

VOL. 38 NO. 6 | \$8.95 | MID-SUMMER - 2024 | CELTICLIFEINTL.COM

CelticLife

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Celtic Commerce

INSIDE!

Celtic Wares & Faires
The Celtic Collection, Clodagh
Young Wolfetones, Jo Beth Young

Magical Celtic Lands are waiting for you
Now is the perfect time to plan your escape



Sheenco Travel will customize your dream vacation
Call now to make your dreams come true

Toll Free: 888-674-3244

Take control of your life with your own
Home Based Luxury Travel Business.
Call now to find out more about Franchising with Sheenco Travel.

www.sheencotravel.com
www.sheencotravelfranchise.com

EST 2002

SCOTLANDSHOP

TAILORED TARTAN CLOTHING & INTERIORS

Get ready for the Games

Tailored clothing
for the whole
family in over
500 tartans



Scan to discover
your tartan

678 LOUDON ROAD, LATHAM, NY 12110

10 QUEENSFERRY STREET, EDINBURGH, EH2 4PG

9-11 E HIGH ST, CRIEFF PH7 3AF

WWW.SCOTLANDSHOP.COM | INFO@SCOTLANDSHOP.COM

UK 01890860770 | US TOLL FREE 1-(833)-612-0064



OBRIEN CELTIC GIFTS

A division of OBRIEN DIARIES Ltd.

Sending Ireland Across the World



DESIGNERS &
MANUFACTURERS
OF
QUALITY CELTIC
PAPER PRODUCTS



FOR YOUR DESK...

...Celtic Journals and Notebooks

FOR YOUR WALL...

Framed or Ready to Frame,

***...Old Ireland Maps, The Irish Proclamation,
Irish Emigrant Trail & More***



22-25 Westlink Estate Dublin 10 Ireland. Tel +353 1 6266722
email: sales@obriencelticgifts.ie www.obriencelticgifts.com



OREGON CELTIC FESTIVAL



**4 STAGES OF MUSIC • DANCE • CAMPING • FAIRY REALM
MERCHANT VILLAGE • ALE HOUSES • WHISKEY TASTINGS**



**ALASDAIR
FRASER**



**SCREAMING
ORPHANS**



TEMPEST



THE ELDERS



**WAKE THE
DEAD**



**SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2024
CANBY, OR**

SEE THE FULL LINEUP AT ORCELTICFEST.COM

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, Executive Editor
Rebecca Dingwell, Managing Editor
Chris Muise, Managing Editor
Caitlyn Elizabeth Mearns, Managing Editor
Lillian Holt, Senior 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
info@celticlife.com

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

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, 2024

WWW.CELTICLIFEINTL.COM



TWITTER

Latest Celtic news
[@celticlife](https://twitter.com/celticlife)



FACEBOOK

Join CelticLife at
[www.facebook.com/
CelticLifeInternational](https://www.facebook.com/CelticLifeInternational)



INSTAGRAM

See behind the scenes
[@celticlifeinternational](https://www.instagram.com/celticlifeinternational)



NEWSLETTER

Stay informed
[www.celticlifeintl.com
/newsletter](http://www.celticlifeintl.com/newsletter)



SUBSCRIBE

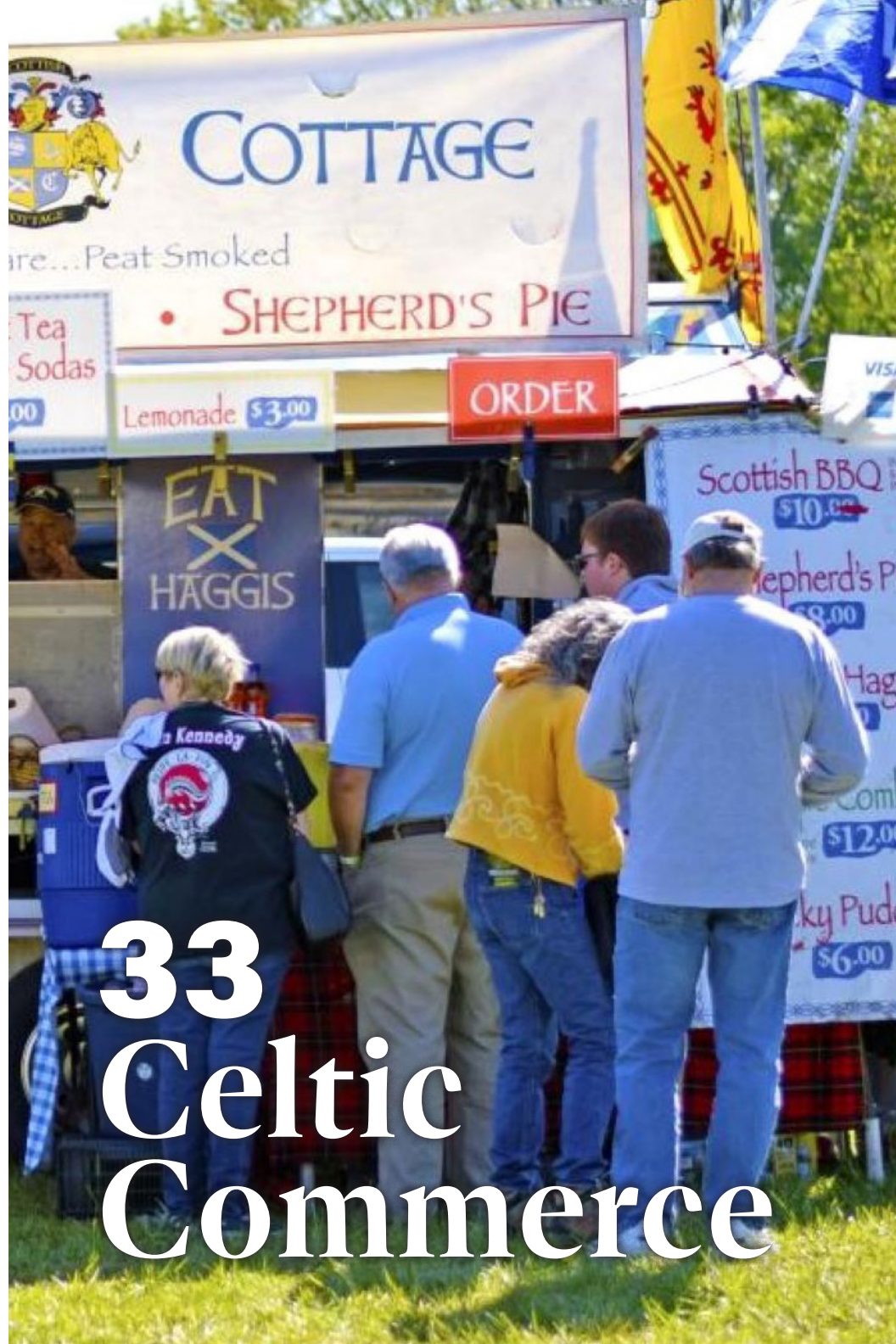
Don't miss an issue
[www.celticlifeintl.com
/subscribe](http://www.celticlifeintl.com/subscribe)



**THE CELTIC
MARKET**

Visit www.celticlife.com

INSIDE!



33 Celtic Commerce

9

First Word

11

One man seizes destiny to make a difference

17

Irish musical legend Derek Warfield answers The Celtic Questionnaire

21

Scottish photographer Andrew Pickett profiles Edinburgh

25

Irish visual artist Kevin Lowery and the lens of landscapes

29

Irish Interior designer Clodagh gets creative with space

39

Celtic Wares & Faires

43

Tom McGrath guides the North American Celtic Trade Association

57

The Chicago Scots have been preserving Scottish culture for 200 years

73

The 2024 Celtic Collection

82

Last Writes

CelticLifeStyle

Sign Up & Win!

Sign up for our newsletter and you could win a one-year print subscription to Celtic Life International Magazine! Visit our website for details.

The Celties!

Do you know someone who has made a significant contribution to promoting and preserving Celtic culture? Details on nominations can be found on our website!

Share Your Story!

We are always on the lookout for a good story! If you'd like to become a Celtic Life International contributor, simply drop us a note via our website or social media channels for more information!

Help Us to Help You!

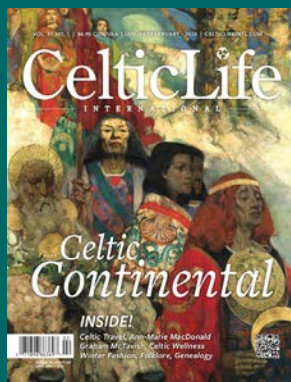
Celtic Life International has been involved with a variety of charitable organizations and fundraising initiatives over the years. Reach out to us via our website or social media channels and let us know how we can help.

Shop Talk!

If you are interested in carrying Celtic Life International Magazine in your retail outlet, please contact us via our website or social media channels and we will be happy to help!



www.celticlifeintl.com





first WORD

with Siobhán L. Covington - Publisher

Lugus; God of Commerce

FIRST WORD

Lugus (or Lugh - Irish, LLudd - Welsh) in Celtic mythology was one of the most important gods, earning the name Samildanach - meaning “of many skills” - and known to be the patron of craftspeople, skills, trade, and business transactions.

Notably, and surprisingly unlike many Gods in the Celtic pantheon, Lugus was universally worshipped across all the Celtic tribes, a testament to the pivotal role that economic systems and trade networks played in Celtic society. Not only did trade facilitate the exchange of goods, but it forged crucial alliances with partners - allowing for invaluable access to new ideas, materials, and technologies. The ancient Celts would barter salt, gold, and copper for wine, olives, figs, raw glass, and silver. With these raw materials they crafted iconic pieces of art, jewelry, weapons, and tools that continue to provide inspiration today.

The Seven Celtic Nations remain fertile ground for the creation of quality textiles, masterfully designed knotwork jewelry,

delicate lacework, delicious food and thirst-quenching libations. In addition, these nations have expanded their exports to include technology, agricultural products, power generating equipment, automobiles, ships, pharmaceuticals, fashion, and more. The Irish craft sector alone accounts for a €500 million boost to the country’s economy according to Enterprise Ireland’s estimates - with over 25% of all Irish jewelry being exported. Scotland shipped textiles around the world in 2020 to the tune of £360 million. In a year of worldwide declining gin sales, Cornwall’s Tarquin’s Gin was expected to top global production with 10 million cases being distributed to over 30 countries. Welsh Life Science companies are supplying innovative expertise and products in the areas of regenerative medicine and cell therapy with an export focused approach, resulting in 75 percent of all products and services reaching markets outside Wales each year.

The Celtic Nations are also major tourist destinations, attracting millions of visitors annually. This aligns with Lugus’ role as the protector of travelers, a fitting title considering the ancient Celts’ extensive trade journeys. The allure of Celtic history, culture, and landscapes continues to draw people from around the world.

Our mid-summer edition of Celtic Life International introduces the reader to a sample of the many unique businesses that contribute to the thriving Celtic economy. Lugus would undoubtedly be impressed by the state of commerce in the Celtic Nations - their unrivaled quality, innovative designs, and skilled craftsmanship embody the spirit of this ancient deity. It is remarkable to consider that these nations were able to transition from a barter-based economies to powerful economic centers while still preserving the core values of trade and craftsmanship of the ancient Celts.



Discover, share and celebrate your Scottish Heritage



By going to...



By belonging to ...

BAIRD	DAVIDSON	GUNN	LESLIE	MACKAY	MACTHOMAS
BELL	DONALD	HOPE	LOGAN	MACKENZIE	MUNRO
BRUCE	EDMONSTONE	HUNTER	MACALPINE	MACLAREN	MURRAY
BUCHANAN	ELLIOT	IRVING	MACAULAY	MACLELLAN	PAISLEY
BURNETT	FARQUHARSON	IRWIN	MACBETH	MACLENNAN	RAMSAY
CAMERON	FERGUSON	JOHNSTON	MACDOUGALL	MACLEOD	SHAW
CAMPBELL	FORBES	KENNEDY	MACDOWALL	MACNEIL	SINCLAIR
CARRUTHERS	FRASER	KINCAID	MACEWEN	MACNICOL	SKENE
CHISHOLM	GORDON	LACHLAN	MACFARLANE	MACPHERSON	STRACHAN
COLQUHOUN	GRAHAM	LAMONT	MACFIE	MACRAE	WATSON
CURRIE	GREGOR	LENNOX	MACINNES	MACTAVISH	YOUNG

By supporting...



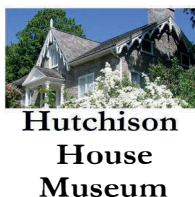
By subscribing to...



and



By being a part of...



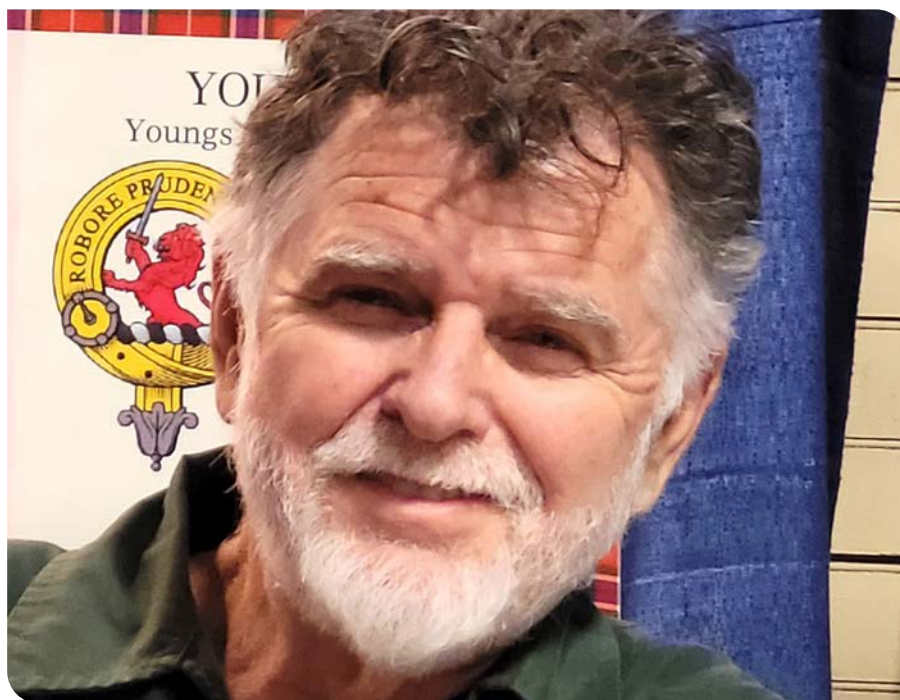
See our benefits and how to join at
www.scotscanada.ca/membership

Scots Canada - Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada

Find out about upcoming events at
www.scotscanada.ca/events

Scots Canada

One man seizes the day to make a difference...



Destiny rarely calls upon us at a moment of our choosing. However, how we respond to that fate determines our future. Often, it is an opportunity to bring positive change into the world.

William Petrie seized such an opportunity while attending a November 2019 Scots Canada AGM as a delegate for Clan Gregor.

"After financial reporting, the key issue was the election of officers," he shares via email with Celtic Life International from his home office in Brampton, Ontario. "The Chairperson was stepping down, and no one was willing to take on the role. Following several unsuccessful appeals by the group for a candidate, I volunteered to assume the position, contingent upon having a promise of support from the new board."

Up until then, Petrie's biggest worry - as a semi-retired lifelong IT professional - was figuring out what to do with 40 years' worth of personal mementos as he and his wife downsized to a smaller home. He also understood how important the new role would be in preserving and promoting Scottish culture, both in Canada and beyond.

"I felt strongly that the inability to fill the chair was a sign of potential serious decline for the organization. As my becoming Chairperson was a result of me acting on my instincts, I hoped to formulate a solid plan of action by the time I got home. Shortly after

becoming Chairperson, one of our member organizations did not renew. Their reasoning was 'there is no value in membership.' I was deeply upset by this, and it set the tone for my actions as Chairperson thereafter."

As a volunteer heritage organization - especially one that had fallen victim to indifference and apathy - resources and personnel were spread thin. As such, Petrie assumed more than just the Chairperson position.

"Currently, I am also the newsletter editor, the author of the Scots Canada Update emails, I maintain the website, and I am the de facto bookkeeper. I have applied my experience as a consulting executive and what I've learned along the way - that true leadership comes from the combination of 'not on my watch,' 'the buck stops here,' 'damn the critics,' and that there is no failure in action, only ways to succeed in learning more.

"If you don't do anything, then you are not providing any value..."

Since then, Petrie has championed several initiatives, including sponsoring an annual CASSOC Guelph University Graduate Student Bursary, and organizing a yearly Symposium for Growth and Success.

Even these changes were hard fought for, with Petrie noting that "sometimes it first took throwing a metaphorical grenade into a

high-level meeting." But his biggest shake up is one he hopes to roll out by the end of this year.

"Young Scots are still interested in their heritage. Our challenge is in recognizing that interest in the same context that they have it. What is common for us, at any age, is the need to have a sense of identity and to belong. For younger people that evolves in different ways as they go through the earlier phases of life. Scots Canada will now be asking each of its members to provide us with a Youth Delegate. This Youth Delegate will be responsible for representing the interests of the youth in their organization. We are also creating the board position of Youth Director, which will be accompanied with guidelines, procedures, a budget and, most importantly, an open mind for what they can bring to the table, especially with areas of special interest to the youth. How will they envision solutions for challenges such as membership engagement, succession plans, and other areas of concern?

"Will this work? We don't know," Petrie admits. "But we do know that we'll learn from the initiative. We will demonstrate to our young people and our members that we are doing something about it. We are not just words anymore."

WWW.SCOTSCANADA.CA

stone mountain

scottish festival & highland games

attend "the friendly games."

The SMHG Board of Directors and our family of volunteers wish to welcome you to our 52nd presentation of the Stone Mountain Scottish Festival and Highland games. Come meet your fellow clansmen along with our Honored Guests and many old friends as we gather in this picturesque setting so rich in heritage.



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

Along With:
Gathering of Clans
Children's Games
Highland Games
Demonstrations
Pipe Bands
Exhibits

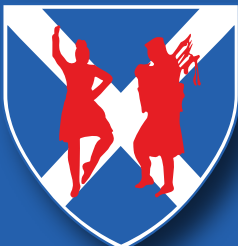
**Atlanta, Georgia and
Stone Mountain Park Meadow**

October 19th & 20th, 2024

Adult \$25 (Sat or Sun) | Children under 12 free.*

*With adult ticket entry. Park vehicle entrance fee required in addition to event tickets. No pets allowed.

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Presented by

Stone Mountain Highland Games, Inc.

P.O. Box 384 • Marietta, GA 30061

(770) 521-0228 • www.SMHG.org





“This band worked from day one,” shares Angelo Roccato, founder of Italian Celt-rockers The Clan via email from his home in Milan, Italy.

“None of us ever imagined all the interest in doing what we do. Everyone came from other bands, and we never expected to make 3 full-length albums, an EP, and perform so many shows in such a short period of time.”

Roccato is just as pleasantly surprised that a band with a self-proclaimed “Folk and Roll” designation would garner as much praise and attention as they do.

If all of this isn’t unusual enough, the quintet - who has collaborated with the likes of Canadian Celtic punk mainstays The Mahones and The Real Mackenzie and claim The Dropkick Murphys and Flogging Molly as their biggest inspirations - openly admit that their knowledge and exposure to Celtic music was minimal at best when they set up the band more than a decade ago.

“I formed the band in 2013, but the lineup has changed several times in the past 10 years,” explains Roccato. “To be honest, none of us had ever really listened to much Celtic music before that.”

“We are all musicians from different backgrounds. As the founder and vocalist, I come from a classic, hard-rock background (Roccato also plays banjo, guitar, and mandolin); Cisco, our violinist, was classically trained; Fabio, our drummer, is a 1980s hard rocker; Simone, our bassist, ranges from metal to punk; Andrea, our guitarist, is a die-hard

punk; and Luca, our flutist, has a jazz background.”

Despite these diverse origins - or perhaps because of them - the success of the band’s early live performances left little doubt that they had struck the right chord with audiences.

“We realized that it all just worked the first time we played onstage in front of thousands of people. At our first concert, we had people dancing, moshing, and crowd surfing. It had never happened to any of us before with the other bands we had played in.”

That immediate success and onstage affinity pushed The Clan forward as a unit with a shared vision for songwriting that remained consistent despite the personnel changes.

“Our main rule when defining a song that works is that it must be catchy enough to play on only an acoustic guitar and vocals. If the song works without all the other instruments, then we go ahead with the arrangement. If a song only holds up because of all the extras and add-ons, it falls away.”

The formula certainly seems to be working, and Roccato cites the band’s longevity and ongoing evolution as the result of their collective refusal to not get trapped creatively by any false adherence to the Celtic punk genre.

“We’ve been in this business for 10 years and we have met a lot of bands. Many try to imitate each other and end up doing the same thing.

“We have always tried to do something different with Celtic punk. When we write new songs, we aim to be distinct.”

With that spirit, he is optimistic about the future of Celtic music.

“The genre is expanding significantly, with many new and different festivals and bands. It now encompasses other cross-cultural elements; Viking culture, for example, is growing more popular, thanks in large part to the TV series of the same name. And themed playlists have seen huge increases on streaming platforms in the past couple of years.”

Roccato hopes that growth will continue to push Celtic music into the mainstream.

“It’s great to see bands using traditional instruments to create modern songs - not just played for nostalgia’s sake. We should also have more movie soundtracks with Celtic rock songs and see more of a variety of Celtic bands on radio and television.”

In the meantime, The Clan keeps playing on principle and having fun.

“Going on stage with an audience singing your songs, wearing your t-shirts, jumping, screaming and dancing is a priceless feeling - an enormous satisfaction that fills each of us with incredible joy.”

@theclanfolkroll

WWW.THECLANBAND.IT



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

We put tradition on the leading edge. Order one of our whistles, flutes, or bagpipes today at www.Carbony.com.

carbony™
CELTIC WINDS



Jo Beth Young



*My life's supply is my unmended ways
These songs of praise
Are for my weakened will
We're on a treadmill
And I can't pretend
~ 'Standstill'*

As her lyrics reveal, Jo Beth Young's music evokes an otherworldly ambience where pretension has no place. Alternately fierce and soothing, her compelling neo-folk compositions reflect a commitment to authenticity brought forth with delicate artistry.

Young's latest work, *Broken Spells*, is no exception - as much a tribute to her own personal evolution as it is a testament to her musical expertise, first developed in early childhood.

"I sang before I could talk, so singing was second nature," she shares via email with Celtic Life International. "I had the nickname 'Little Mary Hopkins' because I would rather sing than talk! I wrote poems, sang, and played recorder and piano as a child. I was quite badly bullied at school and found solace in singing in the church choir and making music."

Born in Firle, East Sussex, England to a Scottish Dad and English Mum, Young was raised in rural surroundings - a backdrop consistently apparent in her work - from where she eventually made her way to Galway, Ireland to study music.

"Living in the West of Ireland was totally different from where I grew up. It's a wild place - rugged and untamed, and so far from the neatly plowed fields of Sussex. Both

landscapes are woven into the fabric of what I make. I think that is why there is such an ethereal element in my music."

Since the release of her debut album, *An Abandoned Orchid House* (2018), Young has garnered international acclaim from media on both sides of the Atlantic - including BBC 6 and ECHOES Radio in the USA. She was awarded Best Album of the Year in 2018 and voted Winner of Best Solo Female Artist (Southwest) in 2019.

"It was a real highlight when the first album came out and was so well received. I had a sense that all those years of work were not for nothing. In the last few years, I have become more confident with trying new things and not being so attached to the outcome. It takes time to get braver. I used to have crippling stage fright and got over it by realizing that my job was not to 'project' something out into the audience but to invite them into my world, to let them in."

Young's commitment to connecting with audiences is also reflected in her approach to songwriting.

"I need an emotional 'kick' in a song. If I don't believe it, it can be the most beautifully crafted song in the world, but it won't move me and that's what I look for. When songs are raw and real, they are the best."

Early on, Young was sought after for numerous projects, including two film soundtracks, and as a collaborator with renowned industry mainstays. In 2020, she

began work on *Broken Spells* - a cathartic response to the many shifts in her own personal perspectives.

"The first track I wrote for *Broken Spells* - *Burning* - was just before lockdown, which ended up being a very prescient track. I realized I had a collection of songs that were pointing towards the illusions breaking down in my own life and collectively. You can hear all that was unraveling for me on the inside and out. This is an album about breaking spells collectively and individually."

The recording was also a labour of love for the songstress, who handled much of the production and promotion on her own.

"This is the most vulnerable release I have put out there. This album was the hardest work yet but completed with an abundance of spiritual and personal inspiration. I recorded it all on a laptop in my attic and mixed half the album myself. I felt concerned it would be too 'lo-fi' for many, but so far, it seems that people are finding more and more layers of enjoyment and that's a wonderful bit of feedback to have."

Despite the personal and professional changes, Young's steadfast devotion to her craft remains consistent, evoking a yearning for rewards that go beyond the mundane.

"Making music is something I do for the love of it. I have made many sacrifices to carry on and have healed so many awful things by making music. I carry on because I hope it may have some value to others and help someone through a dark time."

@jobethyoung

WWW.JOBETHYOUNG.COM

Find the Celt in You!

in America's Oldest Celtic City

St. Augustine

CELTIC MUSIC

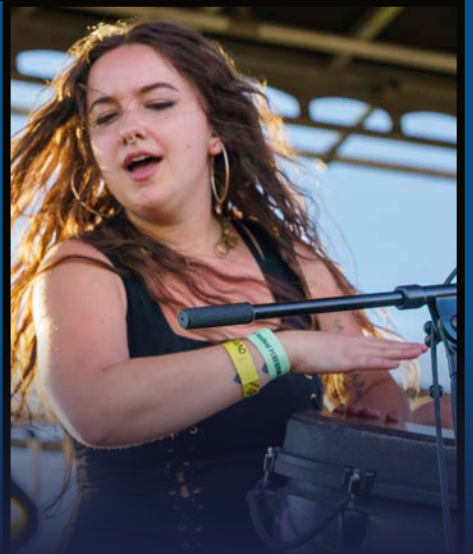
& HERITAGE FESTIVAL



March 8-9, 2025



- TOP NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CELTIC BANDS
- LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, CELTIC DANCE, MUSIC & MAGIC
- HIGHLAND GAMES
- THE ORIGINAL ST. PATRICK PARADE
- WHISKEY SEMINAR AND TASTING
- CELTIC ARTISAN CRAFTS, FOOD AND MORE



www.celticstaugustine.com



ST. JOHNS
CULTURAL COUNCIL

ST. AUGUSTINE | PONTE VEDRA | FLORIDA'S HISTORIC COAST



ST. JOHNS COUNTY
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Culture Around Every Corner | St. Augustine & Ponte Vedra



Derek Warfield

As the founder and frontman for Irish trad band The Young Wolfetones, Derek Warfield has long sought to preserve Ireland's history and traditions. Recently we spoke with him about Eire's past, present, and future.



THE CELTIC QUESTIONNAIRE



We still see a lot of young people leaving Ireland these days to find work in the United States, Canada, or Australia.

Yes, and Canada is a favourable destination. The immigration restrictions in America have made it difficult for young people but Canada is still quite receptive. Some of our most enterprising want to explore the possibilities in new countries, and it is easy for the Irish to emigrate as there is a long history of it. When they get to the USA, Canada, or Australia, they already have very established communities there, making it easier to transition into the new world. Irish communities in America go back to the 18th century when institutions and organizations would help our immigrants. That community spirit was born in Ireland - as our ancestors went through years of domination and colonialism - and people learned to help each other deal with the oppressions and limitations that were imposed on people back home.

Expats want to feel that sense of homecoming, that sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves, is that true? And is it still true, especially among young people?

Yes, it is true, and the catalyst that brings people and artists together is music - specifically the music of our heritage and of times gone by. There is a strong component of our culture and tradition in our song and dance. We have always encouraged people to share in that heritage, and we owe a great deal to those who preserved much of our traditions. When I am speaking in America, I always remind people of the Irish who went there for the first time. They left because, under English rule, they couldn't be artists, and here in Ireland, under English rule, they could, but with limitations set on how to express it. In America, they could be Irish without fear of retribution. That was a big factor in the attraction to America for Irish people.

And the possibilities for advancement were enormous as it was also free from English control.

A lot of folks from Ireland still come to a place like Newfoundland to relearn long-lost Irish traditions, including music.

You are correct. I have been to Newfoundland, and I witnessed Irish tradition and social conditions; the music, song, and creativity are like what I grew up with in Dublin. We had family get-togethers - with many aunts and uncles - and everyone would have to sing a song. They do the same thing in Newfoundland, and so many of the songs were Irish and helped to preserve our sense of national identity.

Is this why those traditions survived?

It was an institution back in the 18th and 19th centuries that held and gave an artistic value to many of the things that Irish people share and love. It was left to individuals to preserve and promote our traditions. Thankfully many hung onto our history, our ancient language of Gaelic, and our music.

You are very much a part of that as well.

Yes, I have always seen my band this way. I started The Young Wolfetones almost 17 years ago. Singing songs about events and issues that came to pass in one's life isn't new. It is



present in the earliest recorded texts of history. Paying tribute to those in society who were believed to enhance the traditions was always part of the work of the poets and the bards, who paid tribute to many in the community. Of course, they also wrote about the negative side and the violence. The Irish are very fortunate to have a history that goes back thousands of years. Not all countries in Europe have that. I have always believed that Ireland is the most clearly defined nation in Europe. In other nations, the borders have changed, or their traditions are now gone. But over the six or seven thousand years, Ireland has always been recognized as a little different from the rest of Europe.

How do you feel about using technology to promote and preserve Irish and Celtic culture amongst young people?

We are very fortunate to have such incredible technology today. Too bad we didn't have it three or four thousand years ago - with all the books that were destroyed. I think it was St Maron - who had the Great Library outside Dublin which was later destroyed by the Norseman and the Vikings - who was asked what was lost. He said that if every scribe in Ireland sat down to write for the rest of their lives, it would still only replace a thimbleful of what was lost in the destruction of the library. That gives you an idea of the vast volumes that

were lost. Many cultures in history perceived the written word as a threat, and so much of the world's literature was destroyed by authorities. But if mankind sat down to write - as we did in Ireland - it is probably one of the most important things a civilization can do - as ours did - to record everything. St. Columban said that we can learn from rebels and nonbelievers. One of the greatest strengths of our civilization is that we embraced different literature and traditions which enhanced the culture.

At one time, the Celts were very progressive - they embraced other cultures, and women enjoyed equal rights as military leaders, businesspeople, politicians, etc...

Yes, that was the clan system in Ireland. We must remember, though, that sometimes when institutions were destroyed during clan warfare, they were always rebuilt stronger and greater than they were before. All the libraries and educational institutions from Christian Ireland, and the bardic schools, were always rebuilt. Those that were destroyed in the 16th century and 17th century by the English authorities were never rebuilt. Some of the great institutions, like Clonmacnoise were lost. I realized when I was very young that some of the songs and melodies that we were singing and some of the tunes went way back in our history to bardic heritage and tradition. Some of the simplest little songs in communities inspired some of the most magnificent and greatest poems in the Gaelic language, in the same way as the powerful poems in the Gaelic language were simple ditties sung around the fireside with great inspiration.

We are seeing young musicians in Ireland and elsewhere embracing Gaelic as part of their musical vocabulary. Are you surprised by that?

In the past, there was much silence about our history and about the connection of that history to music and poetry, largely because of The

Troubles in Northern Ireland. Folks lost touch with the reasons why songs like the Siege of Venice or The Walls of Limerick were sung. I mean, during the 1970s and 1980s, people even shied away from singing altogether. I believe that comes from the English authority and influence, who have had a problem with Irish music since the 13th century, introducing laws to prevent its propagation and exposure that hadn't remained until recently. It's hard to believe but it happened, even in my own generation. Paddy Moloney told me that when he started out in Dublin, he couldn't find a pub to play in - back then, music was seen as divisive, an ethos that arose out of Colonial rule.

The music industry today is a very different beast. What are your thoughts on the state of music and what do you tell young people who want to get into it?

It has changed in Ireland in that there is a greater value placed now on all types of music and song that are indigenous to our traditions. It is such a powerful heritage. Sometimes our traditions are better left alone but - in terms of development - it always allows for the re-creation of new ideas. When you look at the history of music, including international and American music, if that same type of control and oppression had happened as did here in Ireland and elsewhere in Europe, you wouldn't have genres like jazz or blues. So, on the one hand, a band like ours aims to preserve those traditions while at the same time growing them, allowing them to evolve naturally. So, we must allow creativity without saying, 'Oh, you shouldn't do this - it's against tradition.' Our traditions have always evolved. Back in the 9th and 10th centuries people were creating musical ideas and poetic ideas that were different from what we have today. All of it was different three or four centuries later, or during pre-Christian times and Pagan times in Ireland. It is vital that we continue to allow freedom of expression and creativity.

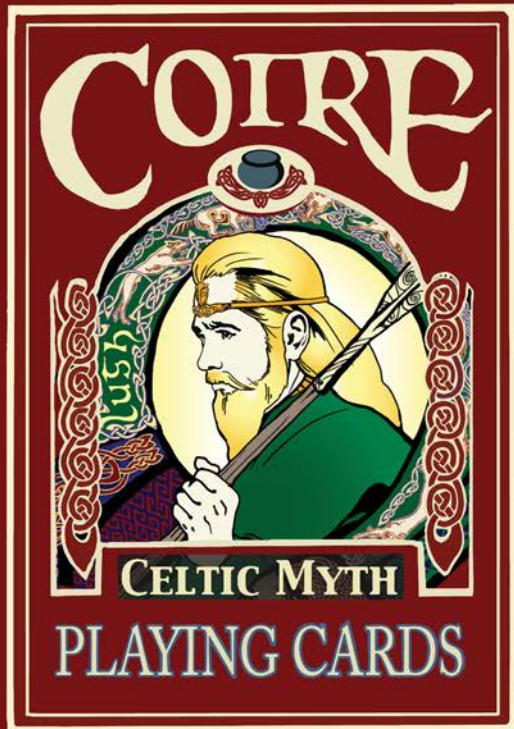


Seanchar úr

Ancient Lore for Modern Minds

FROM

ACKEN STUDIOS



A Poker-Sized Playing Card Deck

inspired by Celtic history and legend with artwork rooted in the Celtic Renaissance and drawn from original, authentic descriptions of the figures in *Lebor Gabála hÉirenn*, *Táin Bó Cuailgne* the *Mabinogion* and many others.

Each court card features two figures from Celtic myth, while the numbered pip cards map the traditional suits onto the Four Jewels of the Tuatha Dé Danann.

available for purchase at

THECELTICDECK.COM

Pants Optional!

Breakout the Kilt!

September 27-29 2024

Historic Bethlehem, PA

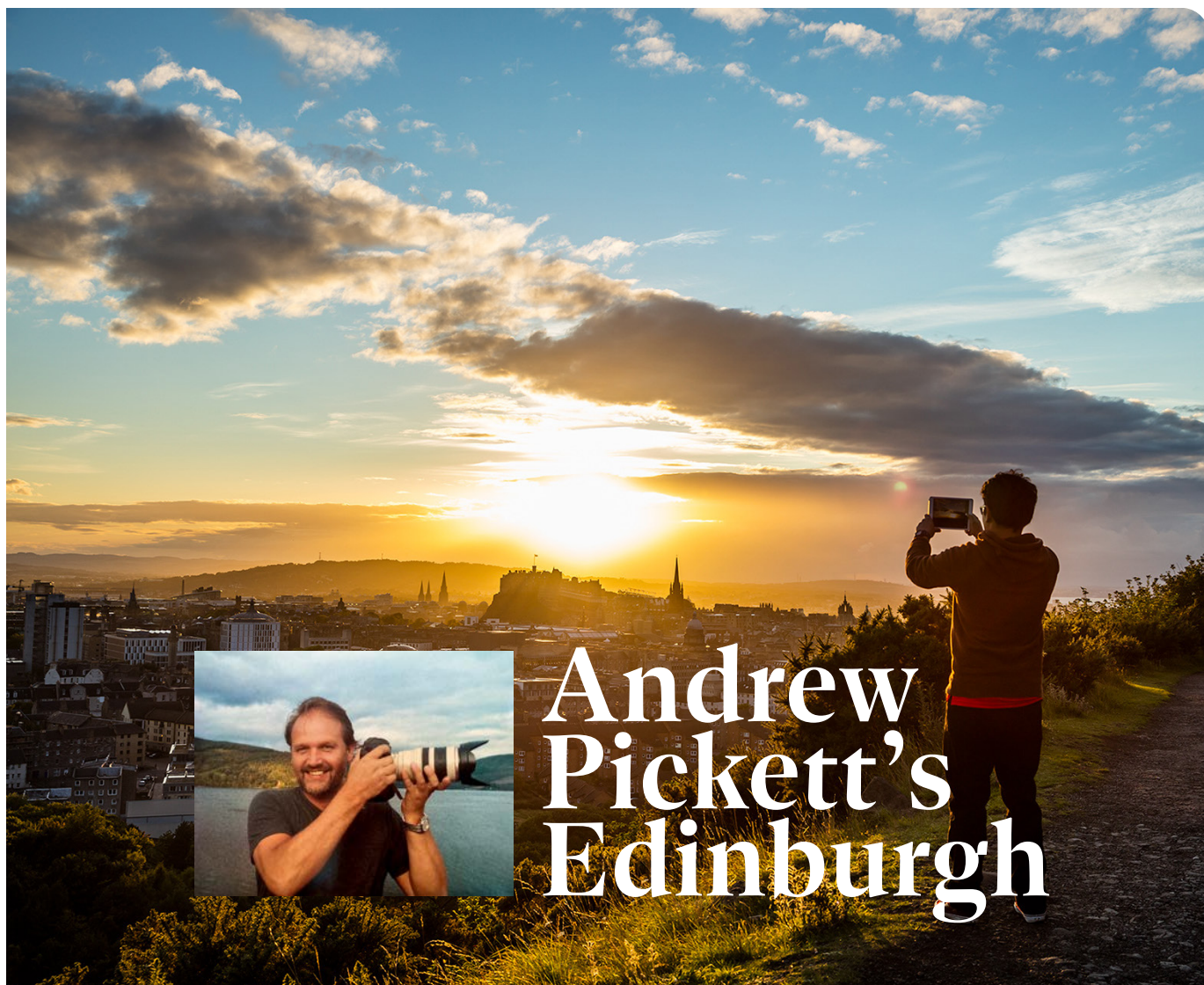


- * U.S. National Highland Games Championship
- * 5 stages of Celtic Performers
- * Celtic merchants & Clan area
- * Grade 3 & 4 pipe band competitions
- * Showing of the Tartan Parade

Celtic Classic

HIGHLAND GAMES & FESTIVAL

www.celticfest.org



Andrew Pickett's Edinburgh

I am an Englishman, born in London and now living in the USA. In my own family history, there is a Celtic connection - in the 1700s, my ancestor Thomas Edwards married Mary Ann McClanahan.

As a teen, I developed a passion for photography. That passion is still there - in fact it has never been stronger.

I get so much excitement and pleasure with every job, and I am very grateful and fortunate to be asked to shoot each project, whether it is a portrait, still life, or lifestyle shoot.

I was among the first to adapt digital photography, both shooting and editing. Digital shoots have many advantages, such as the immediacy of feedback and the alteration in editing on the spot. I do love film, but digital serves me better for work.

The challenge of the vocation has always been about survival, because getting paid is what makes the world go round. I have been very lucky working between London and New York City, and I have shot many big campaigns. In today's climate it is a struggle to get work, as there are so many photographers going after the same job.

I don't really do social media, but I suppose I should. I don't feel comfortable always posting just to get that kind of attention - the whole "look at me" all the time kind of thing. It is really about the work, however, and I may have to revisit that one day. I have always been fortunate to get work through reputation and word of mouth.

To me, a good photograph elicits emotions. It just draws you in. I know the minute an image is good simply because I can't stop

looking at it. When I visit a gallery I will walk past many pieces, but I stop in my tracks as soon as I see something magical that draws me to it.

Edinburgh is a "WOW" city! The castle up on the hill makes everything feel like it has been taken out of a storybook - especially during Tattoo/ Fringe with the fireworks. It is a beautiful and historic part of the world that lends itself to photography. The same can also be said of the people who reside there. They are warm and wonderful and completely approachable. I love shooting there!

Andrew Pickett currently works in the US, the UK and anywhere he is needed around the world. With thanks for support from VisitBritain and VisitScotland.

WWW.ANDREWPICKETTPHOTO.COM



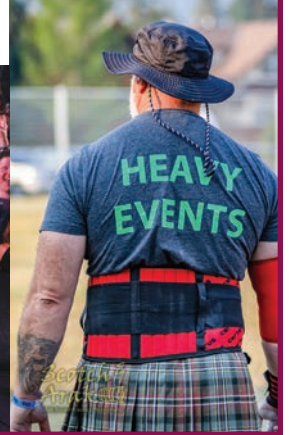




Aug 31 - Sept 1, 2024

Two Full Days of Highland Happiness in
the Canadian Rockies!

Advance Tickets & Info: canmorehighlandgames.ca



Sherwood Celtic Yuletide Festival

Saturday Dec 14 - McDade, TX
Pre Show Friday Night for Camping Patrons
For Discount Tickets & More Info Visit:
www.SherwoodForestFaire.com



Kevin Lowery

I grew up in Co. Clare on the West coast of Ireland, before moving to Donegal in my teenage years, where my mother's family is from. I have spent most of my adult life living in this area along the Atlantic Ocean's rugged coastline.

As a child, I always had a pencil or paintbrush in my hand. I attribute my creativity to my parents, who were both artistic, and my grandfather, who also painted. Although my journey hasn't been conventional, I've always felt a strong pull toward painting. After studying painting, I spent 15 years in the music industry as both a musician and producer, but I always continued painting on the side. In 2016, I felt a compelling urge to commit to my art practice full-time. I have always been drawn to creative disciplines that allow for flexible lifestyles, and transitioning to full-time painting wasn't a shock after my time as a freelance musician.

Over time, my work has become increasingly colourful, vivid, and expressive, as I experimented with various materials. Although I primarily paint in oils, I have recently begun incorporating acrylic paint markers, spray-paint and other materials into my paintings to add pops of fluorescent colour.

Before beginning a painting or a new series, I gather a lot of reference material, taking trips along the coast, sometimes for several days, and collecting materials to work from. These range from photographs and sketches to memories and even starting some paintings in the back of my van. While my paintings may appear controlled, the process is quite expressive. Different days, moods, or circumstances can yield wildly different results from the same subject. There's an element of trial and error as well. Sometimes I will begin a composition that doesn't seem to work, while other times it exceeds my expectations. I find that the paintings often choose themselves during the process.

I am particularly interested in the unpredictable and life-changing nature of the sea. To me, the landscape is a living entity, constantly

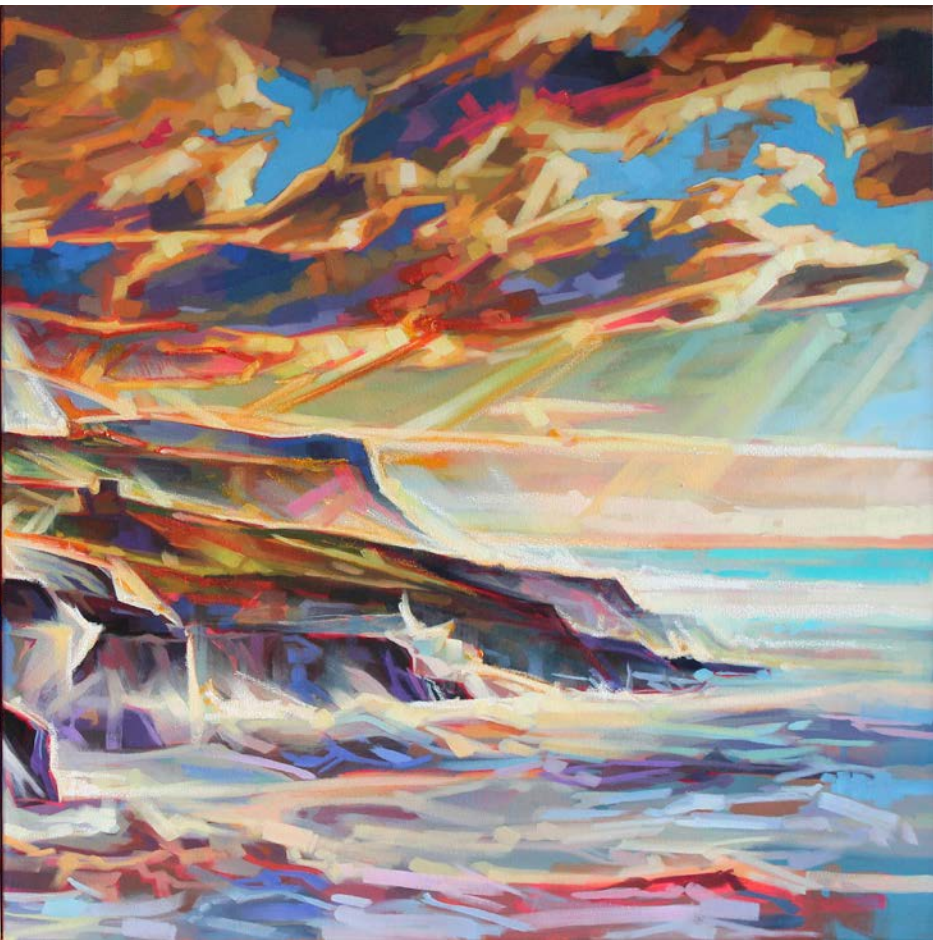
changing from one moment to the next. In my work, I aim to convey a sense of time as much as place; light plays an essential role, and the weather and time of day are often as significant as the location itself.

In May this year, I officially launched the Kevin Lowery Gallery & Studio here in Bundoran, Donegal. I wanted a space to showcase my latest collection of paintings and prints, alongside unique pieces from other local artists. The gallery aims to be a hub for artistic expression. Through my paintings and other exquisite artworks by talented artists, I wanted the works on display to capture the distinctive beauty of the Irish coastline and the essence of coastal life here in the Northwest.

www.kevinlowery.ie
[@kevinlowery_art](https://www.instagram.com/kevinlowery_art)







NORTHERN BOHEMIAN STUDIO

Hand Made Garments & Decor

DIY Kits:

Crafty Culture- jewelry, crochet, sewing
& Mindfulness- malas for meditation

Uniquely Yukon Workshops



NORTHERN BOHEMIAN STUDIO



Modelled by Stephanie Pinhorn
Photo courtesy of Haley Hall Creative

TRADITIONAL KILT MAKING

CUSTOM TARTAN DESIGN

BOUTIQUE
OPEN YEAR ROUND

Joan Harriss
Cruise Pavillion
74 Esplanade
Sydney, NS
B1P 1A1



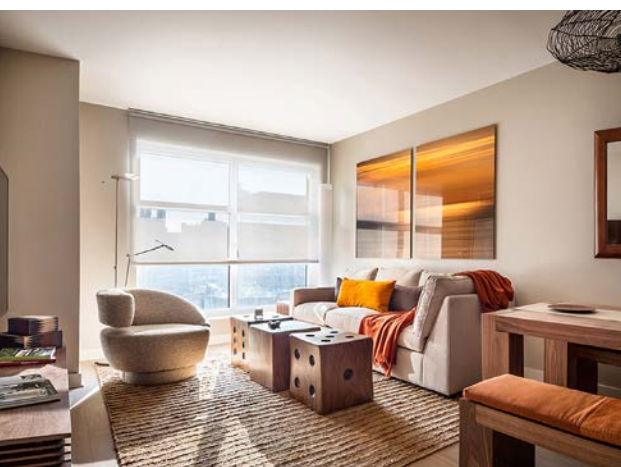
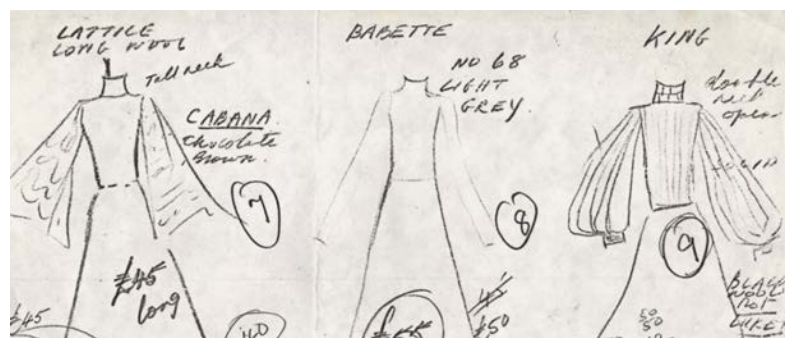
www.redlabelkilts.ca



STYLE







I was born in Galway County Hospital and brought home to Moytura House, Oscar Wilde's family early summer residence on the shores of Lough Corrib. I was the youngest of three children.

My journey in design started at 16; while recovering from an accident, I saw an ad in the Irish Times, "Why not be a dress designer and study at the Grafton Academy in Dublin" and my lovely mother bought me a course. When I finished the course at the ripe age of 17, I decided to open a fashion salon.

I married and occupied a Georgian house and had three sons. I got some of our family heirlooms, displayed them, started hanging paintings, and designed a big kitchen because I love cooking. I loved the garden - I planted produce and fruit trees, but the words interior design never entered my head; I never thought about interior design - I just furnished and arranged my houses.

The marriage did not go well, but my fashion business did - and I opened a townhouse boutique and atelier in Dublin.

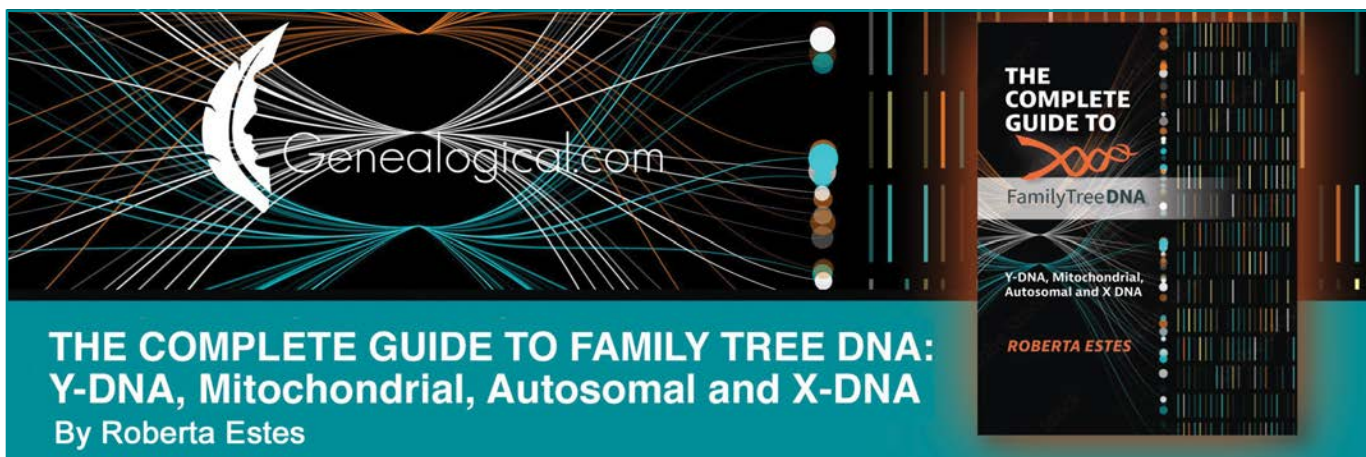
After my divorce, I lived in New York City, then went to Spain with my new (and current) husband. We bought an ancient farmhouse and a townhouse in Almeria. We had no furniture. I furnished the townhouse and the farmhouse and worked with local craftspeople. Then a ray of light struck my shoulder; I suddenly knew what I wanted to be. I asked to use the first floor and basement as a studio and opened a shop. I hung

my name on the door and soon after had my first client; an area bar and restaurant owner. I loved it. I was terrified at first, but I found a fantastic woman architect who worked with environmentalism and solar and wind energy, and I was off and running. The bar and the restaurant were a big success. I love to eat and drink and to see people having a good time, so it was easy to figure out how to design a place that felt good for both. I am still obsessed with how a place feels. I address all the senses and include all the elements in every project.

Since then, our projects went from small and medium size to developments with three towers, over a thousand apartment units, and a 50,000-square-foot amenities building. We work on resorts and spas as far afield as Argentina and Turkey. Our work continuously evolves because we often take on new types of projects and challenges. I don't like to say no. I want to design hospitals, prisons, senior living facilities, and schools.

I am unique as a designer because I am multidisciplinary and do not specialize. I take a holistic approach and design for how the body experiences the space entirely, integrating wellness, sustainability, and minimalism. I do see a shift in Western society toward wellness and well-being, which - I believe - should be inclusive and available for everyone.

www.clodagh.com
[@clodaghdesign](https://www.instagram.com/clodaghdesign)



THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FAMILY TREE DNA: Y-DNA, Mitochondrial, Autosomal and X-DNA By Roberta Estes

FamilyTreeDNA, founded in 2000, was the first and is still the only company to offer three kinds of DNA testing for genealogy:

- The Family Finder autosomal DNA test provides you with your ethnicity breakdown, plus matches to close and distant family members on both the paternal and maternal sides of your family.
- Mitochondrial DNA tests your mother's direct maternal line.
- Y-DNA tests the direct paternal line for men, providing matches to males both recently and distantly related.

Roberta Estes, the author of over 1,600 articles about genetic genealogy, explains each kind of test, when it's most useful, and how to incorporate the results into your genealogy. This guidebook contains multiple screenshots like the ones you can expect to view on your own computer; roadmaps and checklists with instructions on how to proceed; plus, an extensive glossary to help you decipher the technical language associated with DNA testing. In a word, this is the only comprehensive guidebook to FamilyTreeDNA.

8-1/2" x 11". 264 pp., profusely illus., paper. 2024.

Print edition: ISBN 9780806321288 **\$37.50** / **e-Book version:** ISBN 9780806372471 **.\$24.95**

Genealogical Publishing Company · 3600 Clipper Mill Rd. Suite 229 · Baltimore, MD 21211 www.genealogical.com

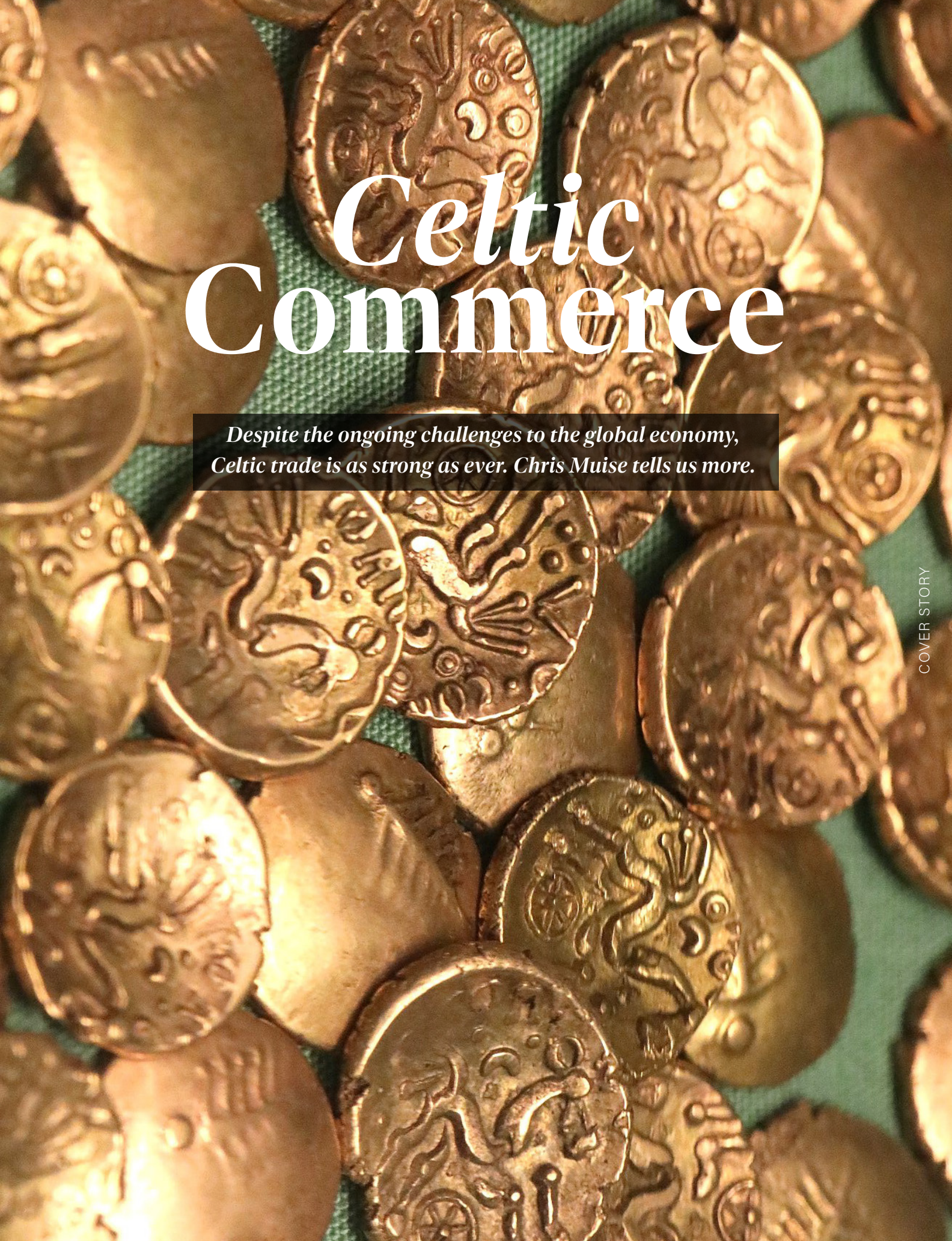


There is a reason why
we are the only Canadian
retailer ever short listed
for World Whisky
Retailer of the Year (and
two time Runner Up)...
we have great taste!

Always on the hunt for
cool new single casks,
here are a few of the
latest and greatest!



kensingtonwinemarket.com
@KensingtonWM



Celtic Commerce

Despite the ongoing challenges to the global economy, Celtic trade is as strong as ever. Chris Muise tells us more.



The Celtic peoples have been dealing in trade since long before their recorded history, and likely even the recorded history of some of those they traded with. As the Celts didn't start detailing their history until around 800 CE, figuring out the economic niches they historically inhabited requires a bit of digging - literally.

"Archaeological finds attest that trade between the Celtic tribes in what is today southern Germany and the Greek colonies in southern France was going on as early as the 6th century BCE," writes professional researcher Mark Cartwright in an article titled "Trade in Ancient Celtic Europe" published on the World History Encyclopedia. "Typical goods traded by the Celts included salt, slaves, iron, gold, and furs. These things were exchanged in a barter system for wine, amber, fine bronze, and pottery vessels, and scarce materials like ivory, coral, and coloured glass, which could be incorporated into Celtic manufactured goods. Trade also brought with it

an exchange of ideas, particularly in the fields of technology, art, and religious practices."

And while contemporary Celtic trade has certainly changed in the intervening years, much remains similar. Precious metals and minerals, textiles, and fine food and drink are still goods the Celtic economy is known and celebrated for today, traded between their neighbours and, ever increasingly, around the globe.

"Broadly there are three parts to the modern Scottish economy; home and giftware, textiles and fashion accessories, and specialty food and drink," says Mark Saunders, director of Springboard Events, which hosts Scotland's Trade Fairs, both Spring and Autumn. "Buyers that come to it are primarily independent gift shops, heritage organizations, garden centres, visitor centres for visitor attractions, the gift shops for visitor attractions, and any other retail outlet that stocks giftware or specialty food and drink."

Saunders has been in the trade and con-

sumer show game since 1987, with most of those years working in the U.K. and Scotland, and has witnessed many highs and lows in the Celtic marketplace in that time.

Still, he remains optimistic about the opportunity for economic development and the potential for new partnerships to bloom.

"Trade shows are business to business, and the consumer shows are business to consumer - a little like a dating service. For us, the important thing is getting new buyers in front of vendors. For them, gauging the success of the show is not so much on orders that they have taken with existing customers. It is more about the orders or connections that they have made with customers that they weren't dealing with before.

"It works both ways, but it is about constantly trying to find new companies that buyers haven't seen, because buyers can be fairly voracious when it comes to wanting new products. All the research that we do tells us that they are looking for new prod-

ucts, new ranges, new ideas, innovation, original products, and so on. So, we are constantly trying to find that for them.”

Those buyers, Saunders explains, typically come from one of two camps, but both are catering to Scotland's biggest economy: tourism.

“The tourism economy is good,” he says. “And what that means, in terms of the ‘Celtic’ economy, is that it is very robust and continues to grow. The gift market in Scotland is solidly dipped in the tourism market. As such, the backbone of our shows are products that are geared towards tourism.

“There is a sort of two-tier element to it as well; there are many gift shops, particularly in the cities, which are catering more for their own domestic cosmopolitan audience, and they are not necessarily looking for the same sort of stock as a tourist. A more tourist-orientated retailer is looking for contemporary giftware from Scotland, England, Europe - it could be anywhere.

“The easiest way to describe it is that anything with tartan on it is probably more geared towards the tourism market...”

“In the domestic market, there is a demand for that, along with Highland Wear and such,” Saunders continues. “But in terms of the more gift-able items, the tourism market is more geared towards things which have some form of Scottish recognition to it. Because a tourist coming from, say, North America, or Europe, or wherever, may want to buy something to take back as a keepsake for themselves, or for a relation back home.”

Saunders explains that in recent years, alongside growth in tourism from the usual visitors from Europe and North America, people from farther afield are travelling to Scotland and the other Celtic countries, especially from Asia. And these tourists are increasingly less interested in the kitschy sorts of keepsakes, like a Welcome to Scotland snow globe or a stuffed Nessie doll; they want souvenirs that are of Scotland, instead of stuff that has “Scotland” printed on it.

“They are looking for authenticity and provenance. If a Chinese tourist comes over and finds a bag from Harris Tweed with



Mark Saunders

‘made in China’ on it, he or she is less likely to be interested. That person may want something that is actually made in Scotland and is prepared to pay extra for that.”

Drew McKenzie Smith of Lindores Abbey Distillery echoes the sentiment.

“People are looking for provenance,” he shares from his office in Newburgh, Scotland. “Things with genuine history. They don’t mind paying a premium price for something if they know where it comes from.”

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted all of that for a while, hitting the Celtic countries especially hard.

“Ireland and Scotland particularly, but also Wales and England - they all rely very heavily on tourism to sustain the population and economy,” notes Genevieve Sheehan, CEO of Sheenco Travel “It is the biggest industry in Ireland and Scotland, for sure.”

“In January 2020, we probably had one of the most successful shows we ever had,” notes Saunders. “That is what the suppliers told us - orders were strong. They had done really well; 2019 had been a fantastic year for tourism, and that was reflected in the show in January 2020 with people looking ahead with a great deal of confidence. The bulk of those orders were then cancelled in March. Everything sort of went off a cliff. Everybody just had to survive.”

After COVID-19, tourism numbers in Scotland bounced back about as much as could be expected.

“To be fair, the majority did survive,”

says Saunders, referring to the country’s tourism businesses. “There were one or two casualties, but the majority did online trading, predominantly. Some got loans and grants, furlough, and so on. When we came around to being able to run physical shows again, we found that the pool of vendors was about the same as it was before. We always figured that it would probably take about three years for us to get a better idea of what the natural level of exhibitors and buyers was likely to be within the show.

“This will be our third show post-pandemic, and that will probably give us an indication of where we are. It is slightly lower than it was in 2020, but not by much. The numbers are commensurate to what they were pre-COVID.”

The larger hurdle the Celtic economy faces today comes from the economic upheavals of Brexit, and the high cost of living in general. Fewer people are spending, both at home and abroad.

“Since Covid-19, the hospitality trade has got a lot more expensive,” Saunders acknowledges. “Hotels and restaurants, accommodation, food and drink, and the like. There are moves to introduce local tourist taxes in Scotland now, which will probably happen. That will add a visitor levy to any visit that is made.

“Brexit has influenced a number of the Scottish suppliers who are looking to export into European countries, absolutely. Although most companies have now found



ways through all that; it may have come at a bit of extra cost and red tape, but most of them have come out the other side relatively unscathed. It is just the smaller companies, who perhaps don't have the resources to be able to manage the Brexit fallout either from a cost or a people point of view, where it has had an effect.

"It is definitely something that Scotland needs to keep an eye on, in order to ensure that its tourist industry - which essentially is what drives the Celtic economy here - is kept at a level that is commensurate with other countries people might visit."

“Historically, Celtic clans didn't just trade with foreign cultures - they traded between themselves, too. And, in some cases, they competed with one another.

"Between the various Celtic tribes themselves, salt and iron seem to have been the most traded of goods," writes Cartwright. "Trade also brings a heightened competition for resources. An increase in the level and violence of competition between Celtic tribes is evidenced in the development from the 2nd century BCE of the fortified sites (and sometimes settlements) known as oppida.

"Oppida became trade hubs - indeed many were specifically sited to take advantage of natural resources such as precious metals or established trade routes where such goods as amber passed from one end of Europe to the other."

Saunders calls his own oppida a "Launch Gallery."

"We have an area in the show which we call the Launch Gallery, which is for young businesses, or businesses which are new to wholesale. We group those companies together and give them a discounted stand structure to remove the barriers to entry to exhibitions for them as much as we can.

"We do a lot to promote them before the show, and it is an area which is always popular with buyers because they are always looking for new ideas, new companies, and new products. They all make a point of visiting that area to try and pick out that new little gem that might turn into a bestseller for them one day."

Does Scotland's economy rival those of the other Celtic nations, though? Not really

- certainly not like they did in the old days.

"We don't really compete as such, because we've all got our own distinctive products," Saunders assures. "Scotland is very strong on anything tartan-related, because that is unique to Scotland. I know there are obviously different tartans around the world, but it all sort of stems from the home country. The way a lot of Scottish imagery is applied to giftware, be it a Highland cow, a grouse, a puffin, a thistle, whatever sort of iconic imagery is associated with Scotland, which then gets applied to giftware, is pretty unique to Scotland.

"Ireland has a very strong heritage industry, which is very compelling in North America because there's a large proportion of Celtic shops that are more Irish orientated than they are Scottish or Welsh or anywhere else. Wales is a different offering again; It is a much smaller country, but they've got a strong textile industry which is unique to them.

"I suppose that the only area that we possibly compete on a bit is attracting those buyers to our individual shows. We are obviously looking to try and get as many North American buyers over to our show, and Ireland is looking to do the same. I guess we compete a little bit on that front because the shows run at the same time, unfortunately. It is not always easy for the buyers to be able to get to visit both.



“Otherwise, no - the markets are fairly distinct. If a shop is going to buy Irish, it is going to buy Irish. If a shop is going to buy Scottish, it is going to buy Scottish. And there are quite a lot that buy a bit of both. Ultimately, most of the customers are looking for a bit of both. It is in both our interests to try and make life as easy as we can for those people, and to give them the opportunity to browse products from both countries, as that is what they are after. If I wanted them to just buy Scottish and not Irish, I would fail and dramatically and vice versa.”

Whatever trials and tribulations the Celtic marketplace faces today, it certainly seems up for the challenge. Data shows a robust, nimble economic niche. A study on international tourism performance in 2023 by Visit Scotland shows that visits to the country were up 23 percent compared to 2022, and 15 percent compared to 2019, when tourists spent £3,593 million.

“In 2023, international travel to Scotland continued its strong recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit numbers, nights spent, and visitor spending all surpassed the levels seen in both 2019 and 2022,” reads the report's executive summary.

“Ireland's Exports increased by €83 bn (+18%), to reach a new record level of €548bn,” as stated in the Trade and Investment Report 2022 by Ireland's Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. “Ire-



land's imports increased by €83 bn (+21%) to reach €481 bn. In 2022 the value of Goods Exports increased by €43 billion when compared with the previous year, to €209 billion.”

“With a GDP exceeding \$533 billion in 2022, Ireland is one of the most open and export-driven economies in the world,” adds the Country Commercial Guide by Ireland's International Trade Administration. “Ireland has, for the past number of years, been the fastest growing economy in Europe. The outlook for Ireland's economy is positive despite increasing inflation, rising energy prices, and continued global challenges.”

Galicia is the 6th largest exporter out of Spain's 18 exporters (OEC – Galicia). Trade

between the U.K. and the Isle of Man was £1.5 billion in 2023, an increase of 21.8% or £275 million in current prices from 2022 (Department for Business and Trade, Manx Gov't - Trade and Investments Fact Sheet). Bretagne regularly claims the lowest unemployment rate in France (Bretons from Abroad - Economy & Business).

“No matter how you slice it, the tradition of Celtic trade seems as strong as it was all those centuries ago.”

“Trade in raw materials and manufactured goods in ancient Celtic Europe was vibrant and far-reaching, particularly regarding the centre of the continent where there was a hub of well-established trade routes,” writes Cartwright. “Indeed, the prosperity of the early Celts in central Europe was largely down to their location in the very centre of more ancient trade routes from east to west and north to south.”

Modern Celts still enjoy that prime real estate, and even though the Internet makes window shopping easier, meeting buyers at the crossroads - pressing the flesh, to put it in sales speak - is still the lifeblood of trade.

“It is really about ensuring that we are getting people physically attending the exhibitions,” says Saunders. “The challenge to exhibitions now are online platforms. There are many more ways for people to reach the market than there used to be. But - in this market - seeing a product, feeling a product, touching a product, tasting a product; that is still a vital part of the buying process.”





**NORTHERN WATTERS
KNITWEAR
& TARTAN SHOP**

**FINEST CANADIAN CRAFTS - TARTANS PRODUCTS
JEWELLERY - MOHAIR SOCKS - YARN
CELTIC BLANKETS - SHEEPSKIN SLIPPERS
KILTS & ACCESSORIES - CAPES
DEERSKIN ITEMS - NATIVE PRODUCTS**

HISTORIC PROPERTIES
1869 UPPER WATER ST
HALIFAX, NS
(902)405-0488

PIER 20
1209 MARGINAL RD
HALIFAX, NS
(902) 406-2050

VICTORIA ROW
150 RICHMOND ST
CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI
(902)566-5850

**HOME OF THE 100% BRITISH WOOL
SWEATERS & ACCESSORIES
SHOWCASING OVER 250 ARTISANS!**

**MAIN DISTRIBUTOR FOR SCOTTISH
CLAN ITEMS IN NORTH AMERICA**

VISIT OUR CHARLOTTETOWN LOCATION TO SEE OUR KNITTERS WHILE THEY WORK!

1-800-565-9665 - WWW.NWKKNITWEAR.COM



**UK EXPO
INTERNATIONAL**



Looking for a Unique Products ?

*Best Customer Service.
20 YEARS EXPERIENCE*

www.bagpipers.eu

ukexpo@bagpipers.eu

Celtic Wares & Faires

As Chris Muise explains, Celtic vendors find success on the road...





Holly Gilchrist and Selina Heck

During festival season, one of the best things about any festival - from rock hullabaloes to comic cons - is the swag. In that regard, Highland Games and Celtic Festivals are no different; vendors come from far and wide to peddle their wares, giving attendees a chance to take home something special to remember the celebration of their heritage.

Vending on the festival circuit is not for the faint of heart, though. It takes dedication, perseverance, and a little luck to be successful.

"Going into an event, you are sinking in a lot of money," says Carol Ann MacLeod, who co-founded MacLeod Highland Outfitters with her husband Kevin in 2008. "You don't know how the numbers are going to all add up until the end of the day."

MacLeod Highland Outfitters was conceived to provide pipe bands in Atlantic Canada with gear and supplies, a strong niche market

that wasn't being serviced. Their catalogue has since expanded to include all sorts of Celtic clothing, giftware, jewelry, Highland dance supplies, and more.

"With resources like Ancestry.ca now available, people have really become interested in their heritage. Visitors at Highland Games and Celtic Festivals started to jump in on it, looking for all sorts of items."

The couple's company began as an online shop, and via in-person presence at Celtic events in Eastern Canada. They now have a shop in Moncton, New Brunswick.

While festival business is good, McLeod admits that there are some challenges to the vocation.

"A seasonal business can be precarious at times. There is always a risk - really, you don't know what people are going to buy, you can only speculate. You simply do your very best to offer a strong variety of goods."

In addition, with outdoor events, you are always at the mercy of the clouds.

"You can have a good year or bad year based on weather. You are relying solely on the weather, and spectators. Are people going to show up to an event in the pouring rain?"

MacLeod has seen floods - and even a tornado - undo a lot of hard work.

"There were a lot of vendors that lost everything that day; their tents were ripped away, and their stock was gone. That was brutal. And it is not as if you are really insured against Mother Nature."

"It is a bit like farming - you plan for it, budget for it, ride the wave, and next time around, hopefully, you have a good season."

In addition to natural hazards, McLeod notes that the sheer amount of time and energy dedicated to growing the business can be quite taxing.

"Your summers are gone; you are not lounging on a beach on weekends - every weekend you are on the road. During the week, you are placing, receiving and shipping orders."

It can get even more hectic when weekend work isn't your only source of income, which is the case for many vendors on the circuit.

"I run another business, and I have a full-time job," says Roger Scott, founder of Scotsman Grooming. "The challenge that we have is juggling all of that."

"I usually do between 25 and 30 festivals a year," adds Rob Gandara, owner of Carbony





with the success they have enjoyed; it allows them to connect with customers and spread awareness of their brands in a way that brick-and-mortar and online storefronts cannot.

Holy Heck USA is a Celtic leather craft company based in Boise, Idaho. Founded and co-operated by long-time leather artisans Holly Gilchrist and Selina Heck, the company prides itself on using American cow hide to make their leather products, rather than importing it.

They believe the best way to convince their clientele that this makes a difference in quality is to put it directly in the customer's hands.

"Our product is so tactile," says Gilchrist. "The beautiful photos that we have online can give one a sense of the quality of the product, but when you see it in person, it is a whole other level; the smell of the leather - people love that when they visit our vendor booth."

"Getting out to these events is an integral part of our business," adds Heck. "It is critical to our business in a way that it keeps the craft alive and vibrant. We don't want to be artists

that work in a vacuum."

"A hundred years ago, you would have found a bottle of beard conditioner or beard oil to be as common as toothpaste on a Victorian bathroom shelf," says Roger Scott, whose self-formulated products are naturally scented and fast drying.

Beard grooming techniques have fallen out of fashion, according to Scott, and existing products have turned men in-the-know off the practice. Convincing customers his brews are different requires sampling.

"Once they try mine, and they can see the difference, we have about a 98 per cent sales rate."

Likewise, Rob Gandara's carbon fibre instruments - which are designed to preserve the resonant integrity of classical 19th-century designs without risk of environmental damage, such as warping or cracking - need to be handled to be appreciated.

"This business, probably more than any other, is about relationships."

"I can't imagine I ever would have gotten even close to where I am today if I didn't travel to come to people and meet them."

Scott echoes the sentiment, adding that attendees at Celtic festivals are plugged into their heritage, and look for the feeling of a close-knit Scottish village, where vendors play the role of the local shop-keep.

"A Scottish gathering is just that. It is called a gathering for a reason; everyone should feel like they are family when they come, and they are seeing family again whenever they see us."

That fellowship and familiarity help to draw Scott and his peers back year after year.

"It is a gathering not only for the attendees, but also for the vendors. What is great is that they come running over as you are setting up on Friday for a hug and a hello. We work in a very collaborative manner."

"It is much less competitive than maybe one might think," says Carol Ann MacLeod, who sees vendors aiding each other in times of need. "If you are having some problems or issues, the other vendors are always there with a helping hand."

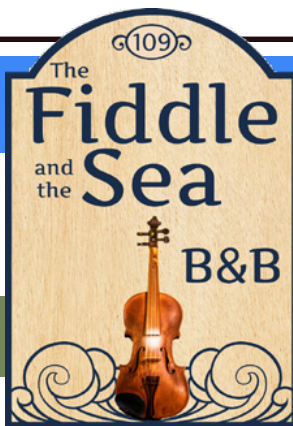
"The camaraderie among vendors is exceptional," adds Gandara. "I always feel like I am going home every time I land somewhere, and it is the people that make me feel at home."

Celtic Winds out of Corvallis, Oregon. Gandara is a product development engineer by trade and travels the circuit selling Celtic wind instruments that he makes out of carbon fibre. "And those events are on weekends, so do the math on my work week."

Despite the hectic schedule, and the inherent risks that come with the gig, these entrepreneurs are quick to credit the festival circuit



Rob Gandara



AN FHIDHILL AGUS AN FHARRAIGE, B&B

Ensuite rooms. Near sandy beaches
on the warmest waters in eastern Canada.

Experience the living Celtic Culture

109 High Road, Port Hood
Nova Scotia, B0E 2W0

902-631-5980

contact@thefiddleandthesea.com
www.thefiddleandthesea.com



VIRGINIA SCOTTISH GAMES
Aug. 31 & Sept. 1, 2024
www.vascottishgames.org



*An Exhilarating evening of
Celtic music and Dancing!*



Live at
**The Scott MacAulay
Performing Arts Center**
619 WATER ST. EAST,
SUMMERSIDE, PE
902 - 436 - 5377

Summer 2024
July 18, 24, 25, 30, 31
August 7, 8, 14, 15

A photograph of Tom McGrath, a middle-aged man with a beard and glasses, wearing a brown sweater and a blue lanyard with a badge. He is standing in a large, brightly lit indoor space, likely a trade show or exhibition hall, with various displays and structures visible in the background. The image is used as a background for the article title and introductory text.

The North American Celtic Trade Association

As the proprietor of his family's business, Tipperary Stores, Tom McGrath is a long-time Irish Importer and Celtic Jeweler with locations in Brunswick (New York), Newport (Rhode Island), and Annapolis (Maryland). He is also the current president of the North American Celtic Trade Association (NACTA). Recently we spoke with McGrath about his role with the organization



What are your own roots?

The four branches of my family tree hail from four different counties in Ireland; on my mom's side, the Waters from Co. Sligo and the Caufield's from Co. Longford. On my father's side, the O'Day's from Co. Clare and the McGrath's from Co. Tipperary. It is with the founding of O'Day Brothers Livery in 1831 in Cohoes, New York that we trace our legacy of businesses. The livery started by providing horses and wagons to contractors building the giant textile mills along the Mohawk River. As the story goes, my newly-arrived great-great grandfather and his brothers could either jump down into the canal with a shovel like the rest of the Irish immigrants or employ the knowledge of horses they had brought from Clare. They thankfully chose the latter. The livery had a run that lasted well over a century and expanded to include the grocery and gasoline businesses. My father worked as a kid along with his uncle and my grandmother in the grocery store. When the livery part of the business closed as the calendar turned to the 1950s, many of our beautiful coaches were sold to Republic Pictures and were used in the westerns we still

see on TV today. John Wayne crashed a couple O'Day Brothers coaches! We continue to have O'Day Brothers Grocery sections in each of our Tipperary Stores featuring food from Ireland and the U.K.

Where do you currently reside?

I live in Brunswick, New York with my family, including my four prized little grandchildren. I am very fortunate to have residences in Newport and Annapolis as well.

How long have you been involved with NACTA?

I have been involved with NACTA since day one. NACTA started over 30 years ago with a group of Irish store owners "passing the hat." My mother and father were very involved in formalizing the organization into a legal entity, and my father served as the first president. NACTA has gone from strength to strength over the decades. I have served as a long-time board member, board rep, vice president, and I am now in my fifth year as the 11th president.

What are your current roles & responsibilities there?

My focus as president of NACTA is to provide industry and organizational perspective, having been around since the beginning, while pushing the organization forward into the future of retail and supply chain economics.

What are the challenges of the vocation?

All vocations have some challenges. Being a retailer is a demanding job that comes with the standard seven-day, 80-hour work weeks, and extremely limited vacation time. There are, of course, the everyday business pressures of paying leases, insurance, taxes, making payroll, etc., but that will always be part of the deal. No one in retail clears the desk and closes the briefcase at 4:30pm to go home or expects Saturday and Sundays off. And everyone in retail regularly asks themselves, "why didn't I get a government job with government funded health insurance and pension." But none of us do it for the money. We enjoy bringing the culture and craftsmanship of Ireland and the Celtic lands to a wider audience.



What are the rewards?

The biggest reward is the comradery between fellow store owners and all the people that make products for us in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England. We are a small, tight-knit group. We meet up a few times a year at industry trade shows in the USA and Dublin, as well as during the NACTA Meet the Maker tours. It is work, sure, but we make it fun. The generations of our family business have dealt with generations of family businesses in Ireland. We still deal with many of the same families we dealt with when I joined the firm in 1984 upon college graduation.

What is the organization's core mandate?

Our mandate is to facilitate and foster communication between likeminded businesses in the Irish and Celtic goods industry.

How has it evolved over the years?

When NACTA started it was NACBA, or a buyers' association - retailers banding together to have a voice in the industry,

then dominated by manufacturers. Over the decades it has grown to 200 member companies including manufacturers, makers, distributors, craft persons, and retailers.

Who are your members, and how do you reach them?

Entities eligible for membership must be involved primarily in the trade of Irish and Celtic goods. Current members are in the United States, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England. Years back we even had an Argentinian member. We are the standard bearer for what we do, so people search us out through our website, social media, and via word of mouth.

What are your thoughts on the current state of the Celtic Marketplace?

As the old guy in the business, and having seen decades of ups and downs, industry expansions and contractions, the introduction of QVC, websites, and the over-building of big box stores, it wasn't hard to predict the decline of Main St. However, as it turns out, all those things

have served to strengthen the little guy as larger businesses try to emulate the personalized, hands-on customer experience offered by smaller businesses. As such, in 2024, it is nearly impossible to find a vacancy on Main St. Business and the economy are booming, and I often tell our members that "these are the good times, the best times."

How can that be improved?

There is always room for improvement in anyone's business, and we are no different that way - always evolving, introducing new makers, striving for quality, being on the cutting edge of technology and business practices, and so forth.

What does NACTA have on its agenda for the rest of 2024?

Our NACTA Board of Directors and staff are busy introducing a new member benefit for FINtech. We are also well into planning Trade Shows and Meet the Maker Tours for 2025.

www.nacta.ie
[@nacta.ie](https://www.instagram.com/nacta.ie)

Get in
here



**GLEN
INNES**
HIGHLANDS
SHOP

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS



www.gleninneshighlands.shop
152 Church Street Glen Innes NSW 2370 AUSTRALIA

Glen Innes Highlands Shop

One special spot shines down-under in Celtic Country



The Glen Innes Highlands in New South Wales, Australia is an ideal destination for those with an appetite for outdoor adventure, relaxing escapes, unrivaled hospitality, and a strong connection to their Celtic heritage.

In a part of the world officially designated as “Celtic Country”, the area’s Visitor Information Center - which bears the town’s name - functions both as a point of entry to the Highlands and as a merchandising outlet.

Sal Molesworth - born and bred in New South Wales and long-time employee of the Glen Innes Highlands Shop - shares her experience working at one of the state’s most scenic and busiest tourist spots.

“Glen Innes is a gateway to the World Heritage Wilderness areas of Gibraltar Range and Washpool National Park. Our clients are locals and visitors from all over the world who are travelling through or holidaying in our region. We offer specialized services and information about the area and beyond. We give each customer more than just a retail experience.”

As such, Sal helps guide guests with information on must-see attractions in the area, including the nearby Australian Standing Stones, which serve as an impressive monument to the Scottish pioneers who settled the region in the early 1800s, and were eventually followed by the Irish, Cornish, and Welsh.

Between the Glen Innes Highlands Shop and the annual Australian Celtic Festival, those rich Celtic roots are well represented across the region.

“Along with locally sourced products, we also import and stock Celtic jewelry, including St Justin items from Cornwall and Heathergems products from Scotland. These pieces add to our already-wide range of Celtic-inspired products available to visitors year-round and to those who attend the Australian Celtic Festival each Autumn.”

As the first European settlers in Glen Innes hailed from Scotland (likely due to the familiarity of the region’s cooler climate and gentle rolling hills), it is no surprise that the region has its own tartan.

“Our Glen Innes tartan was the first registered district tartan in Australia. Our tartan range is ever-evolving, and now features on sev-

eral products, including tam-o-shanters and handmade bears.”

Added to that history and heritage, the breathtaking landscape and cultural attractions of the Glen Innes Highlands draw a significant percentage of the millions who visit Australia each year - many of whom Sal is fortunate to meet at the Visitor Information Center and shop.

“Glen Innes Highlands is part of the New England High Country destination hub,” she explains. “Through our local, state and federal tourism campaigns, which include social media, radio, television and print media, we can reach a broad range of travellers.

“We really enjoy promoting our region and sharing the many wonderful things that it has to offer.”

Between the constant flow of tourists and supporting local product producers, the shop has been busy.

“It is important to keep the shop up-to-date and source quality merchandise that represents the Glen Innes Highlands. Currently, I look after all the merchandise purchases, which include our own branded products. The growth of our online shop and our branded-designs have become much more sophisticated and, as technology has grown, we now offer so much more.”

In addition to its proud connection to the Scottish pioneers, the facility also offers products from local Aboriginal artisans honoring the Ngarabul people who originally inhabited the area.

“Glen Innes is on Ngarabul Country, and we have a selection of First Nations arts and crafts also on display. It is rewarding to spend time with local craftspeople and promote their products - things like hand-woven scarves, olive oil, black garlic, and local honey.”

The true rewards, however, remain with those travelling to a region that celebrates Celtic heritage with more than just an annual festival - kilted tours, solstice celebrations, and six separate Celtic Nations flag ceremonies also take place throughout the year.

@gihighlands

WWW.GLENINNESHIGHLANDS.SHOP

Sheila Fleet.

DESIGNED & MADE IN ORKNEY, SCOTLAND

Runic COLLECTION

Inspired by runic inscriptions found inside Maeshowe, a chambered cairn in Orkney. Vikings broke into the tomb and made over thirty runic inscriptions—the largest single collection of such carvings in the world.

All Sheila's designs have messages written in runes. The necklet modelled here by Shirley reads 'Reflecting times past and present'.

Discover more at
sheilafleet.com/runic



ORKNEY | EDINBURGH
GLASGOW | ST ANDREWS

01856 861 203 | sheilafleet.com

Sheila Fleet

*For one Scottish woman,
creativity runs in the family...*



As a wee lass surrounded by her three sisters and two brothers on a small farm in South Ronaldsay, Scotland, Sheila Fleet was consistently encouraged by her mum to express herself creatively.

Drawing upon the breathtaking natural beauty of Scotland, Fleet forged the backdrop of her childhood into the foundation for her future, becoming one of Scotland's leading jewelry designers and producers of silver, gold, and platinum enameled jewelry.

"Growing up on a small farm, surrounded by history, the sea, and nature has given me lifelong inspiration," she shares via email. "After graduating from Edinburgh College of Art in 1968, I worked for 21 years in the jewelry industry as a designer and modelmaker before setting up my own shop."

Fleet's older sister Connie also attended Art School in Scotland's capital and during a visit home, she encouraged Sheila to explore the many sources of inspiration in their immediate surroundings. The two began sketching the spectacular Scottish coastline together when Fleet had a defining moment, discovering more than just influences derived from nature, and gaining a clear insight into her life's calling.

"I was drawn to the idea of taking a craft that would give me a creative future and help me earn a living. While cutting and polishing stones at an amateur lapidary club, I set my first stone in a silver ring. That was where I started my journey."

After graduation, Fleet travelled across Europe, visiting leading designers including Friedrich Becker and Paul G. Hartkopf - experiences that profoundly affected her future endeavors.

"The business has grown steadily over the last 30 years thanks to my loyal customers, digital developments, and an ever-growing tourism industry in Scotland and Orkney. We now have a worldwide customer base and continue to develop new designs and collections each year expanding our selection for new and long-term customers."

As both creative director and coordinator of all departments from production to marketing, Fleet gradually developed a skilled team, hiring young people in the community and enhancing traditional jewelry-making processes with new technology. She also reaches out regularly to connect with her customer base.

"As the market grew for my original designs, a new, larger workshop was built to keep up with the demand. As demand kept growing, we employed local people and offered in-house training. We now also

have a 'Meet the Designer' event in our shops in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and St Andrews. It is a great way of keeping in touch and connecting with our clients."

It is no surprise, then, that Fleet's customers are loyal and long-standing; her jewelry designs are a testament to hard-won experience and well-honed craftsmanship - as well as tributes to her early sources of inspiration. Browsing her collections titled The Sea, The Sky, Spirit, and Tradition, reveal her influences and feature unique pieces named Cascade, Moonlight, Ogham, and Book of Kells.

"My collections have been inspired by many aspects, from the strong Orkney seas to the historic runic inscriptions found inside Maeshowe, a chambered cairn in Orkney, built around 2800 BC."

"Working with the team at our countryside workshop is also rewarding every day. It's great to rest our eyes on the surrounding green fields and sea along the shoreline."

Judging from her impressive array of finely crafted pieces, it is a wonder that she and her team ever find time to rest at all, given that she designs and produces jewelry in all precious metals, handset with diamonds and precious stones.

"I have curated a wide range of designs and collections within 30 years. We are one of only two jewellers in the world authorized to make and sell Scottish Gold from Cononish Gold Mine, Scotland's only commercial gold mine. We are also developing new premises for our Kirkwall Gallery in Orkney, as well as working on new designs to launch later this year"

Like her enduring connection to her early memories of the sea, sky, and the Scottish landscape, Fleet remains committed to clients who visit her workshop and share her love of the land and its elements, brought forth in her products.

"We often have customers from all over the world visit Orkney. Meeting those who have collected designs over the years is very gratifying. It's lovely when they can experience some of the places that are my inspiration."

@sheilafleetjewellery

WWW.SHEILAFLEET.COM

**17th Annual
Jamestown Regional**

Celtic Festival and Gathering of the Clans

August 23 & 24, 2024 • 9 AM - 9:30 PM
Mayville Lakeside Park, Mayville, New York



From Gatlinburg, Tennessee **TUATHA DEA**



MUDMEN from Ontario, Canada

2 GINGERS INN Proudly Sponsors Both Celtic Bands



1118 E. 2nd Street, Jamestown, New York (716) 294-3192

Performers Include:

**TUATHA DEA • MUDMEN • EMERALD ISLE
CELTIC CREEK • STEP N TIME • WATER HORSE
BALLINLOCH • THE FIDDLE SESSION • CATCH N' RELEASE**

**30 - GATHERING OF THE CLANS • 8 - PIPE BANDS
30 - SCOTTISH HEAVY ATHLETES • 30 - CELTIC & CRAFT VENDORS
CELTIC MUSIC • ALL KINDS OF GREAT FOOD • BEER & WINE GARDEN
SCOTTISH & IRISH DANCERS • CELTIC & CRAFT VENDORS
OLD FASHION FIDDLE SESSION • KID'S AREA W/ CLAN HUNT**



Purchase Your
Discounted Tickets online at:
www.96thhighlanders.com



The Villager
ELLICOTTVILLE • CHARTERSVILLE



SORRY NO PETS ALLOWED FOR INSURANCE REASONS
Plenty of shade trees and tents to escape the Sun & Heat

Jamestown Celtic Festival

Northeast New York is home to a world-class Celtic gathering



Named for the Irish patriarch who founded the area, Jamestown, New York grew from humble beginnings after James Prendergast - the son of an Irish immigrant - built his log cabin in Chautauqua County in 1809.

By 1827, a small cluster of mills was incorporated into a village and, by 1886, a city, complete with municipal administration and a small police force. By the turn of the century, Jamestown had established a cloth mill and other businesses, becoming a bustling industrial town.

Once renowned for brick and furniture manufacturing, and proudly claimed as the birthplace of comedienne Lucille Ball, the region reinvented itself over centuries of social and economic change. Today, it serves as an endearing slice of Americana - an example of urban, architectural, and cultural development within the tiny corners of its vast landscape.

Also recognized as a coveted fishing and sailing spot, Jamestown is perched at the tip of the beautiful Chautauqua Lake - the scenic setting for the Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival each summer.

Doug Clark, principal organizer of the annual festival, is proud to have been a part of the event since the start.

"I was one of the original founders, along with William (Mac) MacLaughlin who was then the Chief of Police for Jamestown. In 2005, Mac and I started the Celtic festival with only a few vendors, a couple of pipe and Celtic bands, and one set of Irish dancers."

Today, the Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival boasts more than 30 clan tents, eight pipe bands, 30 Scottish heavy athletes, a large selection of Celtic crafts and food vendors, and a concert and beer garden that features a rip-roarin' repertoire of musical and dance performances.

"We keep expanding, adding more vendors and attractions and drawing in more spectators, each year," explains Clark. "We often add a new event to the schedule. This year we are holding a Celtic Golf Scramble that we hope to make a permanent part of the celebration."

Open to men, women, and mixed teams, participants in the Golf Scramble donate their fees and become eligible for cash prizes awarded to first, second, and third place. In addition, items donated by local businesses and festival vendors are sold as part of the Scottish Auction to raise money for the 96th Highlanders Pipes and Drums Scholarship fund established in 2001 by Clark's wife, Pipe Major Pamela Silver.

"Pam and I manage the Pipe and Ale Ceilidh, the Pipe and Band Festival, and we organize all the marketing and sponsorship with the help of our hard-working volunteers."

“Providing our attendees with a successful festival is its own reward...”

The 96th Highlanders Pipes and Drums of Jamestown also give back to the local com-

munity by regularly donating funds from its performances to worthy causes, as well as offering free weekly bagpipe lessons, open to all.

"In our area of southern New York, we can only hope people will give the pipes and drums a try. Our pipers and drummers are what we call 'homegrown'. Pam has taught most of the pipers and I have taught all the drummers. I started playing drums in High School and I am now 73 years-of-age!"

Representing Jamestown at many Highland Games and competitive events in the tri-county region and beyond - including the upcoming Niagara Celtic Festival in Lockport, New York - the 96th Highlanders Pipes and Drums of Jamestown will kick off the 2024 festival pipe band concert series. Also featured are the Mackenzie and Gordons Highlanders, Feadon Or, the Caledonians, and more. The Celtic Music Tent will also showcase fan favorites Tuatha Dea of Tennessee and The Mudmen from Ontario.

"We host a very nice mix of attendees that include adults, both young and old, as well as families and seniors. There is something for everyone here. We have numerous clans that participate each year, and we are always open to welcoming more..."

"So many people are looking to learn more about their heritage, and our gathering is a great way to meet folks from different parts of the world who share a love of Celtic culture."

WWW.96THHIGHLANDERS.COM/FESTIVAL.HTML

A photograph of four students walking along a paved path on a university campus. From left to right: a man in a light green polo shirt and khaki pants, a woman in a teal dress, a woman in a black dress, and a woman in a black top and jeans carrying a laptop. They are walking past a large tree and a modern building with large windows.

Irish Studies Program

www.fairfield.edu/irishstudies

FAIRFIELD, CT

Fairfield University, located in southwestern Connecticut only 75 minutes northeast of New York City, offers a dynamic program in Irish Studies. With a significant Irish-American representation among its students and alumni, interest in Ireland has characterized Fairfield for decades. This interest continues unabated today, as Irish people on both sides of the Atlantic have sought to resolve long-standing issues amidst an increasingly global economy. Fairfield's Irish Studies program enables students to investigate

Irish contributions to a wide range of disciplines, including literature, history, film, and art. Courses focus on the troubled history of the nation, its colonial and post-colonial significance, the difficult politics of Northern Ireland, and the inspired art and

literature that emerged from the turbulent Irish past. To complete the Irish Studies minor, students must complete a capstone research project in an area of their choice. Affiliated with the National University of Ireland, Fairfield's Irish Studies program, through study abroad in Galway, also allows students to take Irish-focused courses in archeology, economics, sociology, linguistics, and the Irish language. The program also offers on-site lectures, concerts, plays, and readings that complement the academic courses.



Fairfield
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts
& Sciences

Fairfield University

"Sometimes I fear that this new generation, educated or hypereducated as it is, will lack those qualities of humanity, of hospitality, of kindly humour which belonged to an older day."

~ James Joyce

Those lines, published in 1914 by one of the most influential writers of the 20th century, may still hold relevance today. Dr. William Abbott, co-director of Fairfield University's Irish Studies program - an in-depth curriculum of Irish history, art, literature, and politics - echoes a similar sentiment about the value of such academic undertakings.

"The main challenge of co-directing the Irish Studies program is defending the study of humanities to students who are focused primarily on career preparation," he explains to Celtic Life International via email. "These are students who perhaps underestimate the need for creativity and imagination.

"Those who do appreciate the value of the humanities, and who work hard and creatively in Irish Studies, come out of the courses with a clearer sense of how history operates."

While to many the study of history and humanities may seem worthy only if it includes a marketable goal, Abbott believes that they are crucial components for the "real world" that are often absent from the skillset of today's business graduates.

"As with all education, a 'Celtic education' can be improved by raising and maintaining academic standards. Employers in a wide range of businesses complain constantly that American university graduates lack basic skills in reading comprehension

and expository writing. The dumbing-down of courses, particularly in the humanities, is a major problem in US universities."

Educated both in California and Oxford, England, Abbott is not alone in his perspective on pedagogy.

"I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, completing a baccalaureate in History from the University of California, Berkeley in 1974. I earned a doctorate in modern British history in England, and joined the faculty of Fairfield University, Connecticut, in 1985. My parents had struggled their way out of Depression-era poverty via hard work and education, and they imposed those values upon their children."

For pupils enrolling in Fairfield's Irish Studies program, a commitment to scholarship for its own sake is not the only incentive, however; students are swayed by an appreciation for all aspects of Irish culture and the opportunity to investigate Ireland's many contributions to the world.

“Like the humanities in general, our Irish Studies program appeals to our students for its creativity and for the rewards of exploring the human experience...”

"Many enroll because they have personal and family connections with Ireland, while others appreciate the course curriculum. And, we have superb instructors in literature, art, and, until recently, politics."

Whether sought for preference or practical reasons, the program's core mandate provides an in-depth appreciation of Irish heritage and history, and a better understanding of the connections between them.

"One cannot appreciate Irish literature and art without understanding its history and politics. The latter two fields cannot be separated from Ireland's extraordinary cultural achievements that would do justice to much larger nations and regions."



In the words of Harvard Professor and political philosopher Michael Sandel, "Not all values should be market values." And yet, the Fairfield Irish Studies program can certainly enhance many careers that require an informed global perspective and an up-to-date cultural dialogue. While Abbott thrives at helping students gain a clearer picture of Ireland's past through teaching his history classes, his methodology is also rooted in providing more practical gains.

In addition, the University offers students the opportunity to enroll in courses at the National University of Ireland.

"The Galway study-abroad experience was established as a regular feature of our program, and we certainly take pride in it. And the program's mandate has grown to encompass a broader embrace of the surrounding community. For example, our annual 'Irish in Film' series and guest speakers attract audience members from outside the campus."

This year, the faculty plans to showcase artifacts from Quinnipiac's Great Hunger Museum and organize films and concerts as part of its program.

"Celtic studies encompass the history and culture of Ireland, Scotland, Cornwall, Wales, and Brittany, and they might also encompass Basque culture. Supervising students' projects and watching them improve their reading and writing skills gives me a sense of purpose."

Undoubtedly, James Joyce would approve.



WWW.FAIRFIELD.EDU

the cottages Ireland



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

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

info@cottages-ireland.com

00353 41 9828104 • www.cottages-ireland.com

  @thecottagesireland



Winner of the 'Best beach holiday home in Europe'

The Cottages Ireland

For one Irish couple, a labour of love is a new lease on life



Photo Credit: Ruth Maria Murphy - www.ruthmaria.com

For Roger and Liz Pickett, the opportunity to protect and preserve history amidst a lush landscape has been much more than a means for making a living - it has been a vocation.

The Picketts are the owners and caretakers of The Cottages Ireland; six, 300-year-old thatched holiday cottages nestled in a hamlet-like setting along Ireland's eastern coastline, halfway between Dublin and Belfast. As the fourth generation to manage the exquisite dwellings, they have been re-thatching all the cottages - a process that has become a labour of love for the couple.

"Roger and I took over caring for the cottages in the early 1990s," shares Liz via email. "Our idea was to give them a new lease of life."

Over time, the pair modernized the lovely locale, always respectful of the area's breathtaking natural beauty.

"We knew we wanted to take on the upgrade ourselves, so Liz stripped back a lot of the original old pine furniture," explains Roger. "As an engineer by profession, I came up with the design blueprints for each of the individual cottages."

Pencil and paper in hand, Roger based the revised layouts upon the perfect symmetry of the original hand-hewn oak timbers that highlight the rustic charm of each cottage. The seamless, yet subtle changes were carefully conceived to blend old-world charm with 21st-century functionality.

"One aspect of our plan was choosing the same fabric for all the cottages to evoke a feeling of calm and relaxation. We settled

on a design called Toulouse Sunset, which was the perfect fit, creating a quaint and cozy, home-like atmosphere."

Given each cottage's vaulted oak-beamed ceilings, solid oak flooring, and feature fireplaces, home may have never seemed so grand.

During the restoration process, the Picketts were mindful to maintain the facility's original character, layout, and size. For example, one of the units - the 1670 square foot, Thatcher's Rest Cottage - sleeps six, and offers stunning sea views from a bay window seat, as well as heated flooring and towel rails.

Each cottage now has a full farmhouse-style kitchen with a comfortable lounge and dining area.

Guests may choose their cottage accommodation according to their own purpose and preference, be it for a wonderful sea view or a tranquil garden vista.

Given their own interests and hobbies, the project was a task well suited to the couple.

"Roger is endlessly creative with wood turning, producing beautifully crafted pieces," notes Liz.

“As an artist, over the years I have sought to complement my love of watercolour with a passion for gardening by creating a dreamy, organic garden setting.”

The couple greets their guests with a warm Irish welcome of homemade scones

and jam, and a generous hospitality pack of bathrobes and slippers among many other little luxuries that also include twice-weekly housekeeping.

Located in a private, gated hamlet with a beachfront setting between the villages of Bettystown and Laytown, visitors enter a "residents only" environment, leaving the world behind and enjoying easy access to a wide range of the area's activities and gastronomy.

Only 25 minutes from Dublin airport, the Cottages Ireland are close to the 5000-year-old World Heritage Site of Bru na Boinne, Newgrange, as well as the beautiful Boyne Valley and its outstanding collection of Garden Trails. The surrounding area also boasts more than 40 golf courses within an hour's drive, horse racing, stately castles, whiskey distilleries, and a not-to-be-missed Gin School. With a strong selection of cafes, pubs, restaurants, groceries and provisions, sports events, festivals, together with family fun along a six-mile stretch of sandy beach.

Awarded Best Holiday Beach Home in Europe in 2016 and listed in the 50 coolest cottages in Britain and Ireland by Sunday Times Travel Magazine, The Cottages Ireland are a testament to both the vibrancy of Eire's east coast and the valour of the caretakers who have maintained the family business.

Roger and Liz are well aware of their role, "We are very lucky to be 'caretakers in time' of this magical property..."

@thecottagesireland

WWW.COTTAGES-IRELAND.COM

Give the Gift of Membership Save \$\$\$ Visiting Scotland

**Join Chicago
Scots Reciprocal
Membership Program
for free access at
100+ heritage sites in
Scotland all year long.**

You will be a card-carrying
member of the National Trust for
Scotland while supporting Chicago
Scots primary charity, Caledonia
Senior Living & Memory Care.

\$60.....Individual
\$100..... Family

***Join for Culture.
Stay for Care.***



**CHICAGO
SCOTS**



**NATIONAL
TRUST for
SCOTLAND**

Foundation
USA

*Your membership will support Chicago Scots primary
charity, Caledonia Senior Living & Memory Care*



**SCAN OUR QR
CODE TO GET
STARTED!**

Chicago Scots

Combining culture & care, the Chicago Scots have been preserving and promoting Scottish culture in Illinois for almost 200 years. Recently we spoke with CEO Gus Noble about the organizations' past, present and future.





Gus Noble

What are your own roots?

I was born in Dundee and brought up in Duns, Berwickshire. When I had a son in 2015, I thought I'd better do some DNA research so I could tell him about his roots. I discovered that my roots are pretty much all in the Borders around the area where I grew up: 60 percent just north of the border, and 30 per cent just south of the border with wee bits of Irish and Swedish making up the rest.

How long have you been involved with the Chicago Scots?

I moved to Chicago from Scotland in November of 1992. One of the first things I did was go in search of one of those quintessentially American long bars, the kind where a barkeep in an apron stands cleaning a glass before he fills it with ice-cold beer and sends it sliding down the bar as he says, "Tell me your troubles, son." I didn't find one. Instead, I found the Duke of Perth. The sign above the door said "Chicago's only Scottish pub." So, in I went. It was there where I first heard about the Chicago Scots. A few months later I went to the Chicago Scots Highland Games. It was hosted in Grant Park, right downtown. Mel Gibson

was the guest of honor. Braveheart had just dropped. He wore a kilt and joined in with the heavy athletics. Afterwards, a TV news reporter asked him what was under his kilt. Looking down at Grant Park below his feet, he answered, "Grass." Years later, I was working for the British Consulate General Chicago and accompanied Ambassador Sir John Kerr to an event where he presented a donation to help the Chicago Scots build a new wing on their Scottish Home for senior care. Because I wore my kilt, Sir John invited me to stand onstage for the ceremonial photo op as he presented an oversized cheque to Chicago Scots' President, Wayne Rethford. Fast forward to August 2004, when I walked into the Scottish Home to begin day one of the job that I'm proud to have had for 20 years now. Somebody found a copy of that photo and put it on my desk. As I looked at the youthful Gus in the photo, I thought, "Never in a million years did that lad ever dream he'd have the privilege to succeed Wayne as President & CEO of the oldest 501c3 charity in Illinois, the Chicago Scots."

What are your current roles & responsibilities there?

As its CEO, I want, must, and need to embody every single aspect of the Chicago Scots: the comfort and care of every resident at Caledonia Senior Living & Memory Care, every employee's motivation, the warmth of every visitor's welcome, every report to our Board, every donor's gift, every beer that's sold at our Scottish Festival & Highland Games, every pot of tea and every scone our kitchen prepares. I am in it. Chicago Scots is me and I am Chicago Scots. And a CEO must be authentic - it is absolutely essential that the CEO's values are aligned with those of the organizations. If they are, then powerful stuff can happen.

What are the challenges involved?

The role of a CEO has layers that only become apparent when you're in it. Since becoming President of the Chica-



Caledonia House

go Scots, I have a different appreciation for the concept of time. Being a CEO is not just about dealing with drama and pressure of today or thinking about the next couple of weeks or months. It's about what's going to happen in 10, 20, 100 years. It's about staying in tune with the values of an organization. It's about appreciating an organization's history and being grateful for what we inherit from our predecessors. But it's also about being unafraid to question whether the ways, systems, and principles that we inherit from yesterday are right for tomorrow.

What are the rewards?

Of course, Caledonia Senior Living & Memory Care's success is ultimately measured in dollars and cents, pounds, shillings, and pence. But there's a more human way I measure and define success. It's the look in the eyes of the adult children of residents. If I look into the eyes of Dorothy's daughter and can see that she's well rested, I will know she isn't worrying about Mom. She has peace of mind. The greatest, best words

we can hear from a family member are, "I don't worry" - if Dorothy's daughter knows her mother is cared for, honored, and loved, she will be less stressed, better able to be present in her personal life and more productive in her professional life. The care my incredible colleagues offer resonates beyond the walls of our buildings and into the broader community in a very beautiful way.

What is the organization's core mandate?

Chicago Scots has a unique mission. How many organizations do you know that do caber tossing, whisky tasting, skilled nursing, and dementia care? Think of Chicago Scots as a coin. On one side you'll find culture. On the other side you'll find care. These may seem totally unrelated, but when you peel away every layer to reveal who we are at our very core, you'll see we were created to bring something of Scotland, of home, to Chicago. And you'll see that we were created to be of service to our community, our kith and kin, our family. Like many Scottish Societies, our motto is "Relieve

the Distressed." We were established in a small frontier town called Chicago, population just 12,000, in the year 1845, when a group of Scots gathered to celebrate St Andrew's Day. To Scots, Saint Andrew represents care, goodwill, charity, kindness, and love. Literally, we exist to be kind. Home, family, and love. These are the things we all need when we are far away from home or no longer able to live at home on our own.

How has it evolved over the years?

The Chicago Scots has roots that run 179 years deep. We are sure of our history, but we have never been afraid to reimagine tradition. Here's what this means to me: the strongest tree weathers the fiercest storm because it relies on its roots to hold firm while it bends and sways in the wind. The tree abides because it adapts. It remains true to its roots, but it's also resilient and relevant to any circumstance. Every day, the strongest tree reimagines itself. In my office I have files containing the Society's oldest, most important archives. In times of trouble, I find inspiration and



assurance in these files. How did this organization prevail through the Civil War, the Great Chicago Fire, the Great Depression, two World Wars and the 1918 pandemic? In these files, I hear the voices of the early Scots, and I am reminded that we prevail because, like the tree that reimagines itself, we have relied on our roots and stayed true to our values. For 179 years this Scottish society has always delivered life's most important things: home, family, and love.

Who are your members, and how do you reach them?

Anyone who is Scottish by birth, by heritage, or simply by inclination is welcome to become a member of Chicago Scots. We listen to our members and strive to deliver relevance to them. This year, in honor of Tartan Day, April 6, we proudly launched a reciprocal membership program with the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA. This exciting partnership offers Chicago Scots members travel benefits in Scotland, including free access to more than 100 heritage sites. For more than a century, members of our Scottish Society

have enjoyed local benefits and have supported our mission to care for the residents of Caledonia Senior Living & Memory Care. This will continue. And now, through this reciprocal membership program, Chicago Scots members will receive a world of benefits from two great organizations. We are investing in caring for Scotland's irreplaceable natural and cultural heritage because it's the right thing to do and our members will benefit. Caring for Scotland in addition to caring for Caledonia Senior Living is a win-win.

What is the Elder Care Mission all about?

In April 2020, during the most extreme COVID-19 lockdown, I moved into the Scottish Home at Caledonia Senior Living, and I lived there for about a week. I wanted to see the world through the eyes of the people who live and work at Caledonia. What I saw assured and inspired me. I saw people who care deeply for one another. I also looked out, beyond the walls of our campus. I saw people who believe in the purpose and the





Sir Niall Ferguson

promise of our mission. I saw the Scottish community. I saw people give so kindly of their time, talent, money, energy, and/or ideas. In the eyes of the people of Caledonia, I saw reasons to be hopeful. All around me I saw people with beauty in their hearts and strength in their backbones. People who would not quit because they knew right from wrong. People who refused to be stopped by the pain of today, for they knew that beyond it lay a better tomorrow. I saw the people of Caledonia dignify time. I believe our community's collective commitment to care is one of the reasons why Caledonia has an impeccable record of safety. We did not lose a single resident to COVID-19.

What does the organization have planned for the Negaunee Foundation's \$14 million gift?

The Negaunee Foundation's incredible, pioneering \$14 million gift is truly transformational. It is also foundational, as it enables us to build an ambitious and visionary campaign to develop best-in-class care in a non-institutional setting. Most of all, the gift is inspirational because it invites and encourages all of us in the Scottish community, kith and kin, to step up in support. The Negaunee Foundation believes in our mission. They

believe in us and are giving us the biggest gift we've received in our 179-year history so we can dream together. Caledonia Senior Living may be in Illinois and run by the Chicago Scots, but it belongs to all of us in the Scottish community. It was built more than a century ago because Scots all over North America dug deep and donated generously. More than a century ago, our forebears built the Scottish Home at Caledonia to relieve the medical distress of aging. Let us together write the next chapter in Caledonia's story by boldly transforming the campus to serve the future needs of seniors - relief from the cognitive and social distresses of aging. We should all be proud of Caledonia. It belongs to all of us.

And the Chicago Scots will continue to host both the largest pipe band competition in North America? And the oldest black-tie event in Chicago?

We certainly will. Each year, on the second weekend in June, the Chicago Scots host our Scottish Festival & Highland Games. The event features the largest bagpiping championship in North America. Last year we had more than 40 pipe bands. Just before dusk, the bands gather to perform and march in unison. As a sight and a sound, it is incredibly moving. But when more than a thousand bagpipers and drummers perform Amazing Grace, it's the feeling that really hits. In this moment, I have seen grandfathers and grandsons holding hands, staring silently and knowingly into one another's eyes, connecting beyond their generations. It transcends oceans, even time. It is magic. Our Saint Andrew's Day Gala, the "Feast of the Haggis" is the longest-running black-tie event in Chicago. Despite the Civil War, two World Wars, the Great Chicago Fire, the Great Depression, and two pandemics, we've never failed to host our Gala. During COVID lockdown, on St Andrew's Day 2020, in my tartan suit, standing on the exact spot where the first Chicago Scots created our Scottish Society 175 years earlier, I hoisted a glass of something good and golden to toast Saint Andrew and kindness. Scots love a party. This year I'm absolutely delighted that the recipient of the highest honor we Chicago Scots can pay, our Distinguished Citizen Award, is Professor Sir Niall Ferguson.

From your perspective, are young people still interested in their Scottish heritage?

Yes, passionately.

How might that be improved?

I have been President of the Chicago Scots for 20 years, and I turned 55 this year. That means the Board hired a 35-year-old to be CEO of the oldest 501c3 charity in Illinois. That was a gutsy move. The Board gave me encouragement and allowed me freedom to find my own way. They listened to me. The next generation will lean into their Scottish identities if we oldies aren't in the way. We need to be gutsy and put their hands on the driving wheel.

WWW.CHICAGOSCATS.ORG



Scan me for Discount


The Scottish Grocer[®]
thescottishgrocer.com

FREE

SHIPPING

\$100 Dry Goods

\$300 Frozen Foods



Bewley Irish Imports

Serving up Celtic culture, one cuppa' at a time



With the trend toward specialty foods becoming more pronounced in recent years, global sales of high-quality coffee, teas, chocolate, and artisanal condiments increased to a whopping \$223 billion in 2023.

Beyond the number crunching, however, more complex motives - notably, those based on cultural allegiance - play a significant role in driving consumer food choices.

Ambarish Patel, owner and President of Bewley Irish Imports - an online food retailer specializing in select Irish food imports - reflects on the connection between niche market foods and his reasons for acquiring the Irish-based enterprise in 2018.

"The fulfillment derived from this line of work is immense," he shares via email. "It presents an unparalleled opportunity for cultural exchange by introducing diverse global cuisines into new markets.

"Growing Bewley Irish Imports gives me the chance to weave together a worldwide network and make an economic and ethical impact within the food industry - and, there is a significant sense of gratification in contributing to charitable causes combating hunger also."

Combining its gains with 'giving back' is essential to the company's mission and mandate. Part of the profits from online purchases are funneled to reputable charities visible on the company website.

"At its heart, Bewley Irish Imports is committed to delivering exceptional Irish food, beverages, and giftware to communities across the United States and Canada. This is intertwined with our dedication to supporting an array of nonprofit organizations, making a difference at local, national, and international levels."

With a background in economics and a personal history that begins in Africa and extends to the United Kingdom and - presently - the United States, Patel brings a distinct approach to his mix of internationally recognized brands.

"My story spans continents and cultures, rooted in the vibrant diversity of Kenya where I was born, stretching to the educational halls of England where I ventured for college, and eventually found its newest chapter in the United States in 2003. With my professional path in finance, each of these places has imbued me with unique perspectives - a blend of global experiences and insights."

His insights include an awareness of the often fickle and fluctuating whims of today's consumers, who are just as concerned with the philosophy behind the businesses they buy from as much as product quality and value. In addition, shrewd shoppers will not necessarily purchase an item simply because it is wrapped up in Irish labelling - something Patel understands.

"Our diverse customer base includes individuals keen on healthy, gourmet options, eco-conscious shoppers, retail, and hospitality businesses, and those in search of unique gifts."

Savvy enough to understand and manage the many facets of a nuanced market, Patel consults with cultural and industry experts to ensure authenticity with product selection and distribution.

"Our marketing strategy involves partnerships with Irish culinary experts and a compelling narrative that ties traditional Irish values with contemporary business practices."

Staying visible in a busy marketplace ultimately forces companies to maintain cultural legitimacy while monitoring consumer habits.

“What sets Bewley Irish Imports apart is our unwavering commitment to authenticity and quality, championing the unique stories behind our products, and our focus on sustainability.”

As an online specialty outlet, Bewley Irish Imports provides food accompaniments linked to Irish identity and fondness for family and frolic, including Irish Porridge Oats, Whiskey Marmalade, Classic Tea Blends, and Gaelora giftware.

"Our catalogue is carefully curated to offer authentic, high-quality Irish products, with a spotlight on gourmet foods that cater to health-conscious consumers and celebrate Ireland's rich culinary traditions."

Patel admits that combining culture with clients' tastes is not without its challenges.

"We are constantly adapting to shifts in consumer tastes, integrating the latest technologies to boost efficiency, striving for sustainability, and overcoming labor management puzzles. The economic landscape today is marked by volatile currency exchange rates, supply chain upheavals, and changing trade policies."

What never wavers, however, is Patel's original vision and respect for his own roots.

"As I navigate through these endeavors, my journey from the landscapes of Kenya to the bustling markets of the United States continues to inspire and guide me, shaping the vision for myself and Bewley Irish Imports in a world that is constantly evolving."

WWW.BEWLEYUSARETAIL.COM

Unearthing Your Roots:



How Genealogy Tours Breathe Life Into

IRISH HERITAGE

Walk In Your Ancestors' Footsteps

Embarking on a genealogy tour in Ireland is a profound way to connect with your roots and gain a deeper understanding of your heritage.

Here's how they enrich your ancestral journey:

Genealogy tours allow you to visit the towns, villages, and homes where your ancestors lived.

Experiencing these places firsthand provides a tangible connection to your family history.

Access Local Archives

Tours include visits to local archives and libraries, where you can access records unavailable online.

These resources fill in gaps and provide new insights into your ancestry.



Engage With Local Experts

Tour guides and local historians offer invaluable knowledge about regional history and customs.

Their expertise helps contextualize your family's experiences within the broader scope of Irish history.



Connect With Living Relatives

Genealogy tours often facilitate meetings with distant relatives.

These connections lead to sharing stories, photos, and documents, enriching your family narrative.



Ready to embark on a genealogy tour to enhance your exploration of Irish heritage?



Head Over To

myirelandheritage.com

My Ireland Family Heritage

Walking in their footsteps...



My Ireland Family Heritage offers its clients the opportunity of a lifetime to literally stand where their ancestors once stood – a unique, hybrid genealogy-travel experience that combines personal history with tourism. The research team aims to pinpoint the area within 10 yards of their client’s ancestral home.

Sean Quinn launched the company drawing on his twin passions for genealogy research and the Emerald Isle. The business is a true family venture, founded together by Sean and his wife, Pauline. Ten years ago, their daughter Aisling Darragh got involved as well.

“We complete all research, tours, and consultations within our office,” explains Aisling, who works as company director alongside her father. “We do not outsource any elements of our products. We are a one-stop shop to conduct your genealogy research and tour experience.”

She shares her father’s adoration for their home country, as well.

“I am born and bred in Ireland. There is a magical side of Ireland with its many sacred sites to visit, including Newgrange, the Hill of Tara, the Cliffs of Moher, and more. So many sites throughout Ireland are truly majestic and breathtaking, and the people here are friendly, kind, and warm - it is a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.”

As with just about every tour company in the world, My Ireland Family Heritage went through a challenging period during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the company’s clientele hails from the United States, Canada, and Australia, but government regulations meant those tourists could not enter the country.

“This was a difficult time. However, it allowed us to re-evaluate our research product. We introduced new self-drive options, allowing clients to drive themselves to the locations when in Ireland if they could not tour with us. We also introduced consultations by phone in addition to in-person consultations.”

Thankfully, business is back with a vengeance, and My Ireland Family Heritage is 90 percent booked for 2024. Online testimonials bear witness to the company’s stellar reputation;

“We walked in the footsteps of generations of my family members, and we are so grateful,” reads one review.

Another notes, “I would recommend this trip to anyone wishing to see their family’s homeland in an authentic experience.”

Each tour is tailor-made based on the client’s needs and desires, from historical tours lasting a single day to multi-day tour packages. My Ireland Family Heritage allows people “to walk the land their family once farmed, to see the ruins of the old family homestead, to meet relatives that may be still on site,” says Aisling.

“We do not take on a project if we cannot identify your ancestors’ exact location. We have a 95 percent success rate of doing so. If you are not able to visit Ireland, we have options available to you to still experience where your ancestors once lived.”

Sometimes, it starts with nothing more than a birth or marriage certificate. In one instance, all the client had was a death card from the 1870s. With even a small piece of information in hand, the team gets to work.

Aisling is responsible for preliminary research, after which she hands things over to Sean and his research team - all certified genealogists with access to archives and tax records for both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

“I then co-ordinate with each client in advance of their arrival to Ireland to ensure we as a team can help create memorable memories for their trip ‘home,’” she shares. “We have had many people brought to tears because they were experiencing ‘home’ as their grandparents have told them stories about growing up. We have clients visit alone, others with friends, siblings, partners and more.

“We are focused on continuing to develop and improve our current product portfolio throughout 2024 and 2025 to continue to grow our business that we love so much.”

@MyIrelandHerit2

WWW.MYIRELANDHERITAGE.COM



An Turas

Heritage Expeditions



HERITAGE

HISTORY

CULTURE

The destination experts for bespoke
private tours of Ireland and Scotland

WWW.ANTURASTRAVEL.COM

Toll Free: +1 (888) 724-5355

Whatsapp: +44 7879 549 691

Email: hello@anturastravel.com

An Turas Heritage Expeditions

One Scottish woman keeps business close to home



An Turas Heritage Expeditions owner and operator Kirsty Duncan might know her homeland better than the back of her own hand.

"I was born and brought up in Scotland to Scottish parents, my father is from West Lothian and my mother is from Glasgow. My parents moved to Perthshire after they were married so my brother and I were brought up there, just on the edge of the Highlands."

After early stints working in the country's hospitality sector, and as an events and weddings coordinator, she took a job with a small adventure travel tour operator and moved to the Cairngorms National Park.

"My role adapted over eight years as the company grew and I became Head of Private Travel, working predominantly in the sales and delivery of private tours. About 2 years ago I made the leap and launched my own company, An Turas Heritage Expeditions."

Kirsty has been busy since the start.

"At the moment I do everything from sales and marketing to operations and finance. I don't guide my own trips generally speaking - I work with wonderful freelance driver guides, and I have partners in Ireland who operate those tours."

There are, she adds, ongoing challenges inherent to the industry.

"Travel and tourism in Scotland and Ireland is inherently seasonal, so managing the quieter off-season can have its share of issues. The hotels and accommodations can get fully booked, so availability can also be a challenge. That is why I always encourage travelers to book early so they get a better choice of accommodations as well as better rates."

Despite those difficulties, the rewards, she notes, are well worth the effort.

"I get to share the beautiful landscapes, history, and culture of two very special countries. Many of our travellers have ancestral connections to Scotland or Ireland, so it is wonderful to be able to share that connection with people and make those links with our history. Every day, I learn more about the culture and history of my own country."

That personal, hands-on connection and in-depth knowledge has made all the difference for her clients.

"I am based in Scotland, so it is the air that I breathe every day. And it is the same for my colleagues in Ireland. When guests travel with us, they know they are getting true destination expertise. In addition, all our tours are fully customized to suit the interests of each individual traveler."

Those guests are predominantly from the USA and Canada.

"Most have Scottish or Irish ancestry, but they also may just be interested in travelling to these countries because they have a passion for history and want to experience our culture and landscapes..."

"They are looking for a more in-depth travel experience. They don't want to join a generic tour that stops at all the major tourist sites and spend hours sitting on a coach. They want a unique trip where we have taken their interests and passions and used that to craft a vacation that will bring our culture and history to life. My clients want the convenience of their own driver guide who is there not only to get them from A to B, but also to provide insight and narrative. We have such a rich history, from a wealth of Neolithic and

bronze age sites to an abundance of castles, palaces, and battlefields. With a little bit of research and planning, we can weave in visits to places that have significance to the traveler's own ancestry. Our guests also love the landscape of lush green rolling hills, rugged coastlines, and eerie glens."

Kirsty has her own favourite slice of Scotland.

"I love visiting the Outer Hebrides, our westernmost islands in Scotland. I can go for a hike to a deserted white sand beach there and feel like the rest of the world doesn't even exist."

Despite the shaky global economy, she is encouraged by current travel trends.

"Travel has certainly made a great recovery since the dark days of the pandemic, which is good news for the communities that rely on tourism. Going forward I think travellers will be more conscious of the impact of their travel habits; for example, being more mindful whether the type of travel they undertake is having a positive impact on local communities."

"I am acutely aware that some specific sites are suffering from over-tourism, often driven by social media, and this is something I always consider when creating itineraries. I don't think it is a great experience for local communities, or for my travellers, if we take them to a hotspot attraction that is teeming with hundreds of other tourists."

So far, that bespoke approach has paid off.

"It has only been two years, and things are going very well, but I already have ideas about offering more destinations and potentially launching another brand a few years down the line."

WWW.ANTURASTRAVEL.COM

A non-profit organization fostering the history and culture of Scotland through educational scholarships and donations for preservation of heritage landmarks and properties in Scotland and the United States of America



Join today and be a part of supporting the preservation & enrichment of Scottish traditions, history and culture!



www.scottishheritageusa.org



Free admission to the National Trust for Scotland properties

- Subscription to "SCOTLAND" magazine (6 x Year)
- Subscription to the National Trust for Scotland magazine (3 x year)
- Subscription to Celtic Life Magazine (8 x Digital year)

Scottish Heritage USA

One US-based organization builds bridges over borders...



Betty Johnson was born to Spanish parents in Houston, Texas. Growing up, she had no exposure or connection to Scottish culture. How, then, did she come to be involved with Scottish Heritage USA?

Her husband is partially responsible; a bagpiper of Scottish ancestry, he introduced Johnson to the Highland games, where she participated by demonstrating handspinning yarn on a spinning wheel.

“With black hair and brown eyes, no one could ever mistake me for someone of Scottish descent,” she laughs. “However, when I had my DNA analyzed, I discovered that I am 20 percent Scottish - it turns out that my grandparents were from the northern region of Spain where many Scots had lived.”

These days, Johnson resides in Dahlonega, Georgia, and has been a part of Scottish Heritage USA (SHUSA) for two decades: 18 years as a member and two years on the Board of Directors. The group was founded in 1965 and aims to “to recognize and enhance the original bonds of ancestral and national character among the peoples of Scotland and North America.” This includes supporting the preservation of historic sites, art centres, and more.

Scottish Heritage USA partners with the National Trust for Scotland to offer members free admission to hundreds of National Trust sites in the United Kingdom, such as Drum Castle - one of Scotland’s oldest tower houses, as well as the 27 American National Trust for Historic Preservation sites across the US.

“Additionally, SHUSA has helped fund several historic sites in Scotland,” notes Johnson. “This includes the Welcome Centre at the Culloden Battlefield, and for repairs to other historic sites including the Interpretive Project at Glen Coe, and assistance with the

Robert Burns Online Access Project.

The organization “is also involved in projects here in the United States, such as the Scottish Tartans Museum display cases to protect the valuable exhibits they contain.”

Johnson herself is the event director for the Scottish Cultural Village at the annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, North Carolina. “Every year, we have a rotating group of experts who provide presentations over three days about an array of topics. For instance, this year we had someone who recreated the Bonnie Prince Charlie outfit he wore when he escaped to Skye. We have had the curator of the Robert Burns Museum in Scotland, a presentation from the winner of the Scottish Fiddling Competition, a talk from a bagpiper who played at John F. Kennedy’s funeral, a park ranger from one of Scotland’s most remote islands, and so many more.” 2025 will mark the 10-year anniversary of the Scottish Cultural Village.

Scottish Heritage USA is about more than preserving the past, however; it also looks to the future. Part of Johnson’s current position is to oversee scholarships for young people who need help with tuition and/or boarding as they study the Scottish arts of piping, drums, fiddle, dancing, and more. Ten percent of SHUSA’s membership fees go toward funding these initiatives.

“We provide several scholarships to each of the schools and let the administrators choose the pupils who deserve help.

“We are helping to ensure that young people interested in Scottish pursuits can fulfill their dreams. These talents preserve our Scottish culture for future generations.”

New board members, as well as the increasing importance of the internet, has resulted in some changes as to how Scottish Heritage USA operates.

“Our members want to stay informed about our projects and feel they are part of our mission to strengthen bonds between our two cultures,” shares Johnson. “The more we can reach out to them, the more active and engaged they will become.”

Keeping members updated on funding projects, for example, allows them to see where their money is going.

“Our members are mainly concentrated in the southeastern United States,” she continues. “They range from people curious about their heritage - and sometimes mistake us for a genealogy organization - to folks who are interested in traveling to Scotland at some point in the future and want to start researching sites.”

The plan is to expand SHUSA’s reach both northward and westward. Part of this involves participating in Highland Games in other parts of the country. “We have several Highland Games on the calendar with Ambassadors scheduled to meet prospects.”

In 2025, a group tour of Scotland will become available to Scottish Heritage USA members. “This will include many National Trust sites and will provide us with an opportunity to be with our members as they learn about their Scottish roots.”

@scottishheritageusa

WWW.SCOTTISHHERITAGEUSA.ORG

Perfect
for
Fall

Scottish
Creations
Scotland by Design

*Exclusively
Scottish Gifts.*



Made in Scotland by Scots. Representing the very best designs and gifts from Scotland.

www.scottishcreations.com

Scottish Creations

Hilary Creighton's past has informed her present and future. With roots in Scotland, and after residing in North America for years, her business - Scottish Creations - seeks to strengthen those trans-Atlantic ties. Recently we spoke with Hilary about those bonds.



What is your own ethnicity/heritage?

I was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and moved to New Brunswick, Canada, when I was just 6. I spent the next 11 years enjoying life in Fredericton, with a few years in Stephenville, Newfoundland, where I got to experience the warmth and friendliness of Newfoundlanders. I also spent a year at a Scottish boarding school on the Moray coast, which added some wonderful memories to my childhood. Although Canada stole my heart, we eventually moved back to Glasgow because my Mum missed Scotland so much. We settled in Linlithgow, just outside Edinburgh, where I raised my family. After 30 years, I returned to North America, this time to Connecticut, USA, with my husband, who is also a Glaswegian Scot! My brother is still living in beautiful Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and we still have family in Scotland. With all these connections, I'm definitely a proud Scot, but with a lovely blend of Canadian and American influences.

What is the company's history and mandate?

I'm incredibly proud of Scotland's rich, innovative culture and the wonderfully humorous people. There are so many talented individuals, especially in the remote parts of Scotland and the Islands, running small businesses that create fantastic Scottish products. I noticed these amazing items weren't available in the US or Canada, so we decided to start an online store. Our main goal is to support these small businesses and give them a chance to showcase their products in North America. At the same time, we're helping Americans and Canadians connect with their Scottish heritage in a fresh, contemporary way, and supporting the small towns and villages their families came from.

How has it evolved over time?

We kicked things off as an online store, but soon realized we were like a needle in a haystack—how could anyone find us among all the noise out there? So, we took our products to Highland Games in the Northeast US.

We had a blast and met so many wonderful people who gave us great feedback about our products. The Highland Games have since become a staple in our calendar.

What are the challenges of the job?

Time management is our biggest challenge! Juggling running a business from home while staying connected with family spread across two continents can be tricky. The good news is that traveling to Scotland means we get to spend time with our daughters living in the UK, which is always a joy.

What are the rewards?

Running a business can be a bit of a roller-coaster—sometimes it feels like there's never enough time to get everything done. But the rewards are fantastic! We get to travel to Scotland regularly, enjoy the Highland Games, and immerse ourselves in the vibrant Scottish culture. It's wonderful to talk about Scotland all day long and see people's smiles, even if it's raining!

What are your core products?

Our product range has grown over the years. We still offer beautiful Harris Tweed bags and accessories, which are always a hit. We've also added Bill Baber's gorgeous silk and linen shawls, capes, and jackets made in Edinburgh. Plus, we now carry two special Scottish Chess sets: the Isle of Lewis and the Scottish Heritage. One of our customers favorite products is a wonderful range of jewelry coming from the Orkney Islands. We are so happy to represent Sheila Fleet and Celina Rupp among others. We're constantly working on new offerings, including our signature line, "My Country - My Home - My Heritage," which lets customers connect with their Scottish roots in a personal way.

How do you differ from the competition?

While many great companies focus on traditional Scottish brands, we aim to offer something a bit different. We spotlight the un-

expected and contemporary side of Scotland, showcasing products from small independent designers and artists often based in remote parts of the country.

How do you reach your potential clients?

We're always exploring new ways to connect with people, whether through print or social media like Facebook and Instagram. Celtic Life has been a fantastic help in reaching new audiences. We also love meeting people in person at Highland Games like the New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival, Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival in MA, and Scotland Highland Games in CT.

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

People are increasingly interested in their heritage, and it's amazing to hear about the diverse backgrounds people come from. At Scottish Creations, we're proud of Scotland's past and excited about its vibrant present and future. Scotland is bursting with creativity, and we're thrilled to introduce our customers in the US and Canada to the exciting new products coming from Scotland.

What can be done to improve that?

The Celtic marketplace is lively and full of potential. One of our main challenges is managing shipping and import costs, which we always need to keep an eye on.

What are your future plans for the business?

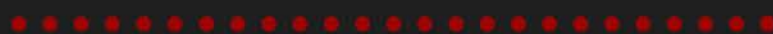
Looking ahead, we plan to continue showcasing the best of new Scottish designs both online and in person to as many Scots and Scotland enthusiasts in the US and Canada as possible. We're also working on developing our own Scottish Creations branded products and services, custom-designed in Scotland for our North American markets.

[@scottishcreationsus](https://www.scottishcreationsus.com)

WWW.SCOTTISHCREATIONS.CA



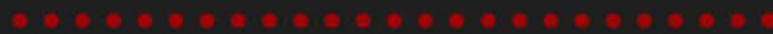
Custom Embroidery & Handmade Gifts
Imported Scottish & Celtic Treats



Shop in Person

Upcoming Events

- Aug. 31 - Sept. 1 158th Highland Gathering & Games, Pleasanton, CA
Sept. 6 - 8 Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highland Fest, Estes Park, CO
Sept. 21 Fresno Highland Gathering & Games, Fresno, CA
Sept. 27 - 29 Prescott Highland Games, Prescott, AZ
Oct. 5 - 6 McMinnville Scottish Festival, McMinnville, OR
Oct. 12 - 13 Seaside Highland Games, Ventura, CA
Nov. 1 - 3 Tucson Celtic Fest & Scottish Highland Games, Tucson, AZ



Or Shop Online at ThistleandStitch.com
Based out of Northern California



The Celtic Collection

*Celtic Life International recommends the best the Celtic world
has to offer in Style, Food, Arts, Travel and more!*

Style



**Sky Blue Topaz
Celestial Pendant**
Sterling Silver + 10k
Keith Jack
\$372 (CAD)
www.keithjack.com

**Runic Pendant
Necklace in Skaill Enamel**
Sheila Fleet
£155
www.sheilafleet.com



**Merino Slouch Beanie,
Neck Warmer, and Headband**
100% Merino Wool with Labyrinth symbol
Glen Innes Highlands Shop
\$30 (AUD)
www.gleninneshighlands.shop



Peplum Bodice
Time Period Clothing
\$135 (USD)
www.timeperiodclothing.com



**Custom Embroidered
Highland Cow Sweatshirt**
Thistle & Stitch
\$69 (USD)
www.thistleandstitch.com

Food & Drink



Tea Lover Survival Basket

Bewley Irish Imports

\$75 (USD)

www.bewleyusaretail.com

Steak Set Grohmann Knives

\$266 (CAD)

www.gknives.com



Jacobite Crystal Dram Glass Heartbox Scotland

\$25 (USD)

www.heartboxscotland.com



Travel Tumbler

Scottish Heritage USA

\$20 (USD)

www.scottishheritageusa.org



Scottish Shortbread Fingers, Shortbread House

The Scottish Grocer

\$8 (USD)

www.thescottishgrocer.com



Giftware

THE CELTIC COLLECTION



Isle of Lewis Chess Set

Scottish Creations

\$237 (USD)

www.scottishcreations.com



Custom 3" Sterling

Plaid Brooch

Crest Badges

Price Upon Request

www.crestbadges.com



Ancient Map of Ireland-1779

Ready to frame ~ 3 Standard Sizes

O'Brien Celtic Gifts

€10.75 - €74.00

www.obriencelticgifts.com



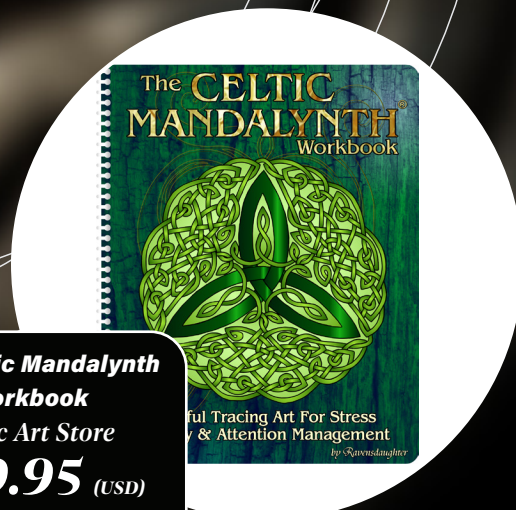
Highland Cow Gifts

Mug, Spurtle, Coasters

Scott's Highland Services

\$14.50 ~ \$31.50 (CAD)

www.scottshighland.com



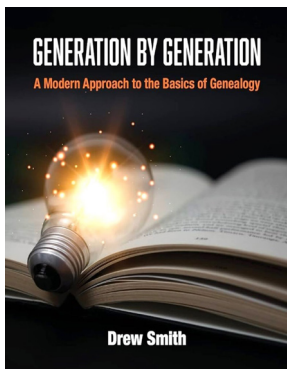
The Celtic Mandalynth Workbook

Celtic Art Store

\$29.95 (USD)

www.celticartstore.net

Arts & Culture



Generation by Generation:
A Modern Approach to
the Basics of Genealogy
by Drew Smith
\$29.95 (USD)
www.genealogical.com

The Saga of the Latter-Day Celts

Book series by Liam O'Shiel

\$14.99 (USD each)

www.amazon.com



Fairfield
UNIVERSITY

Irish Studies

Fairfield University

Contact for Tuition Details

www.fairfield.edu

Reciprocal Membership

Chicago Scots

From **\$60** (USD annual)

www.chicagoscots.org



Discover Your Celtic Roots
Old Friends Genealogy

From **\$500** (USD)

www.olderfriendsgenealogy.com

Travel

Scotland ~ West Highland Heritage Trail

An Turas Travel

Price Upon Request

www.anturastravel.com



Early Bird Special ~ Ireland's Ancient East

The Cottages Ireland

Price Upon Request

www.cottages-ireland.com



6000 Years Historical County Meath Tour

My Ireland Heritage

Price Upon Request

www.myirelandheritage.com

Luxury Castle Tour of Ireland

Sheenco Travel

From **\$5,000** USD per person

www.sheencotravel.com



Explore the North Coast 500 & Orkney

Turas Travel

Prices from **£1799** per person

www.turas.life



SCOTI CREATIONS



TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

STEP BACK INTO THE WORLD OF
CELTS, PICTS AND VIKINGS
WITH OUR EXTENSIVE COLLECTION
OF HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY.

CONNECTING YOU TO YOUR HERITAGE.



Please visit our website
to see our
schedule of events

www.scotcreations.com



www.scotcreations.com



www.etsy.com/shop/scotcreations

Leslie's Illustrated CELTIC TRAVEL TRILOGY BY LESLIE LEE



Armchair travel?
Or hit the road!
WITH A POCKET-SIZED
FIELD GUIDE TO IRELAND



Shop now at
leestudiotc.com



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.)

Custom Golf Tours of Scotland & Ireland



IT'S TIME TO GOLF!



BALLYBUNION



ST ANDREWS



WATERVILLE

Golfing in Ireland and Scotland is a rare treat!
Treat yourself to some spectacular golf on the Emerald Isle and the Birthplace of Golf!

IRELAND SOUTHWEST

- Ballybunion
- Old Head
- Waterville
- Tralee
- Doonbeg
- Lahinch

SCOTLAND HIGHLIGHTS

- Royal Troon
- North Berwick
- Muirfield
- Turnberry
- Prestwick
- Gullane No.1

IRELAND NORTHWEST

- Carne
- Connemara
- County Sligo
- Enniscrone
- Donegal



Book Now
+1 720 320 4943

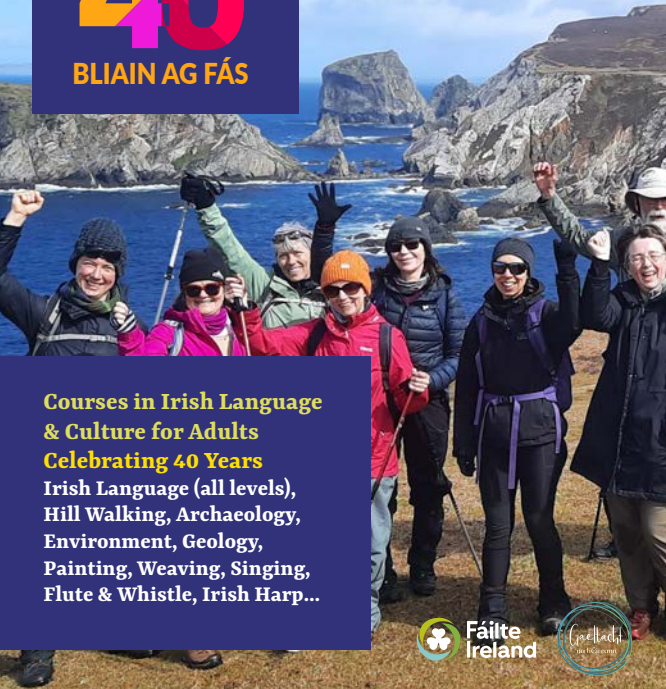
More Information
www.beyondthecrowds.com

Beyond the Crowds is a division of A Happy Place Travel



Oideas Gael
1984
BLIAIN AG FÁS

WWW.OIDEASGAEL.IE
Tel: +353 (0)74 97 30 248
oifig@oideasgael.ie
Co. Donegal, Éire



Courses in Irish Language & Culture for Adults
Celebrating 40 Years
Irish Language (all levels),
Hill Walking, Archaeology,
Environment, Geology,
Painting, Weaving, Singing,
Flute & Whistle, Irish Harp...




CHIEFS, CHIEFTAINS & ARMIGERS

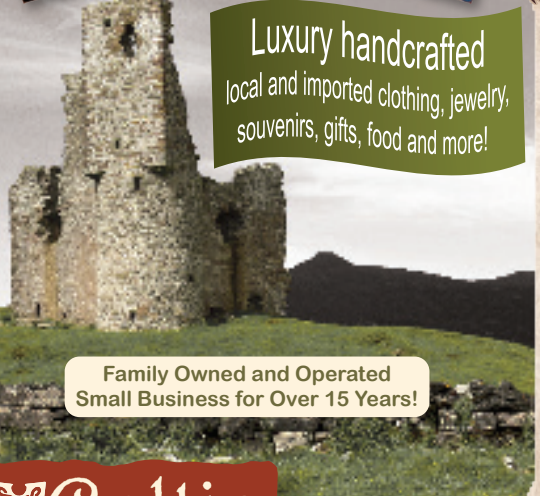
Custom Personal Crests



WWW.CRESTBADGES.COM

YOUR NORTHWEST CELTIC SOURCE





Luxury handcrafted
local and imported clothing, jewelry,
souvenirs, gifts, food and more!

Family Owned and Operated
Small Business for Over 15 Years!



380 Winslow Way East
Bainbridge, WA 98110, Suite 100
360-344-2123

info@celticcrossroadsnw.com

LET US ELEVATE YOUR SCOTTISH GAMES





Curious how your Games could look?
Scan the QR code!

Stop stressing about your marketing, save money, and grow your event by partnering with us!



LET'S START PROMOTING YOUR NEXT CELTIC EVENT!

STINGRAYBRANDING.COM

1.2 Million+	20%	27%
Total Reach	Revenue Increase	Growth in Ticket Sales




AUSTRALIAN CELTIC FESTIVAL est. 1992
 Celebrating the year of BRITTANY CORNWALL & WALES
 Held at the Australian Standing Stones National Celtic Monument
1 May - 4 May 2025


 100,000 Welcomes Concert
 Grey Street Parade
 Highland Games
 Celtic Music & Dance
 Markets
 Gathering of the Clans
 Celtic Food Trail
 Pipe Bands
 Celtic Symposium
 and so much more...

AustralianCelticFestival.com
 Proudly brought to you by Glen Innes Severn Council
 Tickets on Sale March 2025



GLEN INNES
 HIGHLANDS



NH SCOT
GET YOUR SCOT ON!
NH HIGHLAND GAMES AND FESTIVAL
SEPT. 20-22, 2024
LOON MTN RESORT
LINCOLN, NH





TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST!
NHSCOT.ORG/BUY-TICKETS

63rd Scottish Gathering & Highland Games
 November 8-10, 2024
 SALADO, TEXAS


Celebrating All Things Scottish!

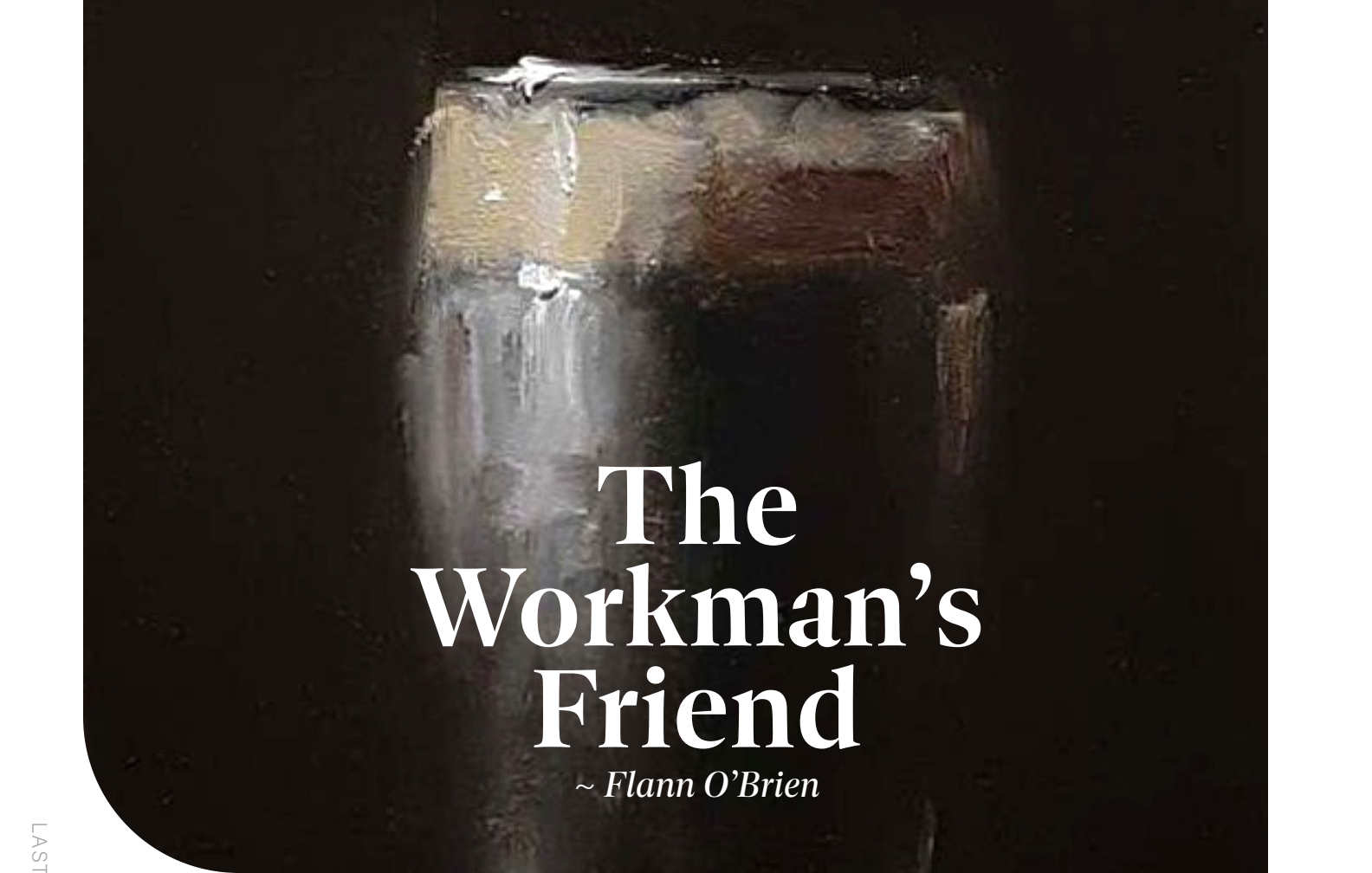
saladoscottishfestival.com
 254-947-5232








SEASIDE HIGHLAND GAMES
Celebrating 20 Years!
 October 12 & 13, 2024
 Ventura County Fairgrounds



The Workman's Friend

~ *Flann O'Brien*

When things go wrong and will not come right,
Though you do the best you can,
When life looks black as the hour of night –
A pint of plain is your only man.

When money's tight and hard to get
And your horse has also ran,
When all you have is a heap of debt –
A pint of plain is your only man.

When health is bad and your heart feels strange,
And your face is pale and wan,
When doctors say you need a change,
A pint of plain is your only man.

When food is scarce and your larder bare
And no rashers grease your pan,
When hunger grows as your meals are rare –
A pint of plain is your only man.

In time of trouble and lousy strife,
You have still got a darlint plan
You still can turn to a brighter life –
A pint of plain is your only man.



Grohmann Knives Ltd

Made in Nova Scotia Since 1957

World Famous Canadian Knife Manufacturer



The Grohmann Family Arrives in Pictou by train at the Pictou Wharf in 1949



Rudolph Grohmann



Grandson Mike Babinec, Great-granddaughter Michelle Jamieson & husband Scott



Award-winning DH Russell Belt Knives



Kitchen Knives & Steak Sets



-50% Off Seconds in-store & online
www.gknives.com

Grohmann Knives Factory Outlet & Store
 116 Water Street, Pictou, Nova Scotia Canada
 1-888-756-4837 902-485-4224



Fill your heart with **Ireland** 

What fills your heart?

Speak to anyone who has been to Ireland and they'll always have something special to say. That's because these lands have a unique way of leaving your heart feeling truly full. It could be the warmth of the locals, often said to be the friendliest in the world. It could be the fun of an impromptu music session in a cozy Irish pub. Or it could be the heart-stopping drama of our coastline, with its jagged headlands and soaring sea cliffs. Whatever it might be, isn't it time you found out?

Fill your heart with Ireland.

 **Ireland.com**