. Along with the travel and the performances, I miss the audiences and meeting people. I love it when we are performing somewhere, and some Irish ex-pat stops in to say hello and immediately we are like long-lost best friends. Mostly, though, I miss just being with my family on the road and having those day-to-day adventures and experiences with them.

Being so close-knit on the road must be challenging at times?

You would think so, right? Many people can handle their families for a few days on holiday or at Christmas time, and then the baggage comes out and issues and conflict arise. But it is not like that at all with us. We rarely have

difficulties, if ever. We all get along quite brilliantly on set and on tour. I am not sure if it is supposed to be that way, but it is with us.

Why is that?

Well, I believe it is because we all have a lot of love and respect for one another, both as people and as performers. We bring out the best in one another and working on something like Mrs. Brown's Boys - which has become so massive around the world - also brings out the best in us. It has given all of us something much bigger than our own individual selves to be a part of. And I don't mean only the cast, but all of the crew and the support also. What we do is very much a team effort, and it has been like that from the very start.

How much of that is because of your dad?

Oh, he is almost entirely to blame! Seriously, though, he is the glue that keeps it all together - it is his vision, his mission, his project. We all contribute creatively in our own way, for sure, but he is the one who puts all of the pieces together into a big picture. And he is always so good with everyone - patient, supportive, understanding...

And funny...

Oh, you don't know the half of it. I mean, audiences see the 30-minute show on TV or the couple of hours on stage during the live

performances, but that is just the proverbial tip of the iceberg - there are many, many hilarious moments off-stage as well. Some of those moments eventually find their way into a script, or sometimes they even find their way onto the stage that same day - especially some of the inside jokes between the cast members. Sometimes the unscripted stuff is the funniest, but sometimes it just bombs altogether. Either way, I love those moments the most.

Some of those impromptu gags can be...dangerous.

Again, you don't know the half of it. With dad, you always have to be on, to be ready, because you just never know when he is going to break script. He does that all of the time on the TV series - somebody will blow a line or just start giggling and he will just run with it, take it in an entirely different direction altogether, and it usually works out even better than what the scene had originally called for. With the live show it is always a risk, as there is simply no turning back once it starts. There are no retakes. That's what is so great about it for us, as performers, because it keeps us on our toes creatively and no two shows are ever the same. And when it works, it takes the experience to new and hilarious places for the cast, the crew, and the audiences. However, it doesn't always go well, and those are the moments when you are just left standing there on stage, cringing to the sound of crickets.

How hard is it to stop being Buster Brady once you've left the set or stage?

It isn't hard at all. Over time I have learned to just leave it at the door at the end of the day. It was maybe a bit more difficult when we first started the series because I was younger,



and I hadn't really fully established my own identity yet. But being married and having kids has really settled me. My family keeps me grounded and rooted in reality and they remind me every day what is truly important in life. I am happiest being a husband and a dad and I think that is really what I was born to do more than anything.

How much is Danny O'Carroll like Buster Brady?

Oh, not at all really. I mean, it is inevitable that you bring bits of yourself to the role each day - maybe little pieces of your own persona that peek through now and again - but I am not nearly as funny as Buster. Now, having said that, whenever Paddy (Houlihan, who plays Dermot on the show) and I get together it is always a laugh. We have been best friends since we were sperm, and when we connect in person, on the phone, or online, there is a good chance that there will be a giggle or two or a dozen to be had. So

that comedic chemistry that audiences see on the screen or on the stage is pretty much what we are like with one another in real life.

What's next on your agenda?

Well, that's the big question, right? Who knows how long this pandemic thing is going to keep us locked down - all we can do is be as prepared as possible when the restrictions are lifted to start moving forward again. I am keeping quite busy though, writing, exercising, being involved in raising funds and awareness for a variety of charitable organizations, and, of course, taking care of my wife and my kids. Or maybe they are taking care of me. I mean, we need to maintain some sense of normalcy through all of this, because at some point, hopefully, things will go back to the way they were. And I also think it is important to keep a sense of humour during these times. Comedy is more essential than ever.

www.mrsbrownboys.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

*Celtic Life International contributor
Michael Newton traces the influence
of Scottish Gaelic on English*

Gaelic in Your Gob

Language is a funny thing. We all acquire language as children, usually without thinking much about it. Speaking seems as natural as breathing or thinking. And yet language carries with it culture, history, and identity in ways that are so subtle and complex that it occupies the entire careers of trained experts.

Scottish Gaelic - the language of the founders of Scotland and the native language of the Scottish Highlands - has endured almost a thousand years of persecution and neglect. And yet it survives, even if just by a thread. Some very positive developments to benefit the language and its speakers have emerged just in the last few years.



Michael Newton

The DuoLingo language learning app started offering Scottish Gaelic in the Autumn of 2019 and has already drawn over 500,000 people to it, surpassing anyone's wildest expectations. While not all those users are going to become fluent speakers, it has given new opportunities to people to learn about Scottish Gaelic who might not have had the chance otherwise - and to have fun doing so in the process.

Anglophones learning Gaelic will encounter many words that seem familiar, so it is not surprising that one of the most common questions to arise is: What words in English originally came from Gaelic? Answering this question accurately is more complicated than it might seem. For one, both Gaelic and English are ultimately descended from an ancestral language called "Proto-Indo-European," that existed sometime between 4500 BC and 2500 BC, and there are still words bearing the marks of this common origin. On top of that, both Gaelic and English borrowed words from Latin, French and Norse in the Middle Ages. And then there are words whose similarity is due to pure coincidence.

The study of Celtic languages has long been neglected and under-supported.

However, those efforts too have received boosts lately that aid in understanding how they have evolved over time and interacted with other languages, including the various forms of English of neighbouring communities, such as Lowland Scots. The results provide unique windows into the histories of these societies.

I have just finished a book called *Gaelic In Your Gob* which identifies 48 common words in "mainstream English" that were borrowed from Scottish Gaelic, often via Lowland Scots but sometimes directly into the English of England and, in a few cases, within a North American setting. I have written a short essay about each word, outlining the evidence for the appearance of the word in English and how it came to be borrowed, along with fascinating and amusing tidbits that illuminated the lives and minds of people in the past. I will offer a couple of simple examples.

I will start with the word "gob" itself that appears in the title of the book. This is a slang

term referring to the mouth, usually with mocking, sarcastic, or humorous overtones. It has been used in modern British idioms such as "gob-smacked" (to be astonished), "gobstopper" (hard candy) and "gobshite" (a loud-mouthed or indiscreet person).





By Michael Newton
Illustrations by Natalia Lopes
Foreword by Ádhamh Ó Broin

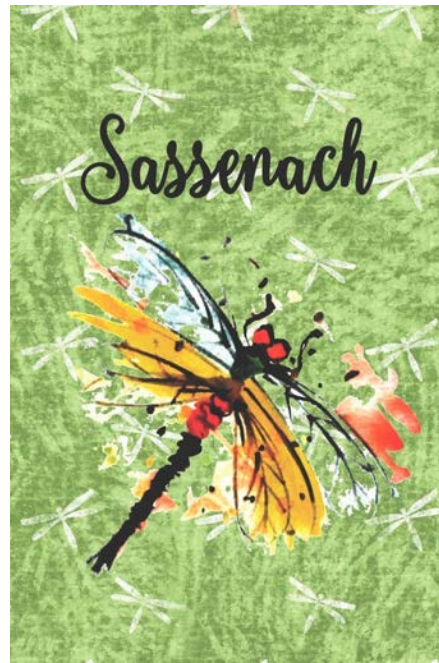
Although it is commonly assumed that “gob” is a late borrowing from Irish, it has actually been in use in Lowland Scots since at least the sixteenth century. The word entered Northern English dialects by the late seventeenth century and the street-slang of London by the mid-nineteenth century. The Lowland Scots word was borrowed from the Scottish Gaelic *gob*, which refers primarily to the beak of a bird. This progression from Scottish Gaelic to Lowland Scots and then to other varieties of English is a common pattern in the histories of many words that originated in Gaelic.

The word gob is used for both bird beaks and the human mouth in Gaelic, with overtones of mockery or sarcasm. A common Gaelic admonition used by adults to silence a child is Dùin do ghob! “Shut your beak!”

Gob is used metaphorically in Gaelic for things that resemble beaks and mouths. Gob-dubhain is the end of a fishing hook and gob-claidheimh is the point of a sword. Gob is also used of the end-point of landscape features and can be found in such Scottish place names as Gob na h-Éist (Nest Point) on the Isle of Skye and Gob na Cananaich (Chanonry Point) on the Black Isle between Fortrose and Rosemarkie.

Gob appears in Gaelic adages that comment on human failings and flaws. All talk and no action? In Gaelic, that's Gob mór, ugh beag “Big mouth, little egg.”

Another Gaelic borrowing worth examining is “cairn,” especially as the cairn has become a common form of memorializing Highland emigrants and their



legacy in many parts of the world.

A “cairn” is a pile of stones, sometimes arranged neatly to form a stable structure or sometimes to create the impression of a megalithic ruin. Cairns are generally understood to commemorate the ancestral dead in one way or another. The Gaelic term *carn* was borrowed into Lowland Scots by the sixteenth century - or was at least familiar to Scots speakers. As you might expect, the word “cairn” also appears in the works of Robert Burns and Walter Scott as well around the turn of the nineteenth century.

One of the most iconic cairns in the Highlands was built in 1881 in the shape of a tower twenty feet high at Culloden, commemorating the battle fought there in April of 1746. A replica of this cairn was built in Knoydart, Nova Scotia, in 1938, near the graves of three soldiers who had fought at the Battle of Culloden and emigrated later to Canada.

The original Gaelic word, *carn*, is used in hundreds of place names across Scotland. The most mammoth instance is the Cairngorms mountain range in the Eastern Highlands - although this name was not actually created by Gaelic speakers or natives of the region. It seems to have been invented by Colonel Thomas Thornton, an Englishman who toured the area and published memoirs of his tour in 1804. The native name for the mountain range is *Am Monadh Ruadh* (The Red Mountain). Although *monadh* is a commonplace word in modern Scottish Gaelic, it was a medieval borrowing from Pictish.

The earliest surviving explanation of the significance of the cairn is from an Old Gaelic tale composed in the eighth or ninth century called *Togail bruidne Dá Derga* “The destruction of Dá Derga’s hostel.” The narrator of the story digresses for a moment to describe these monuments:

“For two causes they built their cairns: first, since this was a custom in marauding; and, secondly, that they might find out their losses at the Hostel. Every one that would come safe from it would take his stone from the cairn: thus, the stones of those that were slain would be left, and by that they would know their losses.”

In other words, before a battle, every warrior would place a stone in the heap. If they returned from the battle alive, they would remove a stone from the pile. The body count thus corresponded to the number of stones left in the cairn; a tall cairn signifies a tremendous loss of life.

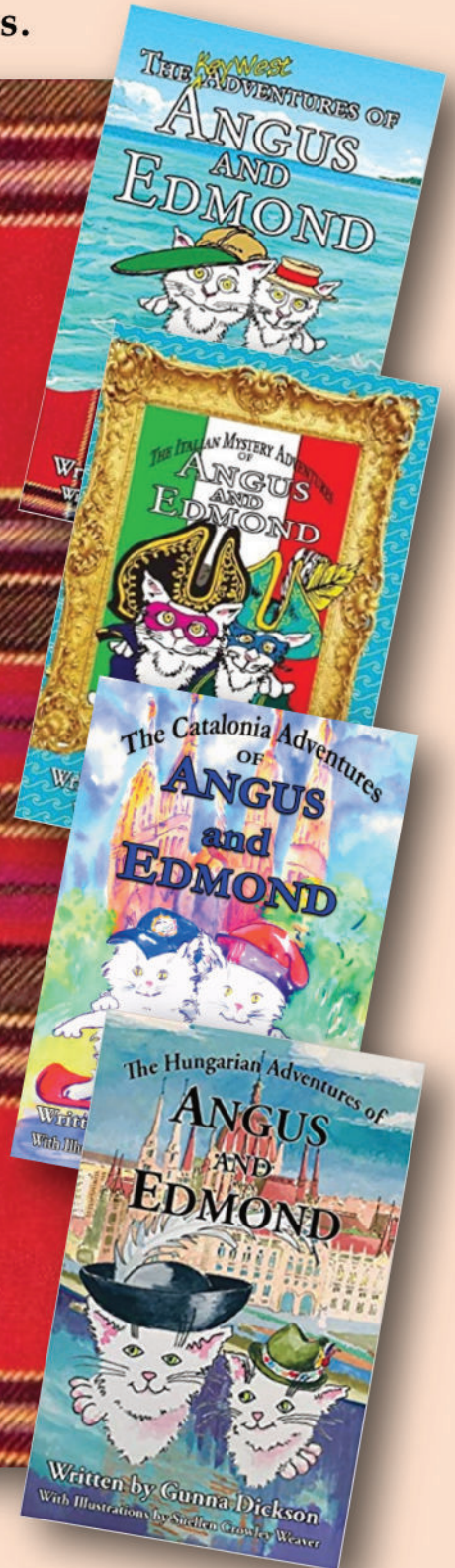
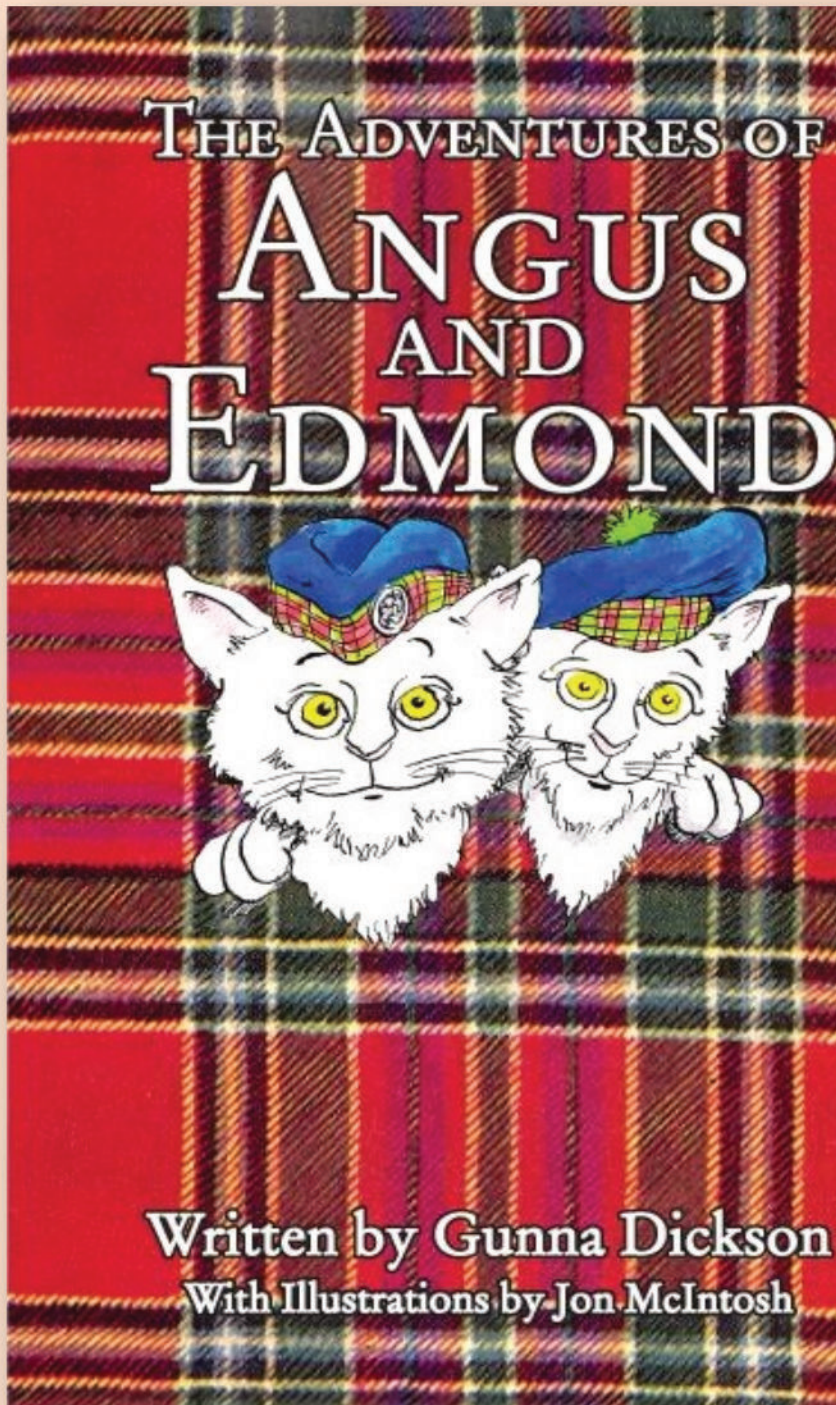
The cairn offers a metaphor for the linguistic debris embedded in English after centuries of conflict with the Gaelic world. There is evidence galore about the history of Gaelic and English, and the communities that spoke these tongues, to be found in the rubble, even if it takes a great deal of time and care to sift through it. Although it would be misguided to overestimate Gaelic's influence on English or even feel the need to validate the status of Gaelic through that influence, there is still an interesting and important story to tell through the history of these words. Gaelic In Your Gob is my effort to tell that tale in a fun and engaging way.

Dr Michael Newton has a Ph.D. in Celtic Studies from the University of Edinburgh and teaches courses online about Scottish Highland heritage via <https://hiddenglen.org>



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 <http://gdicksonbooks.com>



The Dalkeith Witches Remembered

Story by **Tom Langlands**



For ancient Celts, the festival of Samhain - midway between the summer equinox and the winter solstice - marked the transition between the days of light and life and the onset of winter darkness. Believed to be a time when the veil between the world of the living and the world inhabited by the spirits of the deceased was at its thinnest, it afforded departed souls an opportunity to return and make their presence felt amongst the living.

As the pagan past is recollected in the spooky costumes and carved lanterns associated with modern-day Halloween, a group of Dalkeith artists has ensured that six of the town's so-called 'witches' of yesteryear will be apparent to residents this October. For Mary Blair, chair of Dalkeith Arts, "It is an opportunity to pay our respects to some of the souls of the past and to reflect upon our community's role in their persecution and deaths."

Dalkeith, situated to the south-east

of Edinburgh, lies in the council area of Midlothian. Although modern boundaries have changed, it was - and remains - conterminous with East Lothian, one of the historic counties infamously associated with Scotland's witch hunts of the Middle Ages. Although there were few areas of the country that escaped the waves of paranoia generated by the power of church and state colliding with pagan beliefs and superstitions, it was along the south coast of the Firth of Forth from Edinburgh to North Berwick where one simmering cauldron boiled over - having been stirred overzealously by King James VI.

The Scottish courts were not unique in their desire to exterminate those considered as cohorts of the Devil. The fervour to hunt down and execute witches resulted in the Witch Trials of Trier, Germany, that saw over three hundred and fifty persons burned to death between 1587 and 1593. The fear that so many witches could be living amongst ordinary citizens rippled across Europe,

fueling the Copenhagen witch trials of 1590 and giving rise to the burning of a further 17 souls. These trials would not have escaped the attention of James VI who was betrothed to Anne of Denmark. In September of 1589 Anne set sail for Scotland, but the journey was beset by a series of problems and unfavourable winds, culminating in a violent storm that forced her fleet to shelter in Norway with the Danish Admiral blaming witchcraft. Undaunted, James set sail for Norway, but he too was beaten back by a storm before eventually making the crossing. Married in November 1589 in Oslo the return journey to Scotland was also affected by storms. James became convinced that supernatural forces had connived to kill the parties and prevent the union. His suspicions were confirmed when Geillis Duncan, a young maid from Tranent, East Lothian was accused of witchcraft by her bailiff master. Subjected to horrific torture she confessed to being a witch and to whipping up the storms that almost sunk the royal fleet. No doubt in the hope of ending her torment, she provided the names of other 'witches' who had conspired with her. This gave rise to the North Berwick Witch Trials of 1590-1591 that saw some seventy persons rounded up and accused of witchcraft. James took great interest in the trials, personally interrogating Duncan.

It is impossible to confirm exact numbers, but records reveal that many were tortured, hanged and burned.

The torture of witches might involve incarceration in cold, insanitary conditions, crushing the fingers with pilliwinks (thumbscrews), the wearing of spiked collars or muzzles, part strangulation and the deprivation of sleep that would produce sought-after hallucinatory tales - likely influenced by the inquisitor. Additionally, there was the humiliation of being stripped and every part of the body being searched for any blemish that could be construed as a mark of the Devil. Many trials involved

Christian Patersone



Issobell Fergusson



Beatrix Leslie



Jenet Davidson



Katherine Casse



the highly paid, specialist services of witch-prickers who would insert long, sharp pins into every part of the body until they claimed to find a place insensitive to pain and that did not bleed - another sign of belonging to Satan!

In 1591 James commissioned a pamphlet - *Newes From Scotland* - that made clear the exact nature of the horrific torture Duncan had endured prior to her execution. In 1597 he published *Daemonologie* - an alleged philosophical and theological work about sorcery, werewolves, vampires and explaining why witches needed to be expunged. Although James VI passed away in 1625, the waves from the North Berwick trials washed across East Lothian, reaching the town of Dalkeith which, shortly before the arrival of Reverend William Calderwood in 1659, had become known as "a town where all witches were burnt." As parish minister, Calderwood reinforced the town's reputation by making it his personal mission to root out the witches living within the community. Assisted in his macabre hunt by a local headmaster he was responsible for weekly witch trials, the torture of dozens of women and the hanging and burning of innocent souls. Inside St Nicholas Buccleuch Parish Church in Dalkeith is an engraved memorial. In Latin, it extols the virtues of the Reverend Calderwood as a much loved father and respected minister of the parish!

In 2020, Dalkeith Arts, in conjunction with One Dalkeith - a charitable trust founded to improve local community life - undertook a project in memory of some of those who were tried and executed as witches. It would serve as a reminder also of the town's role in this unsavoury aspect

of Scottish history. Ten local artists were each allocated a panel designed to fit on the external wall of the One Dalkeith building in town. With the help of a local historian each artist was given a choice of a subject for their panel. Three of the panels depict buildings and places in the town associated with the witch trials, while another features the notorious, witch-pricking charlatan, John Kincaid from Tranent.

The remaining six panels show fictionalized interpretations of six of the women tried for witchcraft:

Christian Patersone - accused of attending witches' meetings.

Janet Cook - accused of sorcery and cursing to cause death and damage and of being part of a demonic pact.

Issobell Fergusson - accused of bearing the marks of Satan.

Beatrix Leslie - accused of changing into a dog, causing a mining pit to collapse through cursing and of meeting Satan.

Jenet Davidson - accused of spreading disease through cursing and attending witches' meetings.

Katherine Casse - accused of claiming satanic powers and of causing death through cursing.

All bar Katherine Casse were found guilty and were strangled and burned in Dalkeith. The fate of Casse is not known.

For Blair, the images sought to challenge the typical portrayal of witches as wizened old women, "These are portraits of people that could be walking around Dalkeith today.

"It is a chilling thought that these were ordinary women, caught up in a time of terror and who ended up suffering a terrible fate."

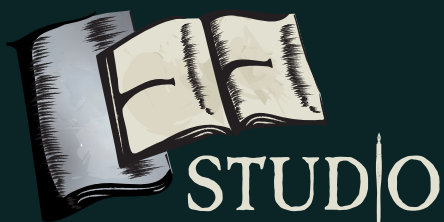
Collectively, the works represent more than just seven individuals and a few iconic buildings. Looking at the size of the paintings and the height at which they are displayed it appears as though the figures look down on us from another time. Kincaid appears arrogant and self-assured. The women are ordinary, dressed according to their time but portrayed alongside supposed animal familiars. They don't look accusatory but rather appear as we accused them. Representing all those affected by the infamous witch trials they seem to ask the simple but soul-searching question - why?

www.dalkeitharts.co.uk

www.tomlanglandsphotography.com

Photographs courtesy of Keith Inglis

TRAVEL GUIDES & GIFTS *for Celtic Journeys*



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

www.leestudiotc.com

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

*Newfoundland Saga:
Cuckold's Cove, Cape
Spear and the Dog
Statues Down Near
Duckworth*



Cape Spear

It rained overnight but was clearing by morning, so we drove to the end of the road at Cuckold's Cove just outside of St. John's and headed towards Signal Hill on a trail called Burma Road. It was constructed by the American military which built barracks here during World War II for men stationed in the city. Cuckold's Cove itself was magnificent and I stood there looking

south, wondering about a hurricane that was slowly careening north towards Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, generating powerfully destructive winds and awesome North Atlantic waves.

We braved a washed-out smaller trail up the headland past the cove that took us to Ladies' Lookout on Signal Hill and - for a second time (but not in a storm) -circumnavigated the area and followed Burma Road back to the car. I dutifully got over the grudge I had been cultivating concerning the national historic site as we made our way home that morning for a brunch at the Celtic Hearth downtown and later a trip to the farmer's market on Freshwater Road. There I was pleased to discover a wealth of locally grown vegetables and a wide range of ethnic foods that included Polish, Indian, Thai, Pakistani, and Iranian, just to name a few.

We returned yet again to our beloved Cape Spear so Linda could run yet another 10 km, this time in a gusty wind. I wandered around the parking lot for a bit where I must have seen a bumper sticker that preached, "Not all who wander are lost." This very much reassured me of my status in this

world on a morning like this, a Sunday when, once upon a time, I would be putting on a white shirt, a bad tie and a hand-me-down suit to wear to Sunday School and listen to stories from the Bible that often mystified and baffled me. ("If Jesus turned the water to wine," I would query Mrs. Lorenz, "why is it that we are not supposed to drink alcohol?") I repeated the wandering mantra as I headed



Linda



Lesley



Shamrock City

onto the now-familiar trail to log a few kilometres myself and pick up a good wind burn from the salty zephyr. I later learned the bumper quote was not original but from Tolkien's Lord of the Rings which did not diminish its value in any way.

I was passed by a few off-road bikers on the trail which surprised me since it was fairly tricky on foot, let alone on two wheels. I wondered if they were breaking any trail rules, but they seemed to be fairly polite when it came time to pass. I kept on meandering down the coast towards Maddox Cove, now consciously cultivating the gentle art of wandering on this morning instead of actually trying to get anywhere. This resulted in me feeling pleasantly gobsmacked by the big sweep of barrens off to my right and a low-lying marsh the size of Philadelphia that I would have called muskeg if I had known exactly what a muskeg was. Then I studied the slightly yellowing tamarack trees, the spruce and the fir and finally looked down to see if I could spot any cranberries or those bakeapples that Newfoundlanders so prize. I eventually found myself verbally complimenting the dark green ground cover, some hardy creeping vine with black berries that some fishing village boy in Nova Scotia once told me was called pigeon berry.

I took out my Art of War Book when I sat down on a slab of granite for a sip of water and read.

“When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be.” And even more appropriately, “Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.”

After that I continued to wander lonely as a cloud - well, not really lonely but alone. I wondered what those early Irish settlers made of this starkly beautiful place. Clearly, none of them wanted to live out here and get blasted regularly by the elements, but they may have come out here for the bakeapples and to shoot a moose to sustain them through the harsh winter. And, clearly, they didn't give a tinker's damn that this was the easternmost point in North America, nor why should they? In fact, why do we? I guess because we like things that are furthest this way or that, highest or deepest, smallest, or largest, because that's the kind of species we are - believing most falsely that we are the smartest.

It is at a moment like this that I often cup my hand and run it through some unidentified leaves on those hardy shrubs and smell what they have to offer up. In this case, it was the scent of pure green chlorophyll filling my nostrils followed by the smell of bayberry and even a whiff of cinnamon thrown in as a chaser. Certainly, Tolkien



himself or at least Frodo would understand well why I was doing that. I believe I turned around to head back to the car at that point, knowing Linda would reverse her route sooner or later.

Despite the fact I was enjoying my morning ramble, I had discovered that whichever way I was walking on the twisty path, the wind was in my face. I know that sounds like a lie akin to the one your grandfather told you: "In those days we had to walk five miles to school and from school each day, even during blizzards, and it was uphill in both directions." However, in this case, the wind in your face from every quarter was due to the fact I was hiking on a point of land jutting out into the sea, so the wind was backing and veering and quite able to find you and slap your cheek in whichever way you were headed.

I eyed the lighthouse above the car park and determined it had now placed itself much further away than I wished, so I plodded onward, having lost my pure joy of wandering for the nonce. This prompted me to seek a short cut at the base of the hill, well below the main trail that went past the lighthouse on higher ground. This lower trail took me into what John Bunyan in *The Pilgrim's Progress* would have called the Swamp of Despair, although hereabouts it was probably considered a bog. Which, of course, made the verb bog most appropriate as I soon became bogged down. With soaked footwear and socks plus jeans that seemed to soak up the water and then somehow siphon it up to my knees, I plodded on, now blaming the lighthouse for my discomfort since it seemed to be observing me with a combination of malice and mirth.

While slogging through my ill-chosen shortcut, I watched an artist (or at least I assumed he was an artist) setting up a rather large easel

and canvas in the lee of a boulder the size of our Chevy Equinox. It seemed like a gloomy day to be painting the landscape, but then I remembered all those Group of Seven paintings I had seen at the Rooms back in St. John's.

I had been told by an art historian that those muted, gloomy paintings were quintessentially Canadian - suggesting that we were ourselves organically formed somehow by the oft gloomy and muted lands we inhabited.

It was about then that my feet coaxed me up onto dry gravel, some kind of service road through the bog leading up to the lighthouse. I decided to forget about another damp shortcut and take it down to the main road pavement seeming much more desirable suddenly than raw headland. Not far along, I came across a manhole cover just like the ones you see in the city. Had I not been paying attention I would have thought nothing of it but a wordsmith like me is veritably addicted to reading any words he comes across whether they are on a traffic sign, in a store window or on a cereal box. And this manhole cover, in boldface raised iron letters read "Confined Space Dancer."

My first reaction was that this would make a great title for a post-modern short story I should write once I got back to our apartment and dried my feet. But then it occurred to me that this made very little sense at all. Was there some avant-garde sort of performance space down there? And if so, what did the dance look like and how did an audience get to see it? No, it seemed completely out of the question and more than just a little out of the ordinary. Newfoundland just continued to be full of surprises.

When Linda finally joined me in the car, I was listening to some most excellent Celtic music by the Chieftains, Planxty, and the Boys of the Lough on a Sunday morning radio station out of St. John's as I aired my wet socks out the window. I mentioned the words on the iron manhole cover, and she insisted I was mistaken or had ingested some wild plant on my hike that had made me hallucinate. It wasn't until we were back on Water Street that afternoon, promenading with the multitude, that I pointed down to the words on a similar manhole cover in the middle of the street. "See. There it is," I said. And so it was.

Linda gave me one those looks. You know the one I mean. "Confined Space Danger," she read out loud. Now it made more sense - well almost. Okay, so the words I had read beneath the lighthouse had been damaged - altered somehow by the elements so that the "g" had been metabolized into what looked like a "c." That explanation was reasonable. I had not been hallucinating. But still, why would anyone need to warn us pedestrians away from going down into a manhole that we would obviously know was a confined space? My assumption was that lawyers were involved somehow and that there were insurance reasons, but I remained determined to write that short story in hopes it might win some sort of literary prize.

One thing led to the next and before we could finish a discussion about literary manhole covers, we were back at Broderick's where some patrons were still discussing the summer's absence of Guinness. Evans and Doherty provided a fine obligatory version of "Dirty Old Town," which I was beginning to believe was the official anthem of the city since I had heard it so often.

Today was our last day in Newfoundland and I felt like we had jam packed our trip with small adventures worthy of any twenty-first century explorers. The supposedly irascible James Cook had nothing on us except the fact that he had been here ahead of us and got to name many locales with quirky names that would last down through the centuries. Typical of us, we had not explored much of anything



within three blocks of where we were staying in our second-floor apartment overlooking Duckworth Street and the harbour.

Linda went for a run in the city and I, feeling like I was missing out by staying indoors grading university essays, went out to see what was left to see. Well, there was a war memorial right across the street and a small ceremony was taking place with uniformed men and women placing plastic wreaths commemorating those who had died in the Battle of Britain. The Sun Tzu phrase, "Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake," came to my mind as I studied the monument, thinking that Hitler had been so thoroughly wrong to believe that attacking civilian London and other English cities would somehow break the spirit of the feisty English.

I walked down to the waterside where there were more monuments and statues. Faded historical plaques told me that I was at King's Beach, once called Queen's Beach, even though there was no real beach that I could see or even envision on this rocky shore. But here was where (perhaps) John Cabot had come ashore. And so had those long-gone Portuguese fishermen, old Sir Humphrey Gilbert and more "Planters" as well. Nearby was once the Admiralty Courts where military leaders decreed and enforced the laws of the land, often unfairly, in much earlier days.

What I most admired here were twin bronze statues of a Newfoundland and a Labrador dog. The large Newfie's tongue was even hanging out in a most life-like way, reminding me of that large barking Bay Bulls dog that had drooled so profusely that he fully soaked my fingers with fresh warm dog saliva. How grand of the city and province to celebrate a couple of mutts. Posted nearby was a bit of history about the dogs and another reminder that Lord Byron had

owned a Newfoundland dog that he cherished. When his beloved pet passed on, he wrote in his "Epitaph to a Dog,"

*Near this Spot
are deposited the Remains of one
who possessed Beauty without Vanity,
Strength without Insolence,
Courage without Ferocity...*

We had a decent brunch that day at Shamrock City serenaded by a folk singer named Arthur O'Brien. He had a gravelly voice that reminded me of a combination of Tom Waits and Stan Rogers, providing our daily dose of "Dirty Old Town" and other familiar tunes.

Fortunately for us, the hurricane was now still at least a day off so our flight home was smooth sailing and we were handily back in our nest near the shores of Lawrencetown Beach in time to haul in the lawn chairs and nail down a few loose shingles. I put away my backpack and copy of Sun Tzu until future travels and jotted down in my notebook the three things the old master had said should be my greatest treasures: "Simplicity, patience and compassion." Here were guiding words to help Linda and me get through the remainder of the pandemic that was still sweeping much of North America but had, for the most part up until now, spared us in Atlantic Canada.

www.lesleychoyce.com



Faith & Begorra

Purveyor of Fine Irish and Catholic Gifts



Dressing Your Celtic Home

Handcrafted Quilts in Celtic Designs

- Five Designs
- Made in the US
- Tabletop Centers
- Sofa Blankets
- Wall Decor

*Beautifully crafted for you
one stitch , one design,
one quilt at a time.*

Celebrating over 30 years!

40 Broadway • Denville, NJ 07834 • FaithandBegorra.com

ph: 973.625.0070 • FaithandBegorra@gmail.com



Regina Tierney

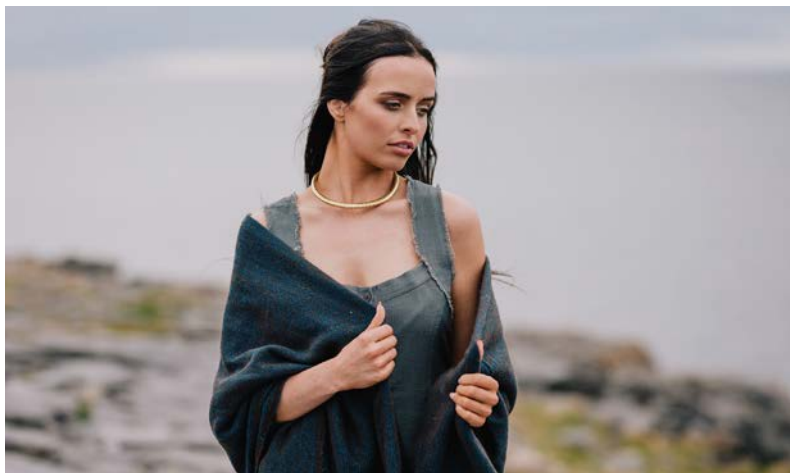
Celtic Fusion Design

www.celticfusiondesign.com

Celtic Fusion has become an outward expression of my own taste and my connection to my ancestors. I am a woman of the world; I travel a lot, I seek new ideas and trends, and I combine the new with the old to create something that allows me, and my clients, a chance to reconnect with our roots in a way that is both fashionable and wearable. It is the combination of old-world Celtic and contemporary design.

Celtic culture is evolving. Our language, our arts and customs - all of the elements that comprise who we are as a community - are being redefined and redesigned. Our sense of style is a vital - and very beautiful - part of that refashioning. Still, there is simply no denying where we come from. Our heritage is deeply woven into our DNA, and what we wear is the outward expression of who we are. These are the threads that preserve and promote our cultural identity.

Photo credit @doorusphoto







New for the Holidays

All the great gifts you and your loved ones need to make a festive, joyous Yule!

Tis the Season for Titanium

We're pulling into port with a shipload of gorgeous handcrafted gifts, jewelry & adornments, all artisan made with Celtic flair. New: Beautiful one-of-a-kind Celtic statement pieces in stunning iridescent Titanium.



Take a Glimpse into Your New Adventures

What answers do you seek? Pocket sized Viking Rune Sets come in gorgeous Stainless Steel cases. Choose Oak or Pewter. Or use a Gemstone Pendulum or Vegvisir, the Viking Compass to find your way.



Fabulous Gifts from Near & Far

The Viking Celt Trading Company supplies adventurous souls with fine gear. Everything we sell is designed by artists & crafted with pride. Our goal is to help make life more beautiful & fun.

Viking Rune Jewelry • Thor's Hammer • Artisanal Teas • Knives • Luxurious Soaps & Perfumes

Free US Shipping on orders over \$35!

www.VikingCelt.com

Fall for Photography





Francesco Gola

Bretagne

www.francescogola.net

I feel a connection and a primordial attraction to these lands, and when I am on a beautiful cliff or in front of a lighthouse in a stormy sea, my soul quivers. I like to tell myself that maybe in a previous life I lived there, or maybe I was just one of those waves that I love to watch for hours walking barefoot along the coast.

Neil Barr

Scotland

www.neilbarr.co.uk

Scotland gives us so much in a fairly compact area. The huge variety of forms, light and weather creates a multitude of possible canvases. I am particularly interested in those fleeting moments as one weather system moves in and another moves off that reveal the personality of the landscape. Where the light creates shifting patterns of drama or in some cases a sense of calm. I think there is more than enough in Scotland alone to fill a lifetime of work.



Derek Smyth

Ireland

www.dereksmythphotography.com

Ireland is a beautiful country with many different locations to be photographed. I think it is the ever-changing Irish weather that makes it so inspiring. Every time I revisit a location the light and weather conditions are always different. It sometimes takes many visits to a location to finally get the photograph that I have composed in my mind.

Ron Strathdee

Isle of Man

www.digitalmanphotography.com

This small island has all the scenery needed to inspire: rolling hills; a mountain; rugged coast and sheer cliffs; flat northern plains; and a sprinkling of castles. Wrap all this in ever changing weather and you have it all.



Simon Kitchin

Wales

www.landscapephotographyuk.com

The diversity of Wales provides so many photo opportunities. It has a strong industrial heritage, which is evident everywhere you go, and gives Wales a unique feel. I can't think of many other places where, if you take the time, you will get such a strong sense of past human endeavours and a true connection with the area whilst wandering through its landscapes and villages.

Tony Moore

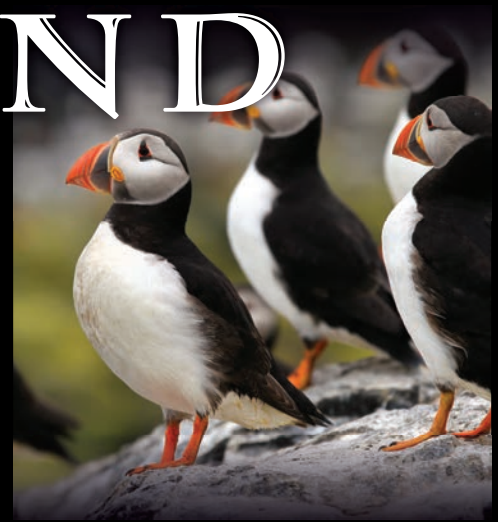
Northern Ireland

www.tonymoorephotography.com

I have always preferred taking intimate landscapes in smaller areas with more narrative in the scene, and sometimes even "lightpainting" them using slow shutter speeds, with emphasis on texture, light, and three dimensionality. A sort of realism, or hyper-realism, and depth. I like to give the effect that you are looking through a window and that you could almost throw a ball into the scene.



SCOTLAND



— 2022 ESCORTED TOURS —

British Isles

Scotland: Dumfries and Galloway

England: Hadrian's Wall, Lake District

Wales: Snowdonia National Park, Welsh Castles

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

May 5-19, 2022 • 14 Nights • \$5,995

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.

August 11-27, 2022 • 16 Nights • \$5,995

Special 19th 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 23-July 4, 2022 • 11 Nights • \$4,995

19th 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, 2022 • 9 Nights • \$4,195

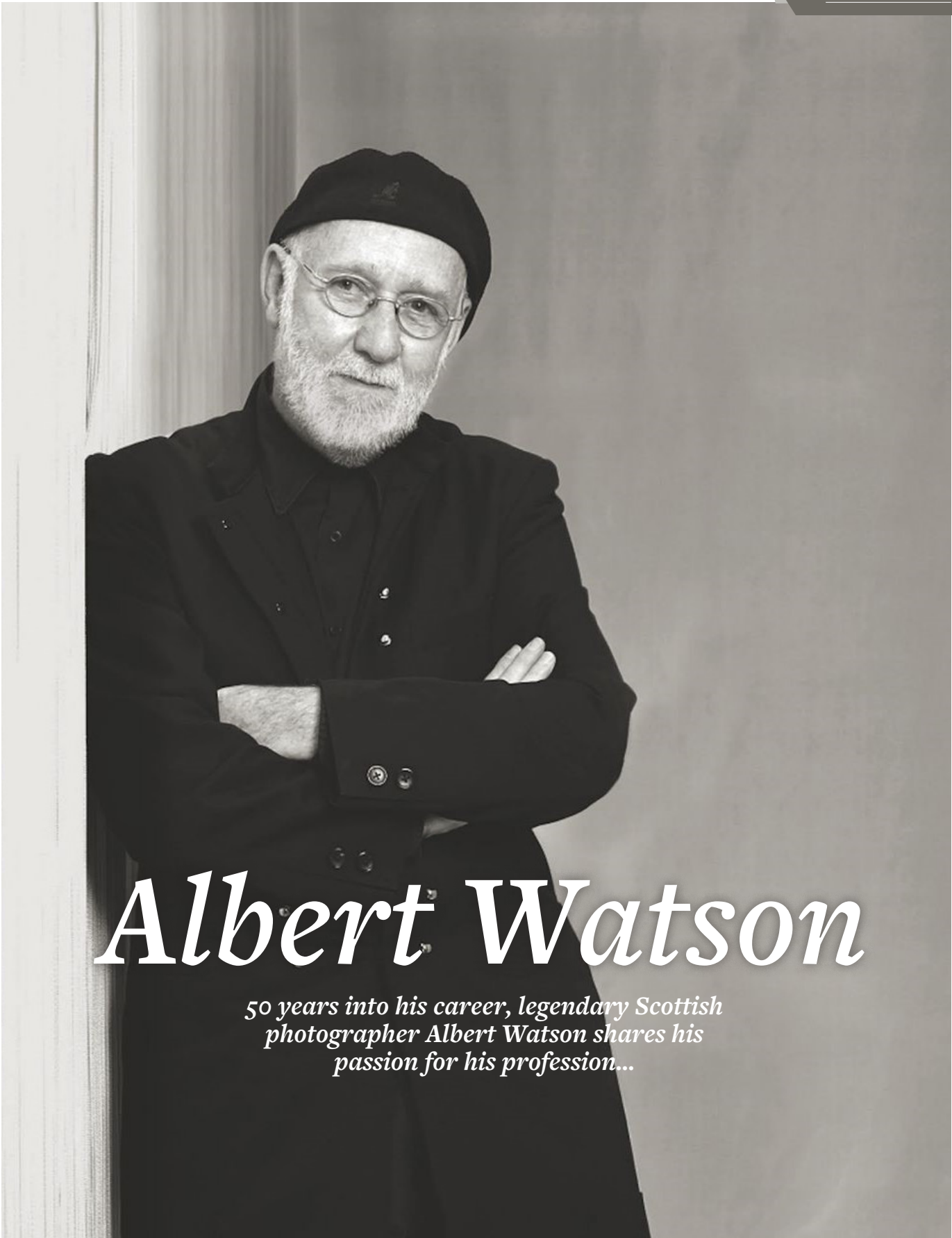
*Deluxe escorted tours
16-guest maximum*

**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

A black and white portrait of Albert Watson, an elderly man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a black beret and a dark jacket. He is standing with his arms crossed, leaning against a light-colored wall. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Albert Watson

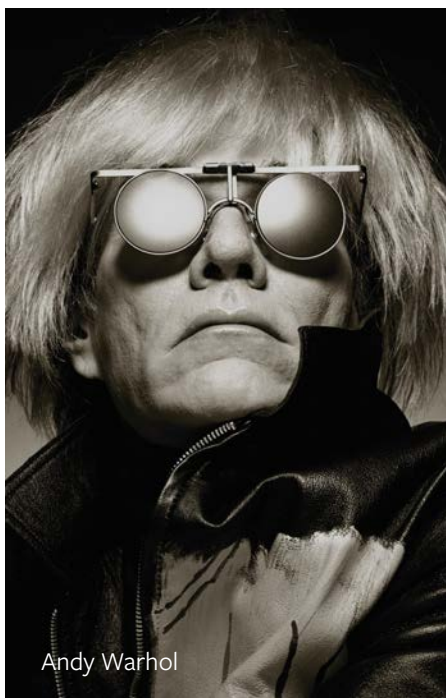
*50 years into his career, legendary Scottish
photographer Albert Watson shares his
passion for his profession...*



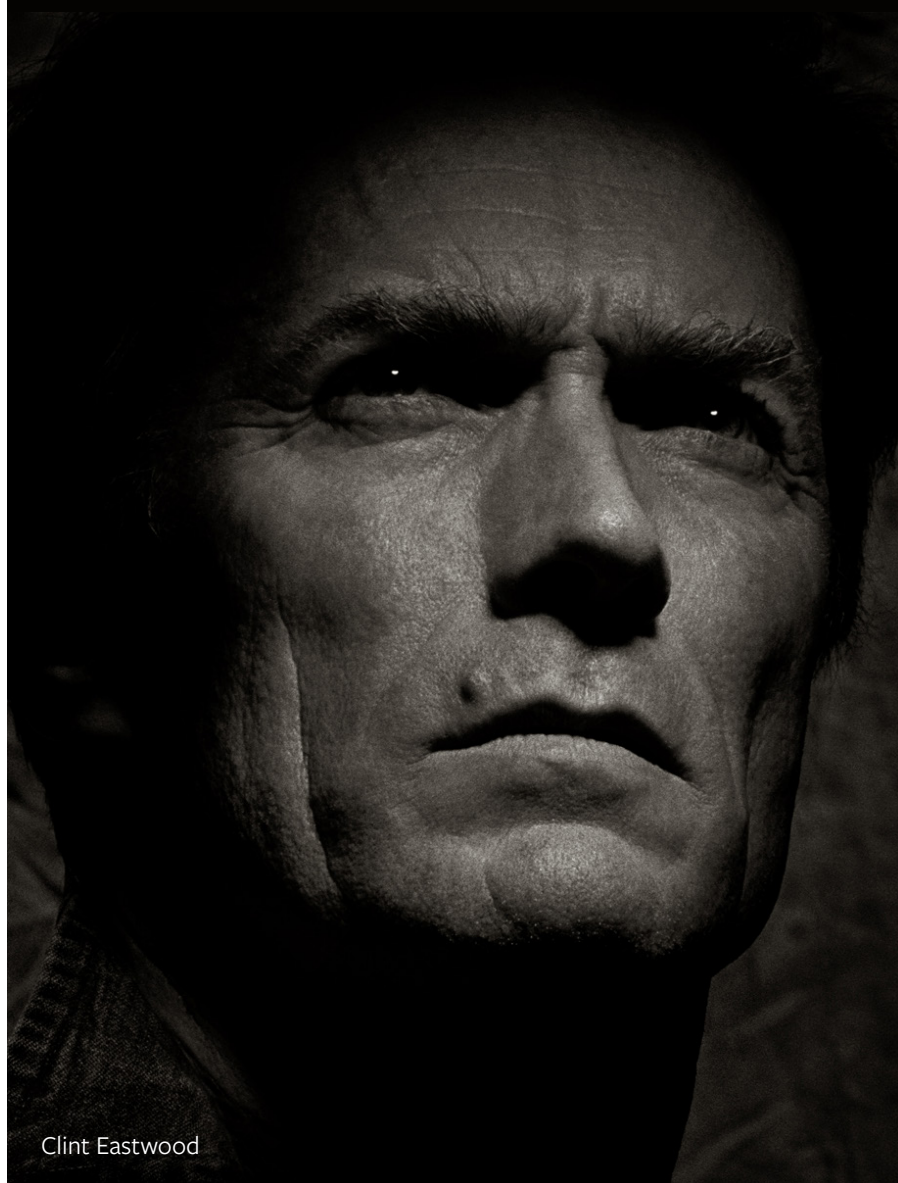
Sean Connery



Christy Turlington



Andy Warhol



Clint Eastwood

I was born in Edinburgh, and grew up just south of there in Penicuik, Midlothian. In school I studied graphic design, film, and television. My interest in the visual arts led me to photography.

As a young man, I was intrigued by Scottish scenery. There was something special about the variables in the light and weather atop the country's raw and rugged landscape that spoke to me.

Later, after moving to America in the early 1970s, I became fascinated with the human form and the landscape of emotion in the eyes and expressions of people.

I have had a very long journey in photography. From the first minute I picked up a camera, I have had that passion and I still have that passion. I have always kept an interest in still life, portraiture, and fashion, and I like to run all these things together.

I have been in New York now for 40 years - working, always doing my own projects, really holding on to all these experiences

from the past, but always looking towards the future. I have had a circuitous journey to photography, but I've learned a lot along the way, and my experiences have had a great influence on how I work now. Perhaps most importantly, I have always followed my curiosity.

Learning photography is like learning to drive a car: the first time you get in a car, you think, I'll never manage this, I am going to kill somebody. I am going to hit a wall, or, even worse, kill myself. And, after a week of lessons, you feel a little bit better about things. Then, in time, you begin to drive almost automatically...once you get over the hurdle of technical things in a car, you have learned to drive it.

Similarly, you learn to drive the camera, really know the camera inside out, study different kinds of lighting and understand what each can give you, and, when you have learned all of that, it opens doors creatively.

Good photographers learn to look inside



David Bowie



Uma Thurman



Sade

their photos. When I was starting out, I'd have a vision in my head of a shot; I just didn't have enough experience to carry it out. But your photography will get better the more you do it. In the beginning, you need to be shooting a hundred pictures a day, just keep shooting, keep shooting and analyzing the picture.

Put it on a wall, stare at it, go to sleep looking at it, and then, when you wake up in the morning, have another look. Then put it in a drawer and pull it out a week later,

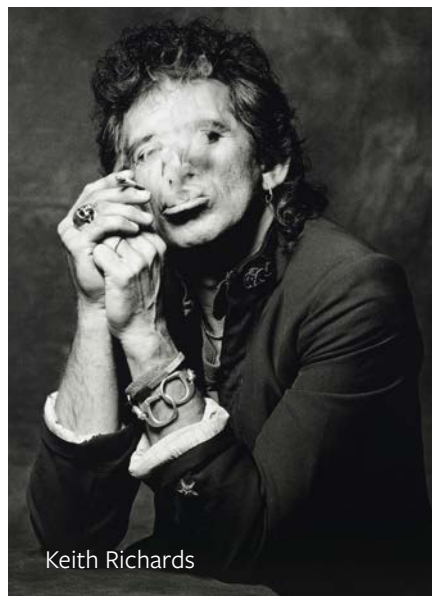
because great photography has to stand the test of time. You should be equally proud of an image you took 20 years ago as of one you took today.

Everything in photography is a delicate balance. You have to work very hard, but if you truly want to be a photographer and you are passionate about it, your passion should absolutely carry you through.

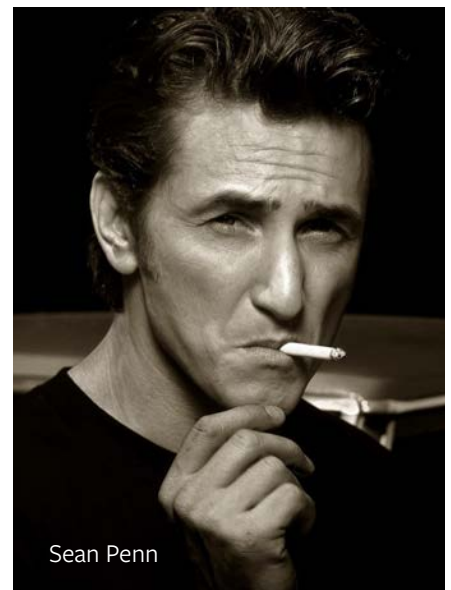
www.albertwatson.net



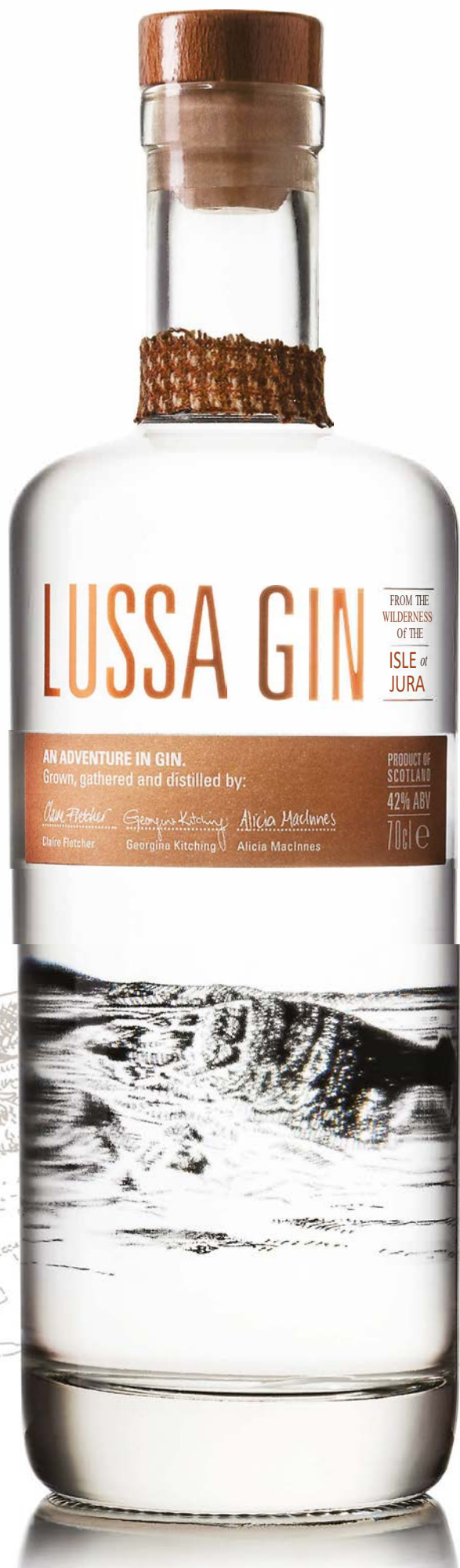
Tupac Shakur



Keith Richards



Sean Penn



LUSSA GIN

FROM THE WILDERNESS OF THE
ISLE *at* **JURA**

Using 15 botanicals grown,
gathered and distilled by 3
women on the Isle of Jura.

Every TotalWine & More
spirits store carries Lussa Gin.



lussagin.com



@lussagin

Crafting Celtic Spirits

Celtic Craft Beer

Whisky and scotch have long been liquid mainstays of Celtic culture. As Caitlyn Elizabeth Mearns explains however, beer is just as important a beverage to ancient and modern Celts as its distilled counterparts. With research from Rebecca Dingwell.





When the ancient Greek writer Herodotus made mention of the ancient Celts “fondness” for the drink he was noting what most of us now know as truth; Celts, past and present, are renowned for enjoying a wee adult beverage now and again. This is, perhaps, more evident today than ever, with many distilleries across the Celtic nations, and around the world, supplying patrons with a selection of savoury spirits - the numbers of which we have never seen before.

However, there is another spirit of sorts that has enjoyed equal historical significance across Europe - specifically, throughout Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man, Bretagne and Galicia.

With a backstory of over 10,000 years, beer is one of the most popular alcoholic drinks in the world today. According to Classical Civilization scholar Dr. Max Nelson - author of *The Barbarians Beverage: A History of Beer in Ancient Europe* - it is the third most consumed drink on planet Earth, surpassed only by water and tea.

Beer’s history in Europe is fascinating, and its relationship to the Celts is especially compelling. Unlike many of their neighbors who considered beer a “low brow” beverage, the Celts treated it with great sophistication. According to the peer-reviewed journal *PLOS One*, beer was often served in beautiful pottery (usually imported from Greece, but often made locally) and enjoyed by men and women alike.

The Celtic connection to beer runs so deep that the Celtic deity Braciaca - considered to be the god or goddess of intoxication - is often referred to as the “Goddess of Beer.”

Scotland’s Secret History

In Scotland, beer has maintained its popularity into the modern era. Sara Robertson, founder of the award-winning company ScotBeer Tours, says that the country has a rich and important history with the beverage.

“At one point in Edinburgh alone there were 288 brewers,” she tells Celtic Life International, adding that each and every one of them were women.



“I don’t think people are so much surprised by the length of Scotland’s history with beer, but the scale of it and the impact it has had - especially on Edinburgh.”

Robertson founded ScotBeer in 2017, after returning to Scotland from Boston where she had enrolled in an entrepreneur course at Babson College.

“I started running tastings. Initially, I just stood outside the door and asked people if they wanted to come taste beer with me. We got a little bit of momentum! People started pre-booking, but they were getting lost trying to find us, so I started meeting them on the Royal Mile. It is about a 15-minute walk, so I was like, ‘I am going to need some stories to tell.’”

She explains that there are several factors that led to the strong presence of beer in Scotland, including environmental science, geography, business and politics.

“The Cannongate of Edinburgh is known as the charmed circle - there is an aquifer, and the water there is perfect for brewing,” she notes, comparing it to the water found in Burton on Trent, which is considered to be some of the best H₂O in the world for brewing. “Not only is there is a huge amount of water, but it has the right chemistry for brewing ales.

“There was also shipping to consider,” she continues. “There is a port, Leith, which used to be a separate city but is now a part of Edinburgh, that can ship to all of Europe. And there is also the trainline, which transports beer to the rest of the U.K. I remember reading that half of the beer consumed in London was brewed in Edinburgh. Without the trainline, you couldn’t have had that.”

These factors, combined with the Acts of Union in 1707, “kick-started” the industry.

Today, Scotland has an amazing array of independent craft brewers, offering up a highly specialized selection of products that match consumers’ ever-evolving palettes.

“There are different ways of being popular,” notes Robertson. “In the mass market, it is still lager and IPA, and that may never shift. But the craft beer world has a unique set of drinkers, and the reactions from people on our tours are quite different. Some react well - if you introduce them properly - to something like sour beer, especially if they aren’t traditionally beer drinkers. It is important to start gently, and



Connie Parry - Tomos Watkins

not go too quickly. Anything with fruit in it, as long as it isn't artificially sweetened, is also quite popular, as are beers that are barrel aged. We also try, whenever possible, to serve Scotch Ale, which is actually more popular in Canada and the U.S. than in Scotland. When those on our tour try it, however, they really like it.

"In the craft beer community, there is always an appetite for all varieties of hops and IPAs, though I also think that barrel aging and sours - and then barrel-aged sours - is where I have seen things stick. Whereas before, people were coming out with only one or two, they are now selling in pretty decent volume."

Not Just Guinness

One Celtic nation whose beer industry needs no introduction is Ireland. Though the likes of Guinness, Murphy's and Smithwick's remain as popular as ever, the craft beer sector has been slowly growing over the last decade.

"I am pretty sure it is about 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent market share these days," says Joe Donnelly, Marketing Manager at Rascal's

Brewing Company in Dublin. "In Ireland's craft beer industry, we are still very much in the stage where craft beer is considered pretentious, inaccessible, and too strong. Ireland is quite monocultural when it comes to beer. But that is literally what people have grown up with and it is very hard to get them to change or even to alter their perceptions. The old guy sitting at the bar ordering Guinness - he won't change that."

Still, Ireland's craft beer industry has developed a loyal and dedicated set of customers.

Rascal's Brewing Company, which was established by husband-and-wife team Emma Delvin and Cathal O'Donoghue in 2014, is just one facility offering up a variety of classic and innovative brews. It is also the only brewery in Dublin selling gourmet pizzas.

"In Ireland, in the past two years, there has been a huge increase in dedication to producing quality beers."

"Breweries are not just chasing the newest trend," continues Donnelly. "We have a hardcore local fan base - and even some clients that are not local - who are enthusiastic about anything we do. People get excited when we bring stuff back. We have one beer that returns every summer - a Strawberry Milkshake IPA.

"People also get excited about barrel aged beers, juicy pale ales and haze pale ales. And they are excited if we do something trendy, or when we do anything really - and I don't mean that in an arrogant way. I just mean that it is great to see that we have a fierce loyalty to beer in this country, almost regardless of the brewery."

Donnelly admits that the future of the beer industry in Ireland remains somewhat unclear, especially with the impact of the

COVID-19 pandemic. However, he believes that accessibility and education will continue to push the industry to grow.

"We need to stop using the term 'craft beer' and start using the term 'local beer' because it is locally brewed beer. We need to capitalize on people's opinions and sentiments, which have changed because of the pandemic, to supporting more local businesses. We are local businesses. We need to make more of a song and dance about how people can support their local breweries by buying a local beer. We need to innovate and experiment with new beer styles, absolutely, but we need to keep in mind that we should exploit gateway styles like lagers. We need to work on changing people's perceptions. Here's the thing: they are already drinking beer, so the hard part is done. So, you just need to reach them and let them know that craft beer is a welcoming thing."

Setting Wales Apart

One of the biggest challenges for Welsh brewers has been setting themselves apart from the rest of Britain. Although robust with its own brewing scene, Wales and its



Russ and Pam Honeyman



beer offerings are often spoken of in the same breath as their English counterparts.

Tomos Watkins Brewing in Swansea and Monty's Brewery in Powys are two Welsh firms honouring Welsh's unique identity and craft beer.

"A sad fact is that the biggest-selling cask ale in Wales is made in England," shares Russ Honeyman, who co-owns Monty's with his wife, Pam. "It is called Butty Bach, so it is a Welsh name, but it is made in England at the Wye Valley Brewery in Herefordshire. We would like to see that change. We want Welsh beers and Welsh products to be available in all pubs in Wales, and to create the awareness that Welsh beers are great beers."

Monty's - established in 2009 - offers a variety of beers, including their popular gluten-free stout, Dark Secret, and their award-winning traditional dark ale, Old Jailhouse. Their most renowned spirit, however, remains the very first that Pam ever brewed.

"Sunshine is still our biggest-selling beer," he says of the floral beverage. "It is totally different from Dark Secret, a stout or a Guinness. It is a golden ale.

"Like many places, there was a revolution in Wales," he continues. "People wanted to try new flavours and new styles. We like to call our beers traditional with a twist. Not the extreme ones with mango and coconut, though there is certainly a place here for those."

Just southwest of Monty's is Tomos Watkins. Acquired by Connie Parry and her late brother in 2002, it is also a family-run brewery offering a distinctive range of Welsh beers.

Parry has been around the beverage industry most of her life - the family-run business, The Hurns Beer Company, now operates as a sister company to Tomos Watkins and supports its distribution.

Like Honeyman, she believes that Welsh beer is both fiercely distinct and important,

in large part due to its history.

"It used to be that, in every village, there would be four of five pubs. People would arrive at lunch time and spend the afternoon there. Beer was the hub of that community. If we look at the history, it goes back to when water wasn't safe to drink. Back in Victorian times, beer was safe to drink because it was pasteurized, and it just became part of our DNA after that."

Tomos Watkin's beer (or, cwrw in Welsh) is vast and traditional, and includes everything from their easy-going blonde ale, Delilah, to their rich OSB (Old Style Bitters). More recently, patrons have been ordering their Bicycle beer, a blonde lager brewed with floral and citrus flavours.

"Customers are a lot more discerning in the beers they try now," notes Parry. "They sample different ABVs and different colours. They are more adventurous.

"The craft revolution has taken over the world. Its emergence got the youngsters drinking beer and experimenting with local brewers."

She is confident about the future of beer in Wales, especially if brewers focus on sustainability and ethical consumption.

"We are in a great and much more interesting place than we have been in years. I believe that low-alcohol products will be popular in the future. Gluten-free will also be extremely important, as well as vegetarian. Provenance is a big thing; people

like to know what is in the products they consume and where they came from."

Beer Beyond

It isn't just Ireland, Scotland and Wales harbouring a deep appreciation for beer. The other Celtic nations - Cornwall, Isle of Man, Bretagne and Galicia - also have strong connections to the beloved drink.

Cornwall has a full and unique line of lagers and ales. One of its leading facilities, the St. Austell Brewery - among the oldest businesses in all of Cornwall - offers a solid selection of beers, including its popular Cornish Best, which is crafted from "British hops, Maris Otter Barley and Cornish spring water."

In 2016, Bretgane's selection of brews was called "eccentric and isolated" by Owen Ogletree of The Beer Connoisseur Magazine, who described Breton culture - and beer - as independent from the rest of France. Ogletree made note of the region's La Brasserie du Bouffay brewery, which was founded in 1998 and continues to serve up an eclectic variety of ambers, blondes, and white beers, along with an interesting rotation of experimental brews.

The smallest of the Celtic nations, the Isle of Man also has a deep love for beer. With a population of just over 85,000, it is home to several breweries that produce high-quality lagers and ales.



Alberte Fernandez Perez

The Spanish province of Galicia has a notable relationship with beer as well, says Alberte Fernandez Perez, founder and head brewer at the popular Galician brewery Menduiña.

“In the past, the ancient dwellers of our land used to drink beer,” he explains. “However, Mediterranean wine culture settled in after the arrival of the Romans. So, beer was relegated as a pagan drink for the uncivilized. Menduiña’s aim is to recover a part of that lost culture.”

Menduiña was established in 2008, when Perez returned home after living in Patagonia, Argentina, where he first discovered his love of craft beer. Located in Rias Baixas, a rural area in northwest Spain, the brewery is described as “a leader in the Galicia craft beer revolution.” As such, Perez is considered a forerunner in the field.

“To be a pioneer in a western land in a corner of Europe with a strong wine tradition means that brewing and opening a craft beer market can be difficult,” he says. “Craft beer was unknown in Galicia in the 2000s. At that time there was a limited access to internet, so it was difficult to find information and to buy ingredients and specific machinery. I had to travel around Europe and North America to learn the trade.”

While the brewery has experienced some challenges due to its out-of-city locale, it continues to be a popular spot in Galicia, partly for its great beer and partly due to its dedication to Celtic and Galician culture.

“I brew with typical ingredients from Galician culture, including bay leaves, smoke, aged oak, elder flowers, and homegrown hops. And the local water is very suitable for brewing. I name my beers after well-known characters in local Galician/Celtic culture, including Santa Compañía (local Banshee), Lobishome (Werewolf), as well as characters out of local history, such as Maria Soliña (accused of being a witch and burned at the stake) or Demo Neghro (black devil). Celtic Galician culture and craft beer culture work well together.”

Perez adds that beer preferences among Galicians have changed quickly over the last two years.

“When the presence of craft beer became unstoppable, bigger companies in the industry began to release new and old styles that they had never brewed and long despised, mainly for its profitability.”

Brewers are now more likely to offer a more varied menu, including red ale, IPAs, stouts, and barley wine.

“Little by little, craft beer, with its various styles is making its way. So now it is easier to find more varieties of beer, as per current trends in North America. As the beer offerings changed, more people tried new things and opened their minds to the broader beer culture. These days there is a real preference for hoppy beers and strong beers.”

In the end, regardless of where it was brewed or what its legacy is - or what style is most popular - beer is an important part of socializing, as it creates community. As such, the most important thing we can do - as brewers, servers, and drinkers - is learn how to talk about beer and recognize the impact it has on our lives.

“We will often ask people to describe it in terms of memories,” says Sara Robertson. “That is how the brain works - it stores memories using place and smell. If you can get people to start picturing a place it just opens everything else up. It always amazes people when their answers are similar - it kind of spooks them and makes them laugh. Beer allows us to connect with one another.”

Six Beer Styles to Try

Stout

If you dislike stouts, it is possible that you simply haven’t found the right one. Think “stout” and you will probably think of Guinness: the traditional dry, Irish-style beer. However, stouts come in many shapes and sizes. The oatmeal stout, for example, is of British origin: and the oatmeal in the brew makes for a smooth drinking experience. Sweet stout, a.k.a cream stout, is basically dessert in a glass, characterized by its malt sweetness and flavours such as chocolate. Imperial stouts (sometimes called Russian imperial stouts) are stronger and heavier than these other styles - not for the faint of heart.

English Bitter

The bitter is something of a misnomer. While it does have a sharp bite in the aftertaste, it is not overwhelming. There are styles out there that are far more bitter. So, what’s with the name? As Mike Reis wrote on the Serious Eats food blog: “Amidst the rising popularity of pale ales in 19th century Britain, thirsty bargoers latched on to the term ‘bitter’ to refer to these hoppy and sharp beers in contrast with the less hoppy milds that were prevalent at the time.” The extra special bitter (ESB) is stronger in alcohol content than standard bitters or best bitters, but at five or six percent, it won’t knock you off your feet. It is malty and reminiscent of caramel and toffee. If you want something on the darker side, but don’t want the super heavy feeling of a stout or porter, this one is for you.

Witbier

The witbier (or white beer) is a type of wheat beer that dates back to the 14th century in Belgium. Although the style died out in 1957, Belgian Pierre Celis brought it back when he made his first batch of Hoegaarden beer in 1966. Characterized by orange peel and coriander, witbier remains popular today, with large corporate breweries such as Molson Coors Canada and Belgian Moon producing plenty to go around. That said, there’s no shortage of craft and microbreweries churning out their own versions. Witbier is simple, but far from boring. The perfect pairing to a sunny day.

Sour

Sours are trendy, but polarizing. Like witbier, sours are said to have originated in Belgium and later fell into obscurity. However, something of a sour renaissance is currently taking place, and you would be hard-pressed to find a brewery that isn’t offering some play on the sour style. Even Alexander Keith’s, known around Canada for its no-frills India Pale Ale, has released a tangy Raspberry Gose. What’s all the fuss about? Well, sours can appeal to beer-drinkers and beer-avoiders alike. In fact, the nature of the brew typically attracts wine fans. They pair well with meals and provide a kick that has nothing to do with hop bitterness.

Scotch Ale (Wee Heavy)

Also known as a “wee heavy” or “strong Scottish ale,” Scotch ale is - well - an ale of Scottish origin. Believed to have popped up in Edinburgh during the 1800s, Scotch ale is less focused on hop flavours, as the malt is more pronounced. “Old Scottish brewhouses would scorch caramelized sugars, which compiled with a low hopping rate made for a very malt-dominant beer, darker and more focused on caramel and toffee notes,” said Alesmith Brewing Co. brewer Anthony Chen, as quoted in Hop Culture last year. Some sources suggest the Scotch ale was Scotland’s answer to England’s barley wine. Both are smooth and heavy in nature.

Irish Red

Like English bitters and Scotch ales, the Irish red has a malt character, highlighting flavours such as caramel and toffee. However, Irish reds tend to feature lower on both the alcohol and bitterness scales. This makes it an approachable pint to sip on during St. Paddy’s Day or any other time of year. Grains such as barley are also often included in the brew, contributing to the dry character of the beer as well as the copper colour. Whether you are in a craft beer state of mind or only have access to large-scale brewers, an Irish red shouldn’t be hard to find. It is a popular style, and if you try it, you will see why.

ARMORIK

Whisky Breton



The Original "Oui" Dram!

Celtic Breton Whisky

ArmoriK Breton Whisky is the first whisky made in France and continues to be the leader with a range of award-winning expressions. Yeun Elez peated (50ppm) Breton Single Malt is their most recent winner.

Heavenly Spirits is a leading US importer of artisanal French Spirits, including: Armagnac, Calvados, Cognac, Single Malt Whisky, Gin, Pastis, Absinthe, Aperitifs, Vermouth, and Specialty Spirits.

Learn more about our products at: www.heavenlyspirits.com



Crafting Celtic Spirits

Celtic Craft Whiskies

Chris Muise explains, Celtic spirits can be both classic and contemporary at once



Scotch whisky has been around for a long time in Scotland. A very, very long time - it can all be traced back to a 15th-century friar making spirits for the king.

“The abridged version - because it goes all the way back to 1494 - is that, in the exchequer rolls, the king’s tax records of that year, there is one line in Latin,” says Drew McKenzie Smith, Founder and Managing Director of Lindores Abbey Distillery, in Fife, Scotland. “Translated, it says, ‘to Friar John Cor, eight bolls of malt wherewith to make aqua vitae for the king.’ Eight bolls of malt was actually quite a significant amount.”



Drew McKenzie Smith

According to McKenzie Smith, Friar John was likely using these bolls of malt in a relatively humble distilling set-up to brew aqua vitae - ‘water of life’ in Latin - the precursor to modern-day whisky.

“There was probably spirit being distilled before that, but it is the earliest record of it,” he shares via Zoom. “To say there was a distillery in Scotland 500 years ago is maybe being...poetic. But there was whisky - or aqua vitae - production here.”

With half a millennium of history behind

it, the image of Scotch whisky today is now cemented in the minds of spirit aficionados the world over. That is both an incredible advantage to the whisky market, but also - especially if you are a new distiller on the loch - something of a hurdle.

Despite its historic connection to Friar John, Lindores Abbey Distillery is actually rather new on the Scotch whisky scene - the distillery only opened its doors in 2017. And, as McKenzie Smith explains, that heritage was vital to getting those doors opened at all.

“I wouldn’t have been able to raise the finance if it hadn’t been for that one little line in the exchequer rolls all those years ago. To be fair, there are lots of new distilleries cropping up all over the place, some of them

with no history. That doesn’t make them bad distilleries, a lot of them will be producing good whisky. But it did make my job easier, the fact that we had this USP - unique selling point. When I went out with the begging bowl, it wasn’t as hard as it might have been. This is quite a substantial investment, as you can imagine.”

A Scotch whisky distillery is indeed a significant venture, perhaps more so than other spirits. That is due in part to the staunch regulations that must be adhered to in order for a product to be designated as “Scotch whisky.” Not only must it be brewed on Scottish land, but the approved ingredients (water, malted barley, and other whole grains) must be fermented only by adding yeast. Perhaps most significantly, it must be allowed to age for a minimum of three years before a single drop can be sold.



Kirsty McKerrrow

“The big issue I had was explaining to people that the whisky business is quite hard,” says McKenzie Smith. “I am trying to say to people, ‘invest in my business, but - by the way - there is huge up-front expenses,





Gary Haggart

As noted earlier, starting up something brand-new can be challenging; it is a tough market to find your niche in - one needs to offer something to help them stand out, while also not rocking the boat too much, according to Lindores Abbey Distillery Manager, Gary Haggart.

"Even though the industry is innovating, there are still a lot of core values cemented in that you have to adhere to; you have to respect what has gone on in the past. It is just three ingredients - yeast, malt, and water. That's it. Are we just doing innovation for innovation's sake? Just to be different?"

"I do think the industry is going to stop trying to reinvent itself all the time and just stabilize. Let's just make good quality whisky."

That said, it's not like there is no room in the industry for innovation, or room to play alongside other spirits, explains Ian McKerrow, Kirsty's brother and the Head of Finance and International Development for the Edinburgh Whisky Academy.

"Within the overall picture, there are parts where there is innovation going on," he elaborates. "I would highlight grain whisky, in particular. Blended malts, I think, is

you can't sell anything for three years and a day,' and you can see people think, 'well that doesn't sound like a great business model you have.'

"With whisky, you have to be looking at the mid-to-long-term."

Truth be told, that is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the knowledge of not just the production, but also the history, one needs to know in order to excel in the Scotch whisky industry. Even Kirsty McKerrow, whose father was once CEO of Glenmorangie, and who attended her first whisky tasting at the tender age of eight, didn't know it all just from osmosis alone.

"I think we might have to reword that to 'whisky-nosing,' otherwise we might get our parents in trouble," she laughs via Zoom with Celtic Life International. "He would line samples up in the dining room and ask us - me, my brother, and my sister - to just go down and nose them. I think it was just a fun way of involving us in whisky."

Despite that early engagement, McKerrow didn't initially join the family business, instead working as a paramedic for 12 years in London, before moving to Sweden. Her paramedic credentials didn't transfer, so she set up tastings, and eventually took up a new career as the Nordic brand ambassador for Glenmorangie. It was during that stint that she realized how hard it was for whisky professionals and enthusiasts to learn all there was to learn about the spirit.

"The more you learn, the more you realize the less you know, and the more you want to learn," she muses. "The production

process, the cask treatment, they are all very key factors in the flavour profile. I wanted to learn more and more about the charring, or reflux, whatever it was. And there was really nothing to teach all that on the market at that time. There was this huge credibility gap for brand ambassadors, serious whisky enthusiasts, people who run whisky clubs, or who wanted to take their passion a bit further."

McKerrow decided to fill that gap herself and launched the Edinburgh Whisky Academy in 2015. Courses range from £25 modules on identifying flavour notes and scent bouquets, all the way up to multi-module, professionally certified diplomas for those wishing to relaunch or open their own distilleries.

"As a brand ambassador, I said, 'this is exactly what I want to know in order to do my job really well.'"



becoming a lot more popular, because that is much more suitable for cocktails. Whisky cocktails are a really good way of introducing people into whisky."

Stewart Dick - a team leader with Tomatin Distillery, a popular whisky TikTok-er, and a graduate of the EWA - echoes the sentiment.

"I make cocktails, and I don't care what whisky 'is.' If I think it is going to add to the flavour, I will add it."

More than just getting crazy with cocktails, Dick believes that the spirits market has plenty of room for more than those who prefer their Scotch the old-fashioned way.

"I am all for going crazy - I like messing about with my whisky," he beams, while adding that the traditional way Scotch is marketed doesn't connect with every demographic. "In terms of what customers are looking for, I think that is relevant. The one bit of baggage that Scotch has is that kind of cobwebby, dusty image. This ain't your granddad's Scotch. That's not what we are selling nowadays."

For one, while it is not technically "Scotch," lots of places outside of Scotland make whisky. Ian McKerrow believes that there is opportunity for those batches to sell themselves not on how similar they are to Scotch, but rather on what makes them different.

"We've got Irish whiskey undergoing a sort of renaissance, and lots of others. Penderyn in Wales is another really good whisky. There is whisky production in England. Taiwan has very good whisky. Japanese whisky has obviously gone through the roof in recent years. From a consumer perspective, you are getting a huge variety."

David Roussier, General Manager of the Armorik Distillery in Brittany, France, says that his company's claim to fame is the unique French botanicals used to make their whisky.

"It was built in Lannion, to produce fruit and plant liquors for local distribution," he explains via email. "We are a certified Breton Single Malt Whisky - it means that the Breton origin makes a difference in terms of water used and climate for maturation. A lot of new distilleries, new whiskies to try, and a lot of potential for Armorik. All this booming activity around whisky forces us to remain innovative and to work hard to stay at the top of French whisky world."

Other spirits, not traditionally associated with Scotch-makers or the Celtic Nations, are also starting to rise in prominence, if mostly for a very pragmatic reason.

"New distilleries in Scotland are starting



to produce gin, because you make gin today, you sell it tomorrow," says Dick. "They've got to get some cash flow in."

As a result, Scottish and Irish gin is becoming another staple spirit of the region. Dick presumes that they will never achieve the same provenance as Scotch, but that also leaves their producers open to being more flexible and experimental with their flavours.

"These guys up at North Point, and I think they are a great example of this as their focus is on producing something unique, something interesting, something full of flavour."

"There is way more experimentation going on. People are more focused on the quality of ingredients, and the quality of what they produce..."

"That is a general thing, and that is true of the whisky industry, as well. That is where I think the spirits industry is going in Scotland."

That is the path Lindores Abbey is carving out as their niche in the market. Rather than looking to the future to see what wild new things can be done to the spirit, they are looking back along the drink's evolutionary tree, and seeing where they can branch off in other directions.

For one, rather than keeping the lights on with gin, they have turned to Friar John's instigating brew and have brought back whisky's distant ancestor, aqua vitae.

"Making a gin would have kept my bank manager very happy," McKenzie Smith says while explaining the decision to make aqua vitae instead. "If we had done a pink gin, that would have made her even happier - but we would have then, I think, sold ourselves short. It is a new make spirit, so it is not a neutral grain spirit. Then it is infused with some plants that grow in the abbey, like

Sweet Sicily. We are selling it as a sort of pre-whisky drink. We did that instead of the gin, and that has paid some of the bills."

They have also partnered with Crafty Maltsters to highlight the very barley that whisky is made from. Together, they have just milled their first batch of organic malt for a new line of organic Scotch.

"Lindores is the closest distillery to us," says Alison Milne, who turned a sixth-generation barley farm into Crafty Maltsters less than two years ago, selling their malt to brewers and distillers with the goal of highlighting the barley as a top-quality ingredient to boast about.

"Whilst we work with brewers and distillers, obviously, we were really keen to establish a relationship with Lindores, because so much of what we do is about the provenance of the barley and the heritage story."

Lindores and Crafty Maltsters are only a few kilometres apart, and Haggart says that highlighting a sustainable production line is another way Scotch is best suited to innovate.

"In the industry, there is a big part to play in sustainability and making sure that we are doing the right thing," he expounds, adding that the barley Milne farms is of an older strain than the high-yield ones that bigger distilleries tend to use today. "So, to keep all that within a fairly small circle, and really close the loop down, is also the right thing to be doing."

The organic route also tastes great, according to Haggart. And that's the one thing on which a good Scotch should never waver.

"It is very sweet, but not a sickly sweet. It is a tropical sweet, which is one of the things we were really looking for. But I don't want to give too much away. People are just going to have to wait and see what comes out of this unique first spirit."



Armorik Distillery



*David Roussier
General Manager*

What is your own background?

After obtaining my diploma from ESSCA business school, I worked for 5 years in financial audit, first in France, then in Geneva. When my father-in-law started thinking about retirement, I joined the distillery and learned everything I needed to know about whisky from scratch. I was greatly helped by the late Dr. Jim Swan and a few trips to Scotland.

What is the company's history and mandate, and how has it evolved over time?

The distillery is 121 years old. It remains independent and family owned. After 2 generations of Warengem ownership, the grandson, Paul-Henri, ran the distillery with Yves Leizour, whose son, Gilles Leizour, took over

in the early eighties, and changed it completely. He believed that a local distillery had a better chance to survive if it produced local products. Thus, he started working with mead and cider brandy. But the idea that revolutionized the distillery was the creation of the 1st French whisky ever. Brittany shares Celtic roots with Scotland and Ireland, and France has always been the biggest export market for Scotch whisky - these were some of the elements that convinced him to launch the 1st French whisky and invest in the 1st whisky distillery in mainland Europe. Now whisky accounts for more than 80% of the business, but traditional, local spirits, like mead, cider brandy, and liquors are still produced.

What are your responsibilities there?

My main responsibility is to define the overall strategy of the distillery - product lines, new products, distribution - and to make sure we have the right persons in the right job.

What are the challenges of the position?

It is a rather lonely job at times; when you have success, it is everyone's success, but the failures - even if you are not directly responsible - are all yours. Right now, in France, there are more and more distilleries - competition is becoming fierce and every decision counts.

What are the rewards?

Our whiskies are very successful, we get a lot

of visitors at the distillery and at the whisky shows a lot of people come and tell us that they are loyal clients which is our best reward.

What are your core products?

Whisky is 80 per cent of our business and Armorik, our Breton single malt whisky, is our primary focus.

How do you reach your potential clients?

Mainly through shows, masterclasses, and tastings, which is getting a little more complicated now, but we do some online masterclasses as well. We also get a lot of visitors at the distillery.

What are your thoughts on the current state of the whisky marketplace?

It looks great - a lot of new distilleries, new whiskies to try, and a lot of potential. All of this booming activity around whisky forces us to remain innovative and to work hard to stay at the top of French whisky world.

What are your future plans for the business?

We are currently planning to open a cooperage, a malting facility, and we will continue to increase our aged stock of whisky to launch older expressions of Armorik. We are also working hard on Fine Bretagne apple brandy, to promote it and to convince people that it is a great spirit.

www.armorik.bzh



WORLD CLASS WHISKIES & SPIRITS

Our award-winning Macaloney's Caledonian is one of a rare breed of 'island' distilleries. Located in Victoria on Vancouver Island, Canada, our pristine and naturally beautiful island instills in our whiskies a unique infusion of island sea air and pure, fresh water.

Scottish whiskymaker
Graeme Macaloney



"Macaloney's Caledonian' Distillery & Twa Dogs Brewery is well worth the visit! A great selection of both whisky and beers, this new distillery/brewery has a great tour which is very informative to both newbies to whisky and seasoned whisky veterans. Tastings are a must!"



— **USE CODE CELTIC-21 FOR A 10% DISCOUNT ON ALL ONLINE PURCHASES** —

TO SHOP ONLINE & FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT **MACALONIAN.COM**

WHERE YOU CAN ALSO LEARN HOW YOU CAN INVEST & RECEIVE DISTILLERY PERKS

Macaloney Distillers

There once was a wee Scottish lad by the name of Graeme Macaloney who found a summer job bottling whisky and fell in love with Uisge Beatha - the “water of life.” He dedicated his heart to finding a way to make whisky for a living.

What is your background?

I am our founder-whisky maker, an ex-pat Scot and Canadian emigree. After a student job with Black & White whisky, I was inspired to study fermentation at Strathclyde and London universities, earning three degrees. After graduating I applied for distilling jobs but was told that I was “overqualified!” So, I worked in fermentation with Pfizer and Eli Lilly instead. From big pharma it was a natural migration into entrepreneurial biotechnology and then into new venture start-ups. At this stage I realized I had the necessary life experience to create a distilling job for myself by building a single malt whisky distillery.

What is the company's history and mandate?

In 2016, my Alberta-born wife Andrea and I started Macaloney's Caledonian Distillery & Twa Dogs Brewery, in Victoria B.C. - one of North America's leading tourist destinations. Having spent some time in England enjoying fine English ales, I was also inspired by the booming craft beer culture to include a brewery with our distillery. Our whisky distillery is now an award-winning single malt and potstill whisky (Irish-style) whisky maker, and our Twa Dogs craft beers use local ingredients, including lavender and west coast seaweed. Our five-star distillery/brewery experiential tours are ranked Top 3 Victoria food and drink experiences on TripAdvisor. We also offer contract distilling to other aspiring whisky distillers.

How has the business evolved over time?

To create world class products, we bring together experienced, world class people, equipment, and raw materials. This includes Master Distiller Mike Nicolson, a third generation distiller who has worked in 18 Scottish distilleries, and Dr. Jim Swan from Scotland as the world-leading whisky maturation researcher. Jim invented the genre of “finished whiskies” (whiskies initially matured in ex-Bourbon casks then transferred to a Sherry, Port, Moscatel, etc., cask for finishing). He also created award-winning whiskies for Kavalan, Taiwan, Taiwan, India. As an avid Highland clan historian, I have traced our Macaloney roots back to 710 AD in Scotland and from there even farther back to the Kingdom of Leinster, Ireland around 500 AD. Later my family left Islay, Scotland for Antrim in Ireland. This inspired me to make both single malt and Irish-style whiskies, and to study Irish whisky making at Midleton, Ireland. I was also inspired to make peat-smoked single malt whiskies, characteristic of Islay. However, being passionate about traditional methods I wanted to smoke local barley at our distillery - only done today by Laphroaig, Kilchoman, and Bowmore. To learn how to peat-smoke barley, I visited my ancestral home of Islay. Then back in Canada I asked my cousin Doug, an Alberta prairie farmer if he could “custom-build” a commercial scale unit capable of smoking 2,000 kg of barley at a time. Within weeks he trailered our state-of-the-art unit over the Rocky Mountains, and on the ferry over to Vancouver Island. When we “fired it up” it was an instant success - wherein the peated barley attained 54 ppm (parts per million) of peat smoke. Big Islay whiskies have 45-55 ppm. Yet, our whisky - with its local barley and local peat (from the Olympic Peninsula in WA) - has a more refined nose with tropical fruit and a hint of sea breeze characteristic of an “island distillery.” Then, when we submitted this peated newmake to the industry's most competitive World Whiskies Awards



(WWA) in London, U.K., it took “World Best” in 2020. All of our whiskies - whether classic single malt, peated single malt, or triple-distilled potstill - have won world awards, including several “Canadian Best.” Our Twa Dogs craft beers are also a great product beloved by locals who have made our beer garden and tap room with its 10 craft beers on tap a huge success. We have also innovated as the first distillery in Canada to offer crowdfunding whereby everyday Canadians can become a “Founder-Owner” and enjoy a range of ownership perks. This is being opened to Americans and the British as well. Along with a potential financial return on investment, this gives discounts on products, early-bird notice of new products and exclusives on limited products, branded “owners” merchandise, unlimited free tours for friends & family, free access to a three-day, hands-on Caley Academy of brewing and distilling, etc.

What are your roles and responsibilities?

Whisky maker, purveyor of Scottish and Irish culture, and quality control.

What are the challenges of the job?

Getting the word out that we have world-class whiskies and tours, great local craft beers using local ingredients.

What are the rewards?

Customers looking for our beers, whiskies, and tours with enthusiastic expectation and leaving with big smiles.

How do you differ from the competition?

We are a combined brewery/distillery, and we celebrate our Scottish Irish heritage, including kilted staff, award-winning whiskies, and five-star tour experiences.

What are your future plans for the business?

Keep reaching out to folks to let them know we have world-leading whiskies and experiential tours in beautiful Victoria, Vancouver Island.

www.mcaledonian.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!

Introducing 'The Whisky Trail', a
new line of independent bottlings
with fun and eye-catching labels!



kensingtonwinemarket.com
@KensingtonWM

We're a big name in Quality Haggis

ESTABLISHED IN 1920 & STILL USING
THE OLD FAMILY RECIPE



US Distributor: CAMWRAP of Mobile, AL.
FOR INFORMATION ON A STOCKIST NEAR YOU
AND FOR ALL TRADE ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

1-251-405-0032

info@camwrap.net



STAHLY'S SCOTTISH AND VEGETARIAN HAGGIS IS DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE USA BY CAMWRAP BRITISH IMPORTS OF MOBILE, ALABAMA. TO VIEW A BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED TRIBUTE TO THE VERSATILITY OF HAGGIS, CAMWRAP RECOMMENDS THE STAHLY HAGGIS RECIPE BOOK AVAILABLE AS A FREE DOWNLOAD AT WWW.THEHAGGIS.COM



Crafting Whiskies

with Andrew Ferguson

The global whisky industry has been on a tear for the last two decades. This is one of the longest sustained periods of growth the sector has ever seen. A number of distilleries that had closed and mothballed in the 1980s and 1990s have reopened. Other established players have seen considerable investment and expansion. While it isn't the first major boom experienced by the industry, it is unprecedented in one key respect - it has seen thousands of new distilleries open all over the world.

Some of these new distilleries are large and ambitious, built with the goal of serving a growing global market. The majority, however, are small craft distilleries, built with more modest and often local aspirations. Canadian whisky expert Davin de Kergommeaux's 2020 book *The Definitive Guide to Canadian Distilleries* lists no fewer than 200 Canadian distilleries, up from barely a dozen a decade ago. It would be impossible to do all of them - let alone all craft distilleries in the Celtic world - justice in just one page. So, instead, I am going to highlight a few of my favourites, all of which have bottled whisky of at least three years of age.

Scotland has at least 130 active distilleries, up from around 100 about a decade ago. This number may not seem that impressive by comparison to the more than 200 distilleries in Canada and 1800 in the US. But keep in mind Scotland is a small nation, with less than 5.5 million people, and its landmass is roughly 1/8 the size of the province of Alberta. The Scotch whisky industry is also the most established and global of all, and consumers expect maturity and value.

One of the most unique distilleries to open in Scotland over the last two decades is the Dornoch Distillery in Sutherland. It was founded in 2016 by Phil & Simon Thompson, who run the Dornoch Whisky Castle Hotel along with their parents. The hotel was already a destination for its excellent whisky bar before the brothers decided to build a distillery in a 47-square meter, 135-year-old former fire station. The facility only produces 30,000 liters a year (for comparison: Glenlivet can produce 21 million L annually), roughly half of which is laid down as whisky. Gin production has helped to get the company's name out there and help finance the laying down of whisky. Their first single malts, both three year olds, were released by the distillery late in 2020.

Ireland, including the Republic and Northern Ireland, has close to 40 active distilleries, which is an enormous improvement considering there were only three in operation prior to 2007.

It may come as a surprise to many that, until recently, most Irish whiskey brands were produced by one distillery.

Thankfully that is changing in the country with the best historical claim to have invented whiskey.

One of my favourites from the new crop in Ireland is Dingle Distillery, founded in 2012. The distillery was a natural offshoot from one of Eire's first and most successful

craft brewers, Porterhouse Brewing Company. If they could take on Irish brewing industry heavyweights like Guinness, surely, they could muscle their way into the Irish whiskey industry, which had just three distilleries at the time. Like a lot of craft distilleries, their whiskey making was financed at least in part through the production of other spirits. And it didn't hurt that they own their own network of pubs to drive sales. Dingle Gin became the best-selling Gin in Ireland in just five short years. Their first single malt whiskey was released in December of 2015, and since then their whiskies have found their way to a number of markets around the world.

One of my favourite Canadian craft distilleries is Dubh Glass (pronounced Douglas) in Oliver, BC. The distillery was built by the passion, blood, sweat and tears of owner and master distiller Grant Stevely. Stevely, as he is affectionately known, is a former ski patrolter who dabbled in distilling while working for the Sunshine Village ski resort in Alberta. Founded in 2015, in the heart of BC's Wine Country, the distillery has been releasing small amounts of whisky - mostly single casks - since 2019. The production is small, so the whiskies are primarily sold directly by the distillery and tend to sell out quickly. I have been very impressed with their early releases, and I also count myself a fan of their Noteworthy Gin. It is in my opinion one of the best craft gins made in Canada - and there is no shortage to choose from!

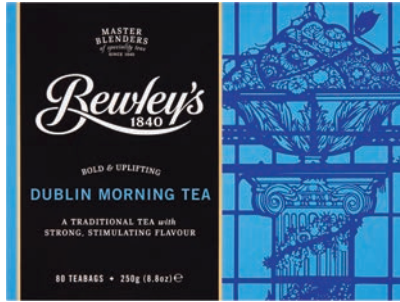
www.kensingtonwinemarket.com

Bewley IRISH IMPORTS

With a mix of internationally recognized Irish brands, Bewley Irish Imports brings the tastes of Ireland to America.

Bewley's
1840

Made in Dublin



filligans



Made in Donegal

Hogan's
product of Ireland

Made in Dublin



Free Shipping
on Orders
Over \$50
to the
Continental
United States

BONUS!
UPON
CHECKOUT,
WRITE IN THE
ORDER NOTES
THE COUNTY IN
IRELAND THAT
YOU'D LIKE TO
VISIT AND GET
A FREE GIFT!

FOLLÁIN

Made in Cork



Teas, coffees, cookies, sea salts, bread mixes, mustards... plus curds, jams, honeys... and a whole bunch more!

ORIEL



Made in Louth



Made in Westmeath



BewleyUSARetail.com



THE CELTIC CHEF
with Gary Maclean

Glasgow Macaroon

This is a delightful little delicacy that was invented by a baker in Glasgow during the 1930s. It is one of those sweets that I loved as a kid, however if I had known that one of the main ingredients was leftover mashed potatoes, I am not sure I would have taken to it so readily. I made macaroon for the first time about 20 years ago with my son Cameron, as he decided at the age of five that he would support his school and set up a sweetie stall at the school fair. I have been making it ever since, and it has graced the tables of the great and the good all around the world as a petit four.

Ingredients

600g (4 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups) icing (powdered) sugar

60g (2 oz) mashed potato

120g (4 oz) quality dark or milk chocolate, melted

125g (1 cup) desiccated coconut, toasted and cooled

Instructions

Your first task is to make the fondant for the macaroon, to do this put the mashed potato into a mixer or food processor. Next, add $\frac{3}{4}$ of the icing sugar and slowly mix. Gradually add the icing sugar until there is a dough-type consistency. You might need more sugar, as it all depends on how wet the potato is. Meanwhile, melt the chocolate in a bowl over a pan of hot water. Toast the coconut under a medium grill. Once the fondant is ready it should be a pastry-type consistency and should be easy to roll out. Once it has been rolled out cut into bars or whatever shape is preferable. I tend not to dip the cut shapes into the chocolate. Instead, I use a pastry brush and carefully coat the fondant with the chocolate, and I try and keep the chocolate to a minimum as it can overtake the other ingredients. Next, coat the pieces of fondant and drop them into the cooled toasted coconut. Allow the bars to air dry on a cooling rack and, once the chocolate has set, store in a lidded container.

Slàinte! Gary
www.garymacchef.com



The Winter Wives

By Linden MacIntyre
Penguin Random House
344 pp / \$34.95

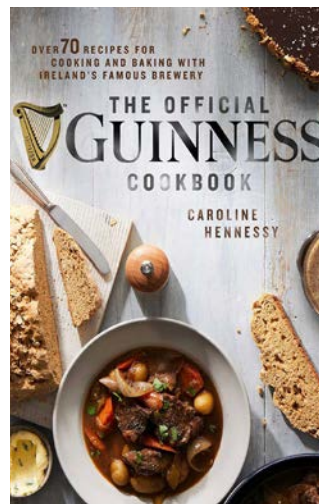
Cape Breton scribe Linden MacIntyre made a name for himself with his keen insight into the inner workings of people, both as a longtime journalist with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and as an author (*The Bishop's Man*, *Why Men Lie*, *The Wake*). With *The Winter Wives*, the writer tells the tale of two men - Allan and Byron - and their fragile, almost fractured psyches. What begins as an evening of drinking soon dissolves into a diatribe of deceit, regret, betrayal, and love lost, as the longtime friends disclose their deepest and darkest secrets to one another. The result is a psychological drama, with hints of homespun humour, that highlights the masterful artistry of a literary lion at the very top of his game. ~ SPC

Annan Through the Pandemic:

2020-2021

By Tom Langlands
Blurb / 104 pp / \$185

Award-winning Scottish photojournalist - and longtime Celtic Life International contributor - Tom Langlands made the most of a difficult situation over the last 18 months by cruising the streets of his hometown to capture and convey daily life during lockdown. His time and efforts were well spent, as the end result is a stirring series of intimate and insightful black and white images whose whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Engaging, entertaining and educational, this stunning selection showcases the experienced eye that is required to both take individual photographs and then weave them into a broad and bold narrative tapestry. More than a cool collection of portraits however, the book succeeds at unmasking the indomitable spirit of a place and its people. ~ SPC



The Official Guinness Cookbook

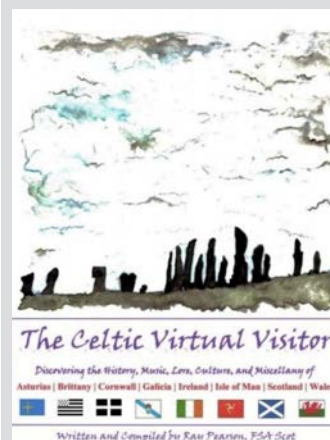
By Caroline Hennessey
Insight Editions
144 pp / \$29.99

One of the many perks of my position is receiving advanced reading copies of soon-to-be-released books. And though this title was sent to me as a PDF review copy, it still leapt off the screen - making me both hungry and thirsty at once. Hats off to Irish travel/food writer and broadcaster Caroline Hennessey for compiling a comprehensive collection of Guinness-inspired guidelines that will surely arouse appetites around the world. Along with more than 70 mouthwatering recipes - "delicious dishes for every occasion, from hearty soups and stews to showstopping desserts" - the tabletop tome includes colourful photos, tidbits of trivia, and a virtual visit of the legendary Dublin brewery. Suffice to say that I can't wait to dig my teeth into the hardcover edition. ~ SPC

The Celtic Virtual Visitor

By Ray Pearson
Self-published
40 pp / \$12.50

I love quirky little books, especially those that are self-made as they will often showcase the love and effort that went into producing them. Credit Scottish American author Ray Pearson - a man of much experience and many talents - for piecing together this fascinating foray into the Celtic world. Covering the realms of history, heritage, culture, mythology, geography, nature, spirits, and more - and featuring fun facts, oddities, colour images, colourful observations and opinions - *The Celtic Virtual Visitor* is a great gateway into the world of our ancestors for both newbies and seasoned scholars. As such, readers of all ages and backgrounds will enjoy discovering all corners of the Celtic nations. Hopefully this marks the first work in a labour of love series. ~ SPC





Inhaler

It Won't Always Be Like This

There has been a lot of hype surrounding the first full-length release from Dublin quartet Inhaler. Thankfully, that excitement is more than merited, as the 11-song album delivers a post-power-pop punch of “all killer, no filler.” A sonic swirl of style and substance, *It Won't Always Be Like This* showcases a songwriting brilliance that hasn't been seen or heard since the early days of U2. Fitting, perhaps, as lead vocalist Elijah Hewson is the son of U2's formidable front man Bono. Dad took a hands-off approach however, and the result is a recording that both pays tribute to - and builds upon - the city's rich rock roots. And though the apple may never fall too far from the tree, just don't call them U22. ~ SPC

Feralman

Chapters 35-43

While the musical marketplace may be flooded with folksy singer/songwriter types these days - everyone with a guitar and a home studio seems to have hunkered down creatively during the COVID-19 pandemic - a number of diamond-in-the-rough recordings have emerged from lockdown. Welsh/Australian troubadour Feralman has teed up ten terrific tracks that weave and wind their way through themes of love, loss, liberation, and redemption. Honest and heartfelt, *Chapters 35-43* pays homage to the minstrel's artistic ancestors - Ben Harper, Hozier, Damien Rice, Luka Bloom - all the while establishing him as a distinct and unique voice on the Celtic musical landscape, and reminding listeners that, despite the deluge of aural options on Spotify and other streaming sites, there is always space for soulful sounds. ~ SPC



Celtic Colours Live - Volume Eight

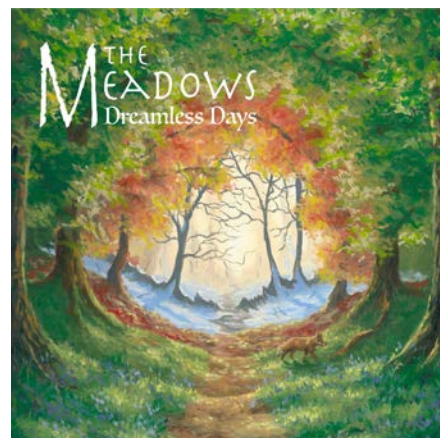
Various

Every year the good folks at Celtic Colours International Festival send me a review copy of their latest anthology and every year I am impressed with the performances, choice of material, and production quality - even more so this year, given the challenging circumstances of the past while. Featuring an array of artists from across the globe, including Nuala Kennedy, Vishten, Troy and Kendra MacGillivray, Andrea Beaton, Mec Lir, J.P. Cormier, the Barra MacNeils, and many more, this solid selection of 14 songs highlights the diversity of Celtic music. Listeners, both young and old, will love the musical mélange of jigs, reels, and ballads - the sure soundtrack of a people, a place, a time, and a culture, that is at a creatively spectacular crossroad. ~ SPC

The Meadows

Dreamless Days

Music remains a family affair for Celtic Folk crossover artists The Meadows. The four brethren from South West Wales - Melody, Fantasia, Harvey, and Titania Meadows - each bring their individual voices to the 11 traditional tunes on *Dreamless Days*. Lush and lilting vocals lay atop a gentle bed of flutes, piano, violins, guitars, whistles, recorders, bodhrán, and the ocarina, and listeners are likely to be swept off to distant lands of long-ago. Highlights here include Castell Dryslwyn, Merlin's Oak, Gelli Aur, and the title track - a haunting ballad that showcases both beautiful melodies and homespun harmonies. Although family bands aren't unusual on the musical landscape (Bee Gees, Gallaghers, Jacksons, Osmonds, Partridges, etc) there are clearly some sonic siblings that get along better than others. ~ SPC



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

Chloe Steele

Piper Chloe Steele preserves the past



The Outer Hebrides are a series of islands off the west coast of Scotland. Many of these isles are the last bastions of daily spoken - and sung - Gaelic in the country. South Uist, the second largest of these isles, is one example of where the preservation of that heritage is most pronounced.

It was amidst that milieu that piper Chloe Steele percolated, brewing a passion for the traditional sounds of her homeland.

"I have been piping my whole life," she shares via email. "I started when I was eight years old. Piping has always been a huge part of life here, whether you play or not. The instrument remains a large piece of people's lives. I believe that being surrounded by that tradition since a very young age encouraged me to try it myself."

Even the pipes she plays today are part of long-standing local customs.

"I discovered that my great great grandfather was a Pipe Major during the First World War. My papa was given his set of pipes after he passed, and I am now the proud owner of them today. They are an old set of Hendersons - the date they were made hasn't been confirmed, but it is thought that they go back to the late 1800s/early 1900s. They are very special to me."

Many modern pipers like to experiment and push the boundaries of what can be done with the instrument. Steele, however, is a steadfast traditionalist, believing that

passing those old-school sounds and style along to future generations is a cultural responsibility.

"I am most definitely a traditional piper - that is what I learned, and it is the style I most enjoy playing and listening to. I also think my Granny would have a heart attack if I came out with some modern repertoire on the pipes!

"I have been working hard in the community over the last few years promoting our local culture, to help inspire the younger generation," she continues. "One example of this is an event I set up five years ago called Kildonan Cèilidhs. I will do everything in my power to ensure that the young people on our islands are encouraged to learn and play traditional music. It is crucial for the survival of our culture and island lifestyle.

"Things change so quickly in today's society, so it is sometimes challenging for these special traditions to remain a priority in people's everyday lives."

Between launching her first CD in 2018, teaching and playing in Asturias, Spain, and visiting a school for blind and deaf children in Romania to play traditional music, Steele has had plenty of career highlights.

"There have been so many rewards, it would be hard to write about every one of

them. However, something I really enjoy is teaching and seeing the progression of my pupils. That is very rewarding indeed."

Steele isn't just a musician, though - in her effort to preserve her South Uistian culture, she's also dabbled in filmmaking with her 2019 documentary *Bann nam Baghsadal*. Filmed mostly in Gaelic with English subtitles, the work examines the close connections between South Uist, and the Cape Breton region of Nova Scotia. Cape Breton is another hub of spoken Gaelic, in no small part due to concerted efforts in recent years to revive and maintain the tongue. She travelled to Cape Breton herself and filmed while also playing across the island for the annual KitchenFest celebration. The documentary can be seen in its entirety on her YouTube page.

While preserving a traditional island culture can be hard and tireless work, Steele's calendar is currently pretty open, taking nothing for granted, given the past year and a half.

"I haven't got much planned this year, other than playing at a few weddings and continuing teaching the youth on the island. With the added uncertainty of COVID-19, no one can really plan ahead. However, I am hoping to record another album very soon."

www.chloesteelemusic.com

GREATER MONCTON HIGHLAND GAMES & SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

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



Financé par le
gouvernement
du Canada

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada



WWW.MONCTONHIGHLANDGAMES.COM



Colin MacLeod

Fiddler Colin MacLeod carries the torch of tradition

Colin MacLeod was born and raised in Scotland, a home he has recently returned to. In between, he's trod quite a lot of sod, especially in the land down under.

"I regularly perform and teach - both in person and online - across five continents, including Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, and Australia," MacLeod shares via email exchange with Celtic Life International. "Between 2000 and 2015, I taught Celtic fiddle workshops and performed at different Celtic festivals around Australia, playing with different bands like Talisk, and also joining in the odd gig with the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club."

MacLeod, who has been playing the Celtic fiddle for 40 years now, was also the Executive Director for the Launceston Youth & Community String Orchestra Summer Camps in Tasmania, has taken his tunes on a philanthropic excursion to Sumatra to play for elephants, and has even strummed at the top of the world.

"Whilst on another philanthropic trip with Sacred Journeys Nepal in 2017, I played fiddle over the top of Mt. Everest in a plane at 33,000 feet to celebrate the birthday of someone who was on the trip. We applied to the Guinness Book of Records for taking Celtic fiddle playing to new, inspirational heights. The committee wrote back that the definition of the world record applied for was too narrow. Admittedly, the committee was right."

MacLeod's globetrotting has brought him in touch with countless cultures across the world, and he is always excited to see Celtic heritage thriving in many unlikely locales.

"It was also really enjoyable to learn some of the local music and see how much music is part of different cultures everywhere. When I was travelling and living in Australia and the US, the social glue of Celtic music sessions, Highland games, Celtic festivals, and other events really stands out.



"These oases of connection help to both preserve and promote our culture."

MacLeod continues to play his part in that process by doing what he knows best - teaching Celtic fiddle. And, amazingly, rather than closing down during COVID-19, he actually managed to open up a new platform to do that amidst lockdown.

"I officially launched an online Celtic fiddle school during the coronavirus pandemic, and it has been gratifying, seeing how much of a difference playing Celtic fiddle music by ear can make in people's lives," he beams, assured that young people today are still very much interested in the instrument. "It is a case of the student being able to hear a sample of fiddle playing, perhaps the playing of tunes which are both inspiring to learn and fun to play. The more fiddle teachers there are, and the more that they teach and perform, the greater the chance young people will have of gaining some exposure to playing or listening to fiddle music."

He ponders the broader preservation of Celtic culture.

"I think it depends which part of the world you are in, and people also having an interest in finding out more about their Celtic heritage.

"It would help if students had the option to sample fiddle playing at school, at home, or places of further education. We could also do more with social media, teaching more students about the art of storytelling and its place in culture, and how this has translated to the present day.

"The return of touring for musicians and artists would also do wonders; a more extroverted approach to tourism, more online events to raise the awareness of the Celtic culture, and its influence on people's lives."

MacLeod is committed to growing his online courses, but he is also optimistically looking forward to globetrotting again in 2022.

"As said by Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet and lyricist, 'the best laid plans of mice and men are there to be refined.'"

www.celticfiddleguru.com

KIDS are
FREE*

OKANAGAN



MILITARY TATTOO



July 23 & 24, 2022

Kal Tire Place | Vernon, BC Canada

Tickets available at
ticketseller.ca
1.866.311.1011

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

Canada

 **BRITISH
COLUMBIA**
Supported by the Province of British Columbia

 **TOURISM
vernon**

okanagantattoo.ca    



There is no mistaking Caitlin Crockard's love of Irish dance. The Canadian-born dance teacher - who is of Northern Irish and German descent - has participated in the art-form since she was 11 years old.

"I was actually considered a late starter at the time," she tells Celtic Life International via email. "My friend Nuala - whose father was from Ireland - started Irish dancing. I had no idea what it was, but I think my parents asked me if I wanted to try it because I wouldn't stop putting on made-up dance performances in the backyard. This gave me a structured outlet. My friend didn't keep dancing for very long - but I sure did!"

Crockard continued to pursue her vocation throughout her teenage years, picking up Ottawa Valley-style step dancing in her 20s and Highland dance in her 30s.

"I started just on a lark, really. But I loved it immediately - the quick-footed and complex steps, and the balance between lighter soft shoe moves and the rhythm of hard shoe.

"These days, I love digging deeper - finding the connections between different Celtic dance forms, playing around with style, and still honoring tradition by learning more and more about where the steps came from and how they evolved. I no longer dance in the rigid, athletic competitive style of any of the dance forms I study - I just can't train my body in that way anymore as my knees feel the literal impact of all those years of jumping around. I am not as sharp as I used to be, and my style has changed. As a result, I have adapted to a looser form that is actually more traditional in some ways - closer to, say, the sean nos style of Irish dance than the contemporary style."

Although now retired from competitive dance, the 42-year-old continues to work as both an Irish dance teacher and choreographer with her company, the Celtic Cross Dancers.

"I started teaching like I started dancing - on a lark. A local teacher of a dance class stepped down, and I thought, 'I could do that.' And over the past 15 years or so, I learned a lot about teaching and how to adapt and grow with my students. I get immense pride from watching a little four-year-old finally get her first steps, or a teenager I have coached place at a competition, or an adult beginner finally start to get the rhythm of their first hard shoe dance.

"I love Celtic culture so much and I love sharing it."

"And more than that, I feel a responsibility to make sure Irish dance is taught safely. It has become more athletic over the years, and teachers in the past have had little fitness or injury-prevention training. I am happy to say that is slowly changing, and I have made it a priority to make sure I teach both effectively and safely - if only to prevent one person from ending up with wrecked knees like mine!"

The Celtic Cross Dancers - which welcomes a variety of students - blends Crockard's three disciplines of dance, what she calls the "Celtic trifecta."

And while she has many highlights from her competitive career, the work that she has done with her students remains her most cherished.

"We have had some unique gigs, including being a part of NYC's Tartan Day parade,

participating in the first-ever NYC Tattoo under the direction of world Highland champion Rachel McLagan, performing for the Queen at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, dancing for runners at Perth's Kilt Run, and many more."

Crockard has little fear about the future of Irish and Highland dance, noting the high volume of children who join her classes.

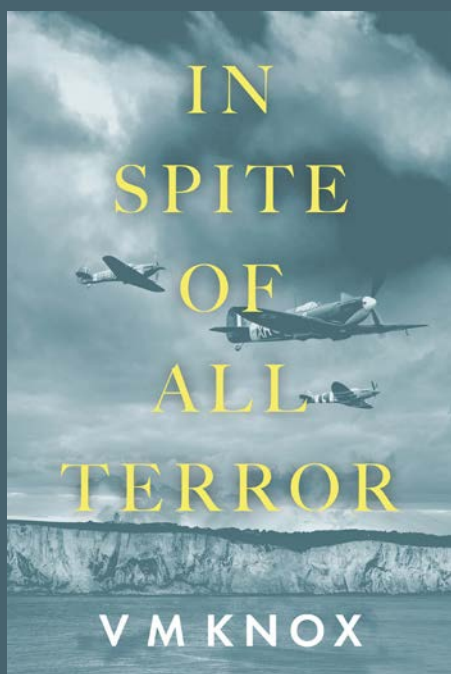
"We never seem to have a shortage of kids. The popularity of Celtic culture generally does seem to ebb and flow, but never dips too low to be forgotten. I think in a country like Canada, in particular - where many people are from somewhere else - there is always a keen interest in other cultures, including Celtic culture. And there are a lot of young musicians and dancers doing very exciting things these days on TikTok, Instagram, and other forms of social media. So, it is being shared more broadly."

With the uncertainty of COVID-19 still looming in Canada, Crockard admits that she is unsure what the next several months will hold.

"I am just hoping to actually start dance again. Things are slowly opening up where I am, in Ontario, and we will shortly be allowed to gather together in a dance studio again. I can't wait to see my students and co-performers in person. We have all got to brush up on our technique, get back in shape, and then look forward to the resumption of regular performances. The pandemic has made me realize just how important dance is a part of my life. It is like returning to meet an old friend."

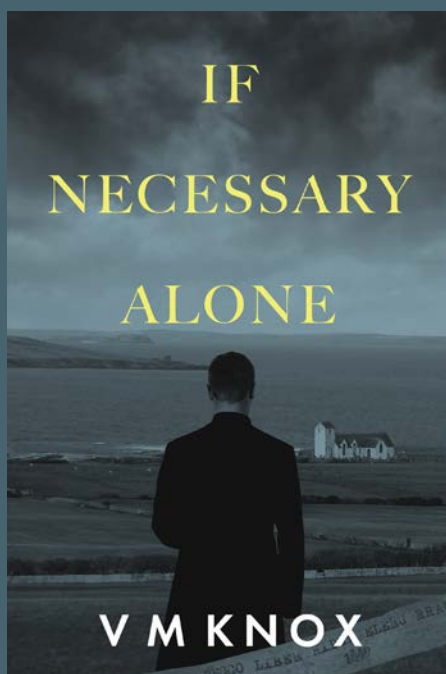
www.celticcrossdancers.com

Intrigue, Murder, Conspiracy *and* Embedded Nazi Spies



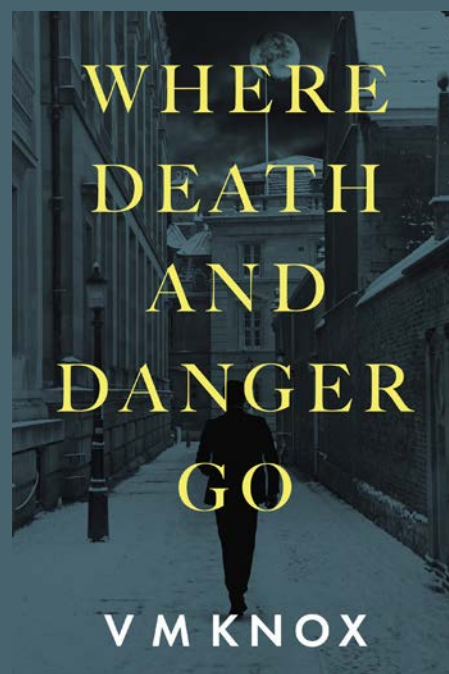
Book 1

In Spite of All Terror is the first in a series of WWII crime thrillers. Set in September 1940, when Britain stood alone against an imminent Nazi invasion, Reverend Clement Wisdom and other men from the restricted occupations, join the covert Auxiliary Units. Based in East Sussex, these ordinary men by day must become saboteurs and assassins by night. Following the murders of several of Clement's team, he becomes embroiled in the murky world of espionage where things are never what they seem.



Book 2

If Necessary Alone is the second thriller in this World War II crime series. Clement Wisdom, now a Major in Special Duties Branch, Secret Intelligence Service, is sent to remote Caithness to investigate illicit encrypted radio transmissions. As soon as he arrives there, an out-station wireless operator is found brutally murdered and Clement becomes entangled in a web of death and silence. Alone, and in the bitter Scottish winter, Clement must stay one step ahead of a killer if he is to remain alive.



Book 3

Where Death and Danger Go is set in the dark days of 1941. Britain fights on alone. Invasion and fear hang in the air. On a winter's night, a German spy parachutes into Cambridgeshire as another man is murdered nearby. Is he another enemy spy or has he been sent to his death? Either way, a killer lurks. Major Clement Wisdom of the SIS is sent to investigate and discovers a web of conspiracy where kidnap, murder and revenge threaten his life and the safety of the nation.

All three titles available from online book sellers, Barnes and Noble, and independent book shops. Audiobook also available through Author's Direct, Chirp, Scribd, Kobo, Apple Books & Google

Book 4 in the series coming soon.

Celtic Books from Nova Scotia

Best-sellers & new titles for Autumn 2021



IAIN of New Scotland

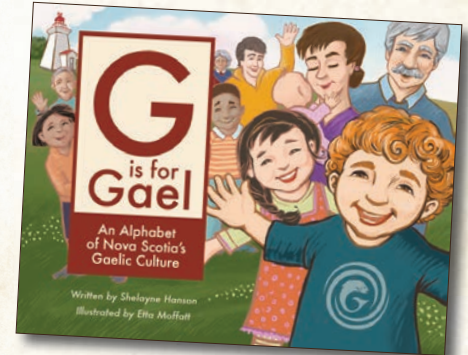
with a
foreword by
Diana Gabaldon,
author of the
Outlander series

Thirteen-year-old Iain is homesick for the Highlands of Scotland. It's 1773, and he has just arrived in Nova Scotia with his parents and little sister after the long, disastrous, Atlantic voyage of the ship *Hector*. They wanted a new life in New Scotland, but the land agent lied to them. With no money, no food, no shelter, no tools, and winter fast approaching, how will they survive? Author Margaret MacKay of Pictou County, Nova Scotia, draws on the experiences of her ancestors to weave this tale of the Gaels. Perfect for Grades 6 and up—and for historical fiction fans of all ages! *Paperback, 194 pp., 5.25 x 8 in. Available September 2021.*



◀ Luran had a good farm, but the fairies kept stealing his cows. Until one day, he met a mermaid... Cape Breton tradition bearer Mickey MacNeil tells his favourite tale, *Luran and the Mermaid*, in the original Gaelic or in English translation.

A is for ancestor, B is for blackhouse, and G is for Gael! Joyful illustrations and creative concepts tell the story of Nova Scotia's Gaels past and present in this alphabet book.



▶ The Tattoo Handbook series features real-life examples of tattoos gone wrong, and accurate words and phrases in Scottish Gaelic, Irish, or Welsh for tattoos, crafts, and inscriptions.

New Gaelic graphic novels from Nova Scotian authors, and more!



bradan
press



Order at bradanpress.com

CALL: 843.480.4476



SOCIAL MEDIA



SEO



MONTHLY MARKETING



MARKETING PLANS



GRAPHIC DESIGN



BRANDING



APP DEVELOPMENT



WEB DESIGN

The measurement of our success is your success.

What does that mean? Results.

The best way to prove that what we do is working is to look at the results we're producing for your business.

We don't measure success in our revenue or sales. We measure it based on your revenue, your sales, and the happiness you feel when your business is working for you instead of the other way around.

Full-Service Marketing Company

- Web Design, Graphic Design, Social Media, Mobile Apps, & Search Engine Optimization -

WWW.STINGRAYBRANDING.COM

INFO@STINGRAYBRANDING.COM

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

ASFevents
americanscottish
ASFevents
#ASFevents
#ScotsInUSA

**AMERICAN-SCOTTISH
FOUNDATION®**
www.americanscottishfoundation.org

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

Celtic Jewelry with an Ancient Story



sales@TheCelticJewelryStudio.com

Shop us at
www.TCJS.shop
or
TheCelticJewelryStudio.com



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

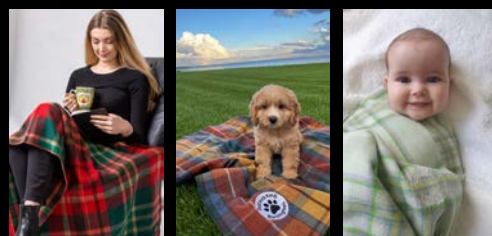


Looking for a Unique Products ?
Best Customer Service.
20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

GET 15% DISCOUNT

www.bagpipers.eu

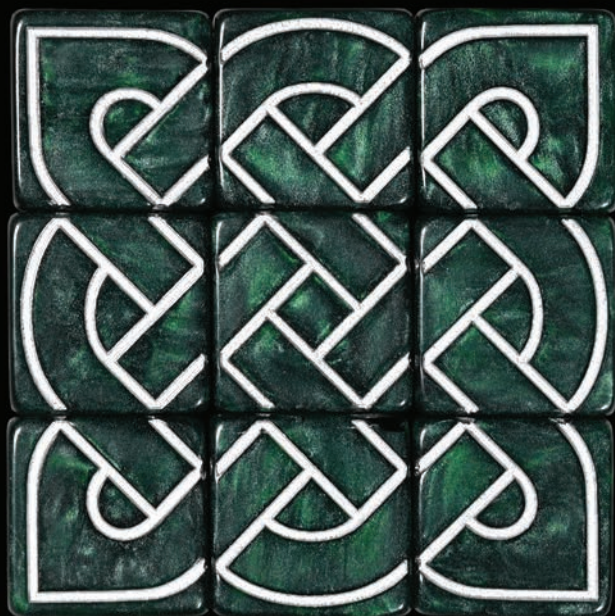
ukexpo@bagpipers.eu



Merino wool
blankets, scarves,
bags purses and pet
blankets

Lambswool scarves,
stoles capes and
baby blankets.

www.patrickkingwoollencompany.com
sales@patrickkingwools.com



ART ■ PUZZLES ■ GAMES

Create your own Celtic knots
with these beautiful dice

KNOT DICE
from
BLACK OAK GAMES



www.BlackOakGames.com/CelticLife



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

4K Design Tees

HIGHLAND TRADITION



SNUGGLE UP WITH OUR
LUXURY SHEEPSKINS,
EXCLUSIVE DESIGNER
RUGS, GORGEOUS WOLLENS
AND LOTS LOTS MORE. ALL
LOVINGLY DESPATCHED
FROM THE ISLE OF SKYE
JUST FOR YOU

skyeskyns.co.uk

Tanners and suppliers
of sheepskin since 1983



Exclusive to
Celtic Life!

Use Code
CELT2109RF1
for 10% off your cart.
Valid until 15 Oct 2021



WOVEN IN SCOTLAND

Made in our own factory by highly skilled craftsmen. Calzeat has the
ideal celtic gifts for yourself, friends and family at home or overseas.

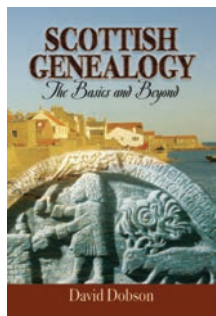


Buy direct from the people who make it...

www.calzeat.com

Discount Code
CAL10
for 10% off

BEST OF CELTIC GENEALOGY



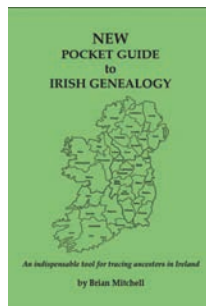
Scottish Genealogy: The Basics and Beyond

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



New Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy

By Brian Mitchell

Pocket Guide is a bit of misnomer, for in fact this 7"x 10" publication is one of the most complete and informative books on genealogical research in Ireland ever written.

Brian Mitchell has completely updated the previous edition of

his guide to direct readers to the most current websites and resources. His original premise, however, remains the same: that the examination of seven major records will throw detailed light on most peoples' Irish ancestry. By skillfully blending Irish history, record sources, case studies, maps, charts, and his own mastery of the subject, Mitchell has put together a masterful handbook to Irish genealogical research.

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



Genealogical.com

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 MY EXTENSIVE COLLECTION
OF ARTISAN JEWELRY
CONNECTING YOU TO YOUR HERITAGE.
www.etsy.com/shop/scotcreations
www.scotcreations.com



DID YOU KNOW?!?

Daisies • Gnomes • Pride
20 Country Flags • Rainbow
Prayer Warrior • Travel Photography
SO many gift ideas!

THE NDC
THE NORWAY DAKOTA
COMPANY



**GNOME
LIFE**



**PRAYER
WARRIOR
701**



www.etsy.com/shop/TheNorwayDakotaCo

www.etsy.com/shop/DaisyCircleStudios

Woman-Owned Small Business

... NOT JUST FLAGS!

Tie the Celtic Knot

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



Celtic Wedding Rings
www.celtic-weddingrings.com



Just Kilt Me
Celtic Apparel & More

**Kilt up &
Tweed Jacket
This Fall**



Look Dapper Lads
with our **Custom Kilts**
& **Tailor Made Jackets**

justkiltme.com



@justkiltme

Hike through the Highlands of Scotland

with Author E.A. Channon



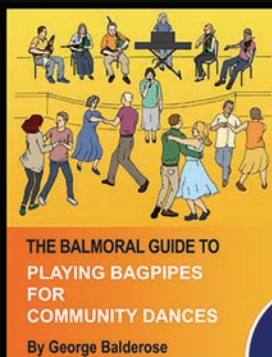
Explore and learn history as you enjoy the beauty of the Scottish Highlands. Walk in remote glens of the Clan's of old. Take a cruise across Loch Katrine in a 19th century steamship enjoyed by Queen Victoria. View historic sites such as Glencoe and Glenfinnan as you venture into the past.

- Arrive Edinburgh & travel to The Trossachs
- Ben A'an Summit walk & cruise on Loch Katrine
- Hike from Balmaha to Rowardennan
- Hike The Devil's Staircase in Glencoe
- Hike Kinlochleven to Fort William
- Mallaig & the Glenfinnan Monument
- Monach of the Glen and a wee dram

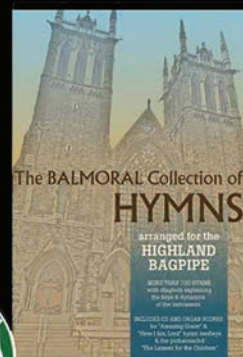


Go to
WWW.EACHANNON.COM
to book your spot for
2022!!

Give the Gift of Celtic Music!



Buy at bagpiping.org

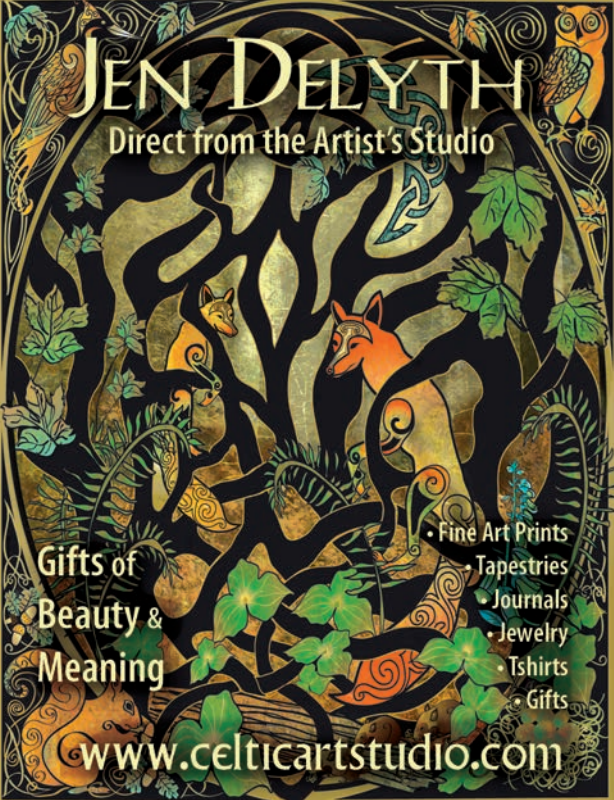


...or at Amazon.com

Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming

WINTER WORKSHOP
bagpiping.org

Online via Zoom - February 4-6, 2022



JEN DELYTH
Direct from the Artist's Studio

Gifts of
Beauty &
Meaning

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

www.celticartstudio.com



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](https://www.HeatherKnight.ca)

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.)



Fine gifts in the Celtic tradition



Jewelry • Home Accessories
Apparel • Kilts • Food • Art

Irish TRADITIONS
www.Irishtraditionsonline.com

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

Scottish
Creations
Scotland by Design



*Which will
be your new favorite
bag this Fall?*



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

Here is your passport to virtual Celtic adventures!

The Celtic Virtual Visitor by Ray Pearson
A book about some of the Celtic Regions' bespoke
contributions to the world.



Featuring an exclusive look at Spirits
from all 8 Celtic Regions!

www.celticvirtualvisitor.com
Available on The Celtic Market



just
The place to be on the Cabot Trail

Eco-Friendly • Antique Furnishings
Vacation Extras • "Cape Breton Fresh" Cuisine
www.chanterelleinn.com

48678 Cabot Trail, North River Bridge, Nova Scotia

Chanterelle Reservations 1-866-277-0577

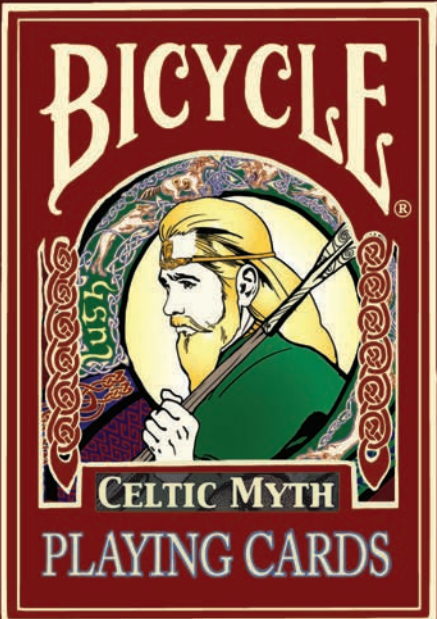


Handcrafted Scottish jewellery
made in Scotland



www.silverstag.scot | +44 845 528 0040

THE CLASSIC CELTIC DECK



BICYCLE
CELTIC MYTH
PLAYING CARDS

AVAILABLE AT
WWW.ACKENSTUDIOS.COM/SHOP

THE SPIRIT OF IRELAND IS ALIVE IN THE ADORONDACKS

Add Irish flare with Ireland's eye Mucros Jimmy Hourihan Dubbarry of Ireland Hanna Hats



Add a little bit of Irish Sparkle with **Shanore Jewellery**



Shop online in store or call 518-637-7694
www.irishtreasureslp.com

Full Kilt Outfits
Clan-Crested Gifts
All Made in Scotland




Engraved Quaichs



Sgian Dubhs



Brooches

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

Part of the
St Kilda Group

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

HOLY HECK USA Festival GEAR!

Dbl. Buckle Kilt Belts -
Sporrans - Kilt Extender
Straps - Tankard Straps -
Water Bottle Holders - &
More








www.HolyHECKUSA.com

Keltic Nations

Handcrafted Celtic jewellery



www.kelticnations.com

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 Outlandish 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!

bookscentcandles.com




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



highland celtic art

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

University of Ottawa - Celtic Studies Minor



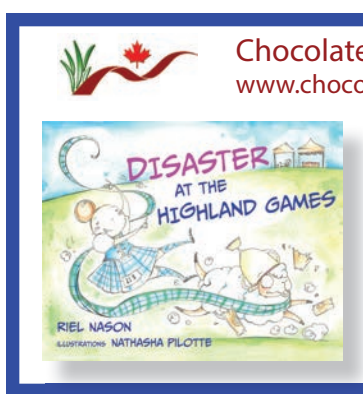
Celtic Languages, History, Literature, Music, and more

www.arts.uottawa.ca/modernlanguages/languages/celtic



Chocolate River Publishing

www.chocolateriver.ca



Kate doesn't really need to practice her dancing, does she?

Everything will be all right on the day of the Highland Games, won't it?

HIGHLAND BAGPIPES • ACCESSORIES

REEDS • PIPE BAND SUPPLIES

FRED MORRISON VILLEANN PIPES,
REELPIPES AND SCOTTISH SMALLPIPES.

reelpipes.com



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

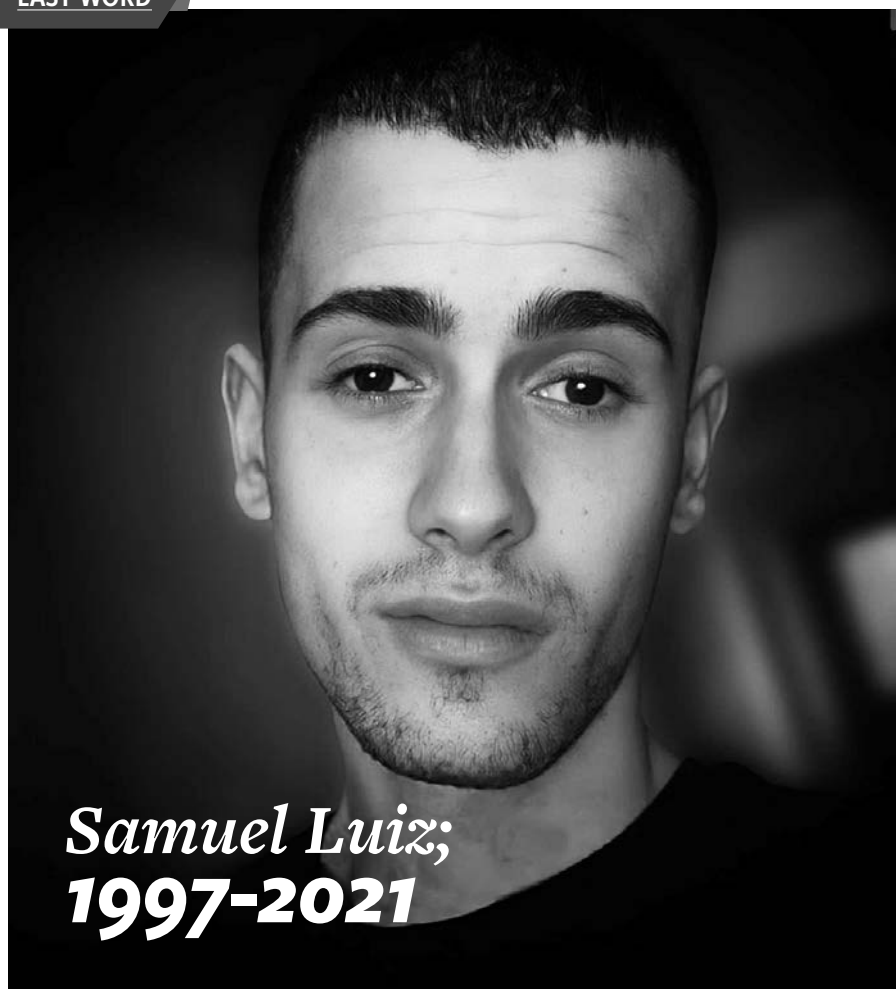


A Wicklow Girl

BRIAN O'DOWD

"Stunning new voice in Irish Literature"

www.awicklowgirl.com



Samuel Luiz; 1997-2021

In July, Samuel Luiz was beaten to death in A Coruña, Galicia, Spain. The 24-year-old, who worked as a nursing assistant, was out with friends on the night of the murder. Reportedly, Luiz was outside a nightclub on a video call when a man - who thought Luiz was filming - called him a homophobic slur and attacked. Witnesses broke up the fight, but the attacker later returned with a large group of men and chased Luiz down the Avenida de Buenos Aires promenade and beat him for 15 minutes. Luiz died at the A Coruña Hospital in the early hours of July 3.

In addition to his job at a senior home, Luiz was an active member of his religious community, a flutist, and a volunteer for Red Cross. At the time of his death, he was studying to be a dental technician. Although police have not given a definitive motive for the crime, Luiz's friends believe he was targeted for being gay. So far, three people have been sent to prison for the crime, while another two are in a juvenile centre.

The murder sparked protests and catalyzed conversations around violence against Spain's LGBTQ+ community. Thousands of

people took to the streets with rainbow flags and posters. A petition was launched to rename Avenida de Buenos Aires in honour of Luiz. "This has shaken something up, it has been a kind of collective wakeup call in which very young people are saying that they are not going to accept any more, that they are not going to tolerate another assault," José María Núñez, the president of the Triángulo Foundation, told Spanish newspaper El País. "It has been a kind of catharsis for our world. There is no going back."

LGBTQ+ people and organizations in other countries have been raising their voices as well. Bi+ Ireland released a statement in support of "Justice for Samuel," while emphasizing the importance of describing the murder as a hate crime. "When a fight starts directly with an insult to your sexual orientation there is no way you can argue that there was no prejudice, and an intention of intimidation of a community for their way of living," reads the statement in part. "For us in Bi+ Ireland there is no doubt that this was a hate crime and a homophobic murder. One of the most horrific ones in Europe in our

time, committed against a backdrop of growing right-wing policies all over the continent. This crime should be given the appropriate visibility and investigated properly. There was definitely an intention of intimidation, and we can only imagine how scared and hurt the Galician LGBTQ+ community must feel right now, and we are really inspired by the way they stand tall and keep protesting for the cause. From Ireland, we stand with you."

During the summer, Celtic Life International released an issue with a Pride-focused cover story. While reactions to the feature were generally positive, some responded otherwise. Those actions exemplified what LGBTQ+ people the world over already know:

Many still believe that supporting queer rights is a matter of politics or religion. It is not. It is simply a matter of humanity.

And when people refuse to see that, people like Luiz suffer - and even die. Although some of Luiz's family members have expressed discomfort around conversations about his sexuality, the discussion is necessary. Data from the Spanish government shows that 278 hate crimes related to sexual orientation or gender identity were reported in Spain in 2019. Discrimination isn't contained to one country or region, however: in Prince Edward Island, on the east coast of Canada, a pride flag was recently cut down from a queer-owned local business.

Anti-LGBTQ+ incidents - whether they are seemingly minor, or extreme and violent - show that perhaps our society is not as progressive as we would like to believe. It would be a disservice, then, to pretend Luiz's sexuality didn't matter, or to keep politics out of the conversation around his death. Samuel Luiz was a musician, a volunteer, and a friend to many. He was also a gay man. We all owe it to him to make this world better than the one he left.

LIAM O'SHIEL

EIRELAN

VOLUME I

SAGA OF THE LATTER-DAY CELTS



Available on Amazon

Art by **Jonathan McFerran**



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

