

VOL. 33 NO. 1 | \$5.95 CDN/USA | JANUARY/FEBRUARY – 2019 | CELTICLIFE.COM

CelticLife

INTERNATIONAL



the Celtic Traveler

INSIDE!

*Celtic Travel Guide, Blarney Boys, Dundee
Come From Away, Barbara Hannigan, Fàrsan
Celtic Woman, East Pointers, Winter Fashion*



DISPLAY IN LIFESTYLES
UNTIL MARCH 2019

6th Annual

July 27th & 28th 2019



**Kal Tire Place,
Vernon B.C.**

Tickets Available Now!

Call Ticketseller:

250-549-7469

TOLL FREE: 1-866-311-1011



Canada 

OKANAGANTATTOO.CA

Keith Jack



Celtic Heart

True love lasts forever. Celtic knotwork.
Gold and silver entwined in perfect harmony.

www.KeithJack.com
VANCOUVER, CANADA



Keith Jack Inc.



keithjackinc

FIND THE CELT IN YOU!



March 8-10, 2019

In America's Oldest CELTIC City, St Augustine, Florida, USA

"The finest Celtic MUSIC Festival in the United States"
8 of the top Celtic Bands in the world

Including: The Gothard Sisters, Dublin City Ramblers, Emmet Cahill, Albannach, Seven Nations, Screaming Orphans, Steel City Rovers, and more!

PLUS the WORLD'S ORIGINAL

St. Patrick Day Parade (1601 in St. Augustine)

The St. Augustine Highland Games, Celtic artisans, Celtic food, and MORE!



FUNDED IN PART BY
VISIT FLORIDA



ST. AUGUSTINE | PONTE VEDRA
ST. JOHNS COUNTY | FLORIDA | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HistoricCoastCulture.com



CelticStAugustine.com





THE
KILTS ARE BACK

TARTAN DAY SOUTH

Highland Games & Celtic Festival

Columbia, South Carolina
April 4 - 7



Funding assistance provided by the City of Cayce through Hospitality Tax Funds.

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

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

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

Angus M. Macquarrie, Publisher
Stephen Patrick Clare, Managing Editor
Rebecca Dingwell, Senior Writer
Rosalie MacEachern, Senior Writer
Caitlyn Elizabeth Mearns, Senior Writer
Chris Muise, Senior Writer
Carol Moreira, Senior Copy Editor

Celtic Life International Office:
Phone: 902-835-CELT (2358)
Toll-Free: 888-215-6850
Fax: 902-835-0080
Email: info@celticlife.com
Website: www.celticlife.com

Subscriptions:
Phone: 902-835-CELT (2358)
Toll-Free: 888-215-6850
Fax: 902-835-0080
Email: subscribe@celticlife.ca

Advertising:
Toll-Free: 888-215-6850
Fax: 902-835-0080
Email: sales@celticlife.com

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

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

Publication Mail Registration:
No. 40050439 ISSN 1918-0497

Contributors
Lesley Choyce
Andrew Ferguson
Gerald Herter
Tom Langlands
Cabrini Macquarrie
Kristine Maitland

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, 2019



Fáilte!

Cultural Travel

Whenever I think of Ireland I am immediately swept away to rolling green fields, wild seascapes, and a vibrant culture of lilting, melodic language and lively jigs. Oh yes, of course, lest I forget the cozy pubs and proper pints of Guinness.

The good folks at Tourism Ireland did an excellent job of branding their land and their culture long before “destination tourism” became a buzz word. The country promotes tourism as a leading component of the Irish economy, taking full advantage of Eire’s breathtaking natural landscape, stunning historical attractions, cultural activities, and homespun hospitality to better build the breadth of its brand.

Likewise, Visit Scotland does well to invite you to “walk in the footsteps of your ancestors” as part of their “Themed Years” promotion. It is natural for Celts to feel the call home to the motherland, and when one visits Stirling Castle in Scotland - the very halls where both Mary Queen of Scots and William Wallace walked - it is impossible not to be moved by the immediacy of the experience.

Celtic Culture is big business, and there are many Celtic events around the world that attract thousands of visitors each year. Every August in Lorient, Brittany, upwards of 800,000 attend the Festival Interceltique de Lorient. The gathering - the largest of its kind in the world - promotes the cultural customs of the Celtic nations through music, dance, and other creative mediums.

Closer to home here in Nova Scotia, Destination Cape Breton promises you that “your heart will never leave” once you land upon its shores. It must be true, as thousands return annually for the Celtic Colours International Festival. For nine days each autumn, Cape Breton is alive with Gaelic song and dance, as locals and visitors alike celebrate their rich Celtic culture. Community involvement is a key component of the event’s ongoing success, with administrators, volunteers, musicians and others working side by side in community halls, church auditoriums, schools and arenas throughout the Island. At night, all are welcome at the Colaisde Na Gaidhlig/Gaelic College’s Festival Club in St. Ann’s, where festivities continue well into the wee hours.

Our Celtic Traveler edition is our most popular and widely read each year. Drawing upon a wealth of experience, the stories and feature articles leave our readers smiling, chuckling, and yearning to visit the lands of their ancestors. As with cultural travel itself, our aim is to engage, entertain, educate, and inspire.

Enjoy and may God Bless!

Angus M. Macquarrie, Publisher

49

**Wanderlust flows
through the blood of
Celts the world over**

21

Music is a family affair for PEI's East Pointers

25

Award-winning Canadian musical Come From Away hits the Emerald Isle

29

Joining Celtic Woman has been a dream come true for Megan Walsh

33

World renowned soprano Barbara Hannigan is no stranger to the spotlight

37

Connecting with Celtic spirituality through stillness, silence and solitude

41

Breton photographer Mathieu Venot captures his Celtic homeland

45

Galician designer Jorge Vázquez debuts his 2019 collection

55

Discover destinations with our annual Celtic Travel Guide

61

Tom Langlands visits V&A Dundee

65

Lesley Choyce connects with Celtic Cumbria

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

CELTICLIFESTYLE

Receive a complimentary 1-year digital subscription and a copy of Cabrini's Celtic Kitchen Cookbook with the purchase of any Celtic Life International Product!

The World Peace Tartan Scarf



\$45

Limited Edition!

Made in Scotland
100% lambswool

Order now and receive a complimentary 1-year print subscription to Celtic Life International Magazine!

A portion of the proceeds go to the charitable World Peace Tartan Initiative

The Love Tartan Scarf ~ New!

Limited Edition! 100% lambswool
Made in Scotland / 56" x 12"

\$45



Ellis Island Tartan

Order now and receive a complimentary 1-year print subscription to Celtic Life International Magazine

100% cotton / 32" X 72"

\$45

Celebrating the contributions of immigrants to North America

One Heart, Seven Nations!

T-shirts: \$29 / Caps: \$34 / Hoodies: \$69

Wide variety of colours and sizes available!
Order now and receive a complimentary 1-year print subscription to Celtic Life International Magazine!



Clan Tartan Scarves

We now carry a huge selection of personalized Clan Tartan Scarves! Order now and receive a complimentary 1-year print subscription to Celtic Life International Magazine!

\$45

100% lambswool / 60" x 12"

Available online at www.celticlifestyle.com/store

Dana Welch

In the first installment in a six-part series on prominent women in the Celtic community, we connect with Dana Welch of Tourism Ireland

Trying to pin down a time to speak with Dana Welch isn't easy.

"I might be the busiest person I know," she laughs over the phone from her Bloor St. office in Toronto.

Welch isn't kidding; between endless meetings, strategizing, overseeing Ireland's tourism initiatives in Canada, and frequent travel to and from the Emerald Isle, her days are beyond full. It is almost a miracle that we have connected.

"There is little down-time," she notes. "There is always something to do. And that is the way I like it. I love what I do, so it isn't work to me. Knowing that we are making a difference in people's lives is very rewarding and there is nothing else I would rather be doing at this point in my life."

Born and raised in Athens, Ontario (population 1000) - just a few miles west of the U.S. border - Welch studied at the University of Ottawa before relocating to Toronto in 2005. Prior to joining Tourism Ireland, she worked in marketing for Cineplex Entertainment, which currently owns and operates 162 movie theaters across Canada.

"I certainly saw my fair share of films," she chuckles. "And I had the good fortune of being able to travel all over the country, and get a better understanding of who Canadians are as a people. That really helped to prepare me for this position."

Her current role as Canadian Manager for Tourism Ireland, she explains, comes with several challenges.

"These days, our mandate is to inspire and motivate travelers to visit Ireland now. Many people have Ireland on their bucket list, and we want to see them cross that destination off sooner than later."

Eire's ease of access, she adds, has never been better.

"There are more flights available, more affordably, from more locations in Canada than ever before."

The increase in air traffic has led to record numbers of Canadians visiting Eire each year.

"We are definitely seeing more and more first-time travelers, especially with regards to 'legacy tours' - older folks taking their children

and grandchildren on family trips. Often, these are tied in with ancestral tours, where people are looking to uncover their roots or maybe visit an old family homestead."

Equally strong is the number of "returnees" - repeat visitors charmed by the Emerald Isle.

"It is no secret; once you go to Ireland you will want to go back."

"Obviously, there are the popular attractions - Dublin, the Book of Kells, Trinity College, Galway, the Cliffs of Moher, the Ring of Kerry, and the like - and those are must-dos for anyone.

"What people are discovering, however, are the many really cool off-the-beaten-path experiences; the east coast is a real treasure trove of history, with great tours of places like Wexford and Waterford, where the country's Viking ancestry is quite prominent.

"The Wild Atlantic Way, which begins in Cork and runs all the way up the west coast to Donegal, offers a number of unique experiences for both first-timers or returnees, including activities like sea kayaking in Co. Clare; surfing in Co. Sligo; traditional pub fare and music in Co. Mayo; hiking, biking and horseback riding in Connemara; going back in time on the Aran Islands near Galway or at the Glencolmille Village in Donegal...there is, literally, something for everyone there."

Along the way, visitors might be pleasantly surprised by the local cuisine.

"In the past, Ireland was not known as a culinary destination - more of a meat and potatoes kind of place. That has all changed; fresh, locally sourced ingredients, world-class chefs, Michelin-star restaurants and many great craft breweries and distilleries now make the journey all the more delicious. I mean, you haven't lived until you have tasted the chowder in Dingle."

The biggest draw, however, remains the warmth and wit of the country's people.

"The hospitality is absolutely second to none. Without doubt, Ireland is the friendliest place on the planet. Just stop and ask for directions sometime while you are there; people won't just give you the time of day - they will give



you the shirt off their back! Tell them you are a Canadian and chances are you will find yourself at a local pub - or even back at their home as dinner guests - trying to piece together some sort of obscure, long-forgotten family connection."

That connection, she continues, makes her job all the easier.

"When people travel, yes - of course - they want to experience the sights, sounds and tastes of other parts of the world. But they also want to connect with other people. That is easy to do in Ireland, and connecting people is by far and away the best and most rewarding part of what I do."

www.ireland.com

CELTICLIFE.COM

SUBSCRIBE!

See our website for details, or simply fill out the form below and send in!

SIGN UP!

Sign up for our newsletter and you could win tickets to see Irish supergroup Celtic Woman in concert! See our website for details!

BUNDLE UP & SAVE!

Great package deals on subscriptions, swag and more! See our website for details!

GET CONNECTED!

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

BE SEEN!

With millions of print and online readers, Celtic Life International Magazine is your gateway to the global Celtic community! Full details on advertising are available via our website!



PRINT SUBSCRIPTION

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

DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

PROVINCE/STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTAL/ZIP _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED ☐ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Credit Card; VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX ☐

NUMBER EXPIRY

SECURITY CODE _____ SIGNATURE _____

CELTIC LIFE INTERNATIONAL • PO BOX 8805, STATION A, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA B3K 5M4



one

Holy Cow

A Coruña, a port city in Galicia, Spain has paid tribute to one of the nation's biggest industries by painting a special crosswalk. According to Spanish newspaper El País, more than 8,400 families in Galicia run dairies that produce over half of all the milk consumed in Spain. As such, City Hall and the Casa Grande de Xanceda dairy made plans to swap stripes for patches resembling Friesian cow hide. To date, there is just one such "cow-walk" in Galicia, but the hope is that the idea will migrate to other cities and towns in the region.

two

Vegan Pâté

It sounds like an oxymoron. But after receiving £400,000 to expand its operations, Patchwork Pâté is making a vegan version of its product. The family-run firm, which is based in Ruthin, North Wales, has been around since the 1980s and supplies the delectable treat to pubs and restaurants. It has recently used money from HSBC U.K. for a new product-development kitchen, helping the culinary company reach a larger retail market - the vegan variety of pâté is just one example. There are also vegetarian and low-calorie options.

three

White Walker Scotch

Winter is here, and so is a special type of Scotch to warm your bones. In November, the popular Johnnie Walker brand announced its release of a limited-edition, Game of Thrones-themed beverage. The Scotch - named "White Walker" after the supernatural foes in the HBO fantasy series - is made of a blend of single malts from the Cardhu and Clynelish distilleries. Appropriately, both distilleries are situated in northern Scotland, known for its harsh winters. The Scotch is meant to honour Game of Thrones' final season, expected to air in early 2019.

four

Cornish Fashion

The Duchess of Sussex has been spotted sporting Cornish-designed clothing. Meghan Markle and husband Prince Harry capped off their royal tour by visiting New Zealand at the end of October, during which Markle chose a Falmouth-made rain jacket to shield from the drizzle. This particular jacket is from Seasalt Clothing and, as it is from the 2017 line, it is no longer available. However, as Kate Middleton before her, Markle is generating a lot of buzz and influencing purchases with her fashion choices. Will Seasalt benefit from the "Meghan Markle effect"?

five

Black and white

Statistics from the BBC subsidiary TV Licensing indicate that 566 households in Northern Ireland still opt to watch black and white television. Although more than half of the United Kingdom has TV connected to the internet, some people stick with the monochrome of the 1950s. This is possibly for financial reasons, as those tuning into their favourite shows in black and white pay about a third of what folks with a colour TV licence pay: £50.50 compared to £150.50. There's also an element of nostalgia in watching TV the old-fashioned way.

six

Isle of Man ferry

A ferry terminal planned for Liverpool will take passengers to the Isle of Man - part of Liverpool's major waterfront redevelopment plan. A deal was recently reached, with a projected cost of up to £30 million for the terminal and an opening date in 2021. Back in May, the Manx government bought the island's only ferry operator for £124 million, meaning "the Isle of Man Government has complete control over its lifeline sea links to the U.K.," as reported by the BBC.

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

42ND ANNUAL
CENTRAL FLORIDA

Scottish Highland Games



JANUARY 19-20, 2019

CENTRAL WINDS PARK • WINTER SPRINGS, FLORIDA
Saturday 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM • Sunday 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM



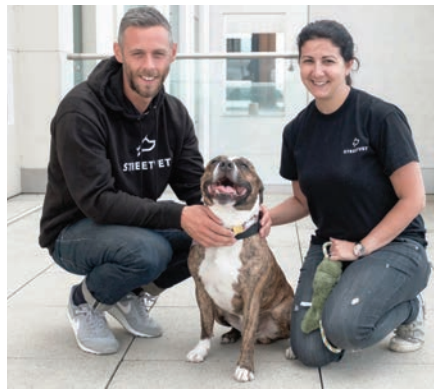
flascot.com





Matt Spry

Although he is from England, Matt Spry gets honorary Celt status for his love of the Welsh language. Spry fell in love with Welsh music after attending live performances during his time studying in Cardiff in the 1990s. He moved to Plymouth for work, but made his way back to Wales in 2013. Spry then committed to learning Welsh, diving into the language two years later. These days, he lives in Adamsdown, Cardiff. In 2018, he began teaching Welsh to asylum seekers and refugees. “The majority that I teach come from Africa - and though it is very strange to have an Englishman teaching people from Africa how to speak Welsh – it is an honour and a privilege,” Spry told WalesOnline. “I hope everyone will try to help these people use Welsh and better integrate in the community. We shouldn’t expect them to do all the work of integrating themselves, we have to go to them to show our commitment to them, and they will show the same in return.” At the 2018 National Eisteddfod (a celebration of Welsh culture held in a different location every year), Spry was named “learner of the year” and recognized for his efforts in both learning and teaching. He hopes to hold a local Eisteddfod in the Adamsdown area in 2019.



StreetVet Cornwall

A group of Cornish veterinarians have launched a charity to help homeless people care for their pets. The StreetVet initiative began in London in 2016 when two vets took to the streets. Now, Cornwall has its own branch of the project, with locations in St Austell, Newquay and Truro. Penzance, Camborne, Redruth, Liskeard and Bude are expected to be added to the list in early 2019. According to an article from Pirate FM, more than 70 veterinary nurses and surgeons are volunteering for the initiative. “I think Cornwall is just such a great place for people who love dogs,” said vet surgeon Rachel Simmons. “I knew there would be a lot of support from the people I work with and from the general public in this county. In each location where we want to launch, StreetVet aims to run alongside an already-existing service - not only does this make us more approachable, but it is also a place where we know the homeless community are already coming along to.” Simmons also pointed out that a pet is often part of a homeless person’s motivation to “keep going” and can improve their quality of life. StreetVet can be found in food banks and shelters, and team members also venture out to connect with people who may not be comfortable coming into those outreach centres. The vets provide services such as vaccination and microchipping, as well as treatment for pain and parasites.



Maria Costello

In its 66-year history, the Isle of Man’s Tourist Trophy Riders Association (TTRA) has never had a female president - until now. Maria Costello, a TT and sidecar racer, was officially inaugurated as president in November. The association offers support to TT racers and their families when they experience injury or hardship. “I am honoured to become the first female to become the president of the TTRA. They are a fantastic charity and one that needs to be better recognized for all they do for TT riders and their families,” said Costello. “As president, one of my goals will be to help raise their profile and therefore help even more people. I am sure that their Friends of the TTRA could easily grow stronger - the TT event itself has such a huge and passionate following that I am sure more fans would want to be involved in what the TTRA do. I am incredibly excited to be the first woman to have this role and cannot wait to get started.” This isn’t Costello’s first time making history in the male-dominated sport. In 2016, she became the first woman to earn a spot on the Bennetts Senior Classic TT Race podium, placing third at the annual event, which takes place at the Isle of Man TT Mountain Course. In 2013, she was also inducted on to the Federation Internationale de Motorcyclist / Women in Motorcycling Commission, and continues to be a mentor for young riders competing in the European Junior Cup.

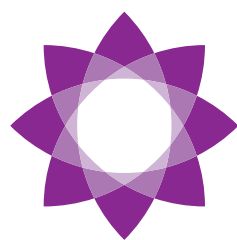
Trains of Ireland 12 Days

May 24, October 11, 2019 • \$5,895pp

Price Includes: Return flight from Toronto, airport transfers in Ireland, motorcoach transportation, 10 nights accommodation, 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners, all highlights listed on website, Tour Director, Connections Program and all taxes.

Price is in Canadian dollars, is per person, includes HST and is based on double occupancy.

For more information contact your local travel professional, call **1-888-716-5523**, or visit **denuretours.com**.



DeNureTours
World of Inspiration

71 Mount Hope Street, Lindsay, Ontario K9V 5N5

Scotland & the Edinburgh Tattoo – 13 Days

August 10, 2019 • \$6,095pp

Price Includes: Return flight from Toronto, airport transfers in Scotland, motorcoach transportation, 11 nights accommodation, 11 breakfasts, 11 dinners, all highlights listed on website, Tour Director, Connections Program and all taxes.

Price is in Canadian dollars, is per person, includes HST and is based on double occupancy.

tico.ca
Registration
numbers
50009376 &
50009377

The Welsh Baker

A Celtic California couple's company captures the taste of Wales



Denise and Joe Carbone knew they wanted to bring Welsh cakes to the United States. They just weren't sure if it would work.

"It was more of a risky, long-shot, seat-of-our-pants experiment than anything else when we started," says Joe, one half of the husband-and-wife team. He is of Italian-Irish heritage, while Denise has her roots in Wales. Born in the Welsh town of Usk, Denise made her way to southern California when she was in her twenties. She worked as a nurse before marrying Joe, later becoming a full-time mom with two children.

After the birth of their second child, Denise reconnected with her inner Celt and learned how to make Welsh cakes; a pancake-like treat cooked on a griddle. They became a family favourite recipe, and though Joe suggested Denise start selling them, she had no intention of running head-first into a business alone while raising kids. In 2009, after Joe was laid off from his job in information technology, the couple went into business together.

"We didn't get lofty with ideals and mission statements," Joe recalls via email. "We thought it would be better to figure out if we could even make these unique, unheard of, hand-griddled cakes reliably, efficiently and profitably. We also needed to see if anyone would care."

"We spent six months developing a cooking method, with many false starts. We almost gave up several times. When we felt we had a method that was scalable and could grow with demand - if there was any - we were ready to start production."

Thus, The Welsh Baker was born. In the beginning, Joe notes, their market was quite small and "very few people were searching the web looking for" Welsh cakes. "We basically had to introduce them ourselves and find our market."

Those early days involved doling out a lot of free samples to get folks familiar with the product.

"As our reputation and familiarity grew and as we got better at what we did, we invested in better dough-processing machinery that increased our output and shrunk our waste," he continues. "Sampling also became less necessary - people lined up to buy our cakes because they already knew they liked them."

As popularity increased, the Welsh Baker expanded their product line to include chocolate-dipped Welsh cakes and oven-baked scones. And though the business now produces goods for wholesale, its market focus remains in retail; at fairs, festivals, and via the internet.

"Over time, our mandate has evolved to being 'the premiere purveyor of Welsh Cakes in America.' We feel we have attained that mandate."

In fact, the Welsh Baker claims to be the largest maker of Welsh cakes outside of Wales itself.

In 2014, the Carbones introduced a new option to their product offerings; mobile tea

room vending.

"Many people asked if we sold coffee or tea," explains Joe. They'd previously felt they couldn't justify "the step-up in complexity of operation between selling a prepackaged food-to-go verses selling food consumed on site" - health regulations, equipment and trash management, for example.

"Still, we realized that if we could turn our field operations into more of a 'tea room' setup, offering customers complimentary coffee, tea, clotted cream, and lemon curd, it would have an impact on the way people tasted our product for the first time. The process became more of an experience than that of a grab-and-go vendor."

And while the cakes are still the couple's primary product, the full "Celtic Tea Experience" is a large piece of the setup when Denise and Joe are out in the field: scones, Scotch eggs and sausage rolls are all part of the spread.

Joe says he and Denise "live and breathe" their business, so they have very little personal time. However, the experience is rewarding. "Whereas, we used to make a bunch of cakes and ask ourselves, 'Do you think we will sell these?' we now look at our schedules and orders and ask, 'Do you think we can make enough in time?'"

After nine years, the company, and the couple, continue to grow.

"When we are old people in a rest home, we'll have a great story to tell."

www.welshbaker.com

COULD THIS BE THE LAST PLAID BROOCH YOU EVER NEED TO BUY?

"KNOTTED WREATH" PLAID BROOCH
CAST & FABRICATED FROM LEAD FREE PEWTER
FULLY FUNCTIONAL PIN APPROPRIATE FOR A
SHOULDER PLAID
LIFE TIME GUARANTEE
APPROX. 4 INCHES ACROSS
PRICE: \$189.-USD



NOT QUITE THE STYLE YOU WERE LOOKING FOR? LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT? YET TRADITIONAL? SOMETHING YOU WILL LOVE AS MUCH AS YOUR KILT? SOMETHING YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYWHERE ELSE?

(OR EVERYWHERE ELSE?)

WELL...

AT NAGLE FORGE & FOUNDRY WE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED YOU DESERVE TO HAVE AS MANY OPTIONS AS POSSIBLE. SO WE MADE THEM. YES, WE MAKE OVER 100 PLAID BROOCH DESIGNS. OUR SMALL FAMILY OPERATED CASTING COMPANY FOCUSES ON FUNCTION AS WELL AS FASHION.

EVERY NAGLE FORGE & FOUNDRY PLAID BROOCH COMES WITH THE NAGLE FORGE & FOUNDRY GUARANTEE AND IS DESIGNED, CAST, FABRICATED AND FINISHED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WE CONSIDER OURSELVES TO BE FOUNDRY PEOPLE, NOT WEB PEOPLE. SO MOST OF OUR STYLES ARE NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE. IF YOU DON'T SEE WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR FEEL FREE TO CALL US AT 415-897-1732 (PACIFIC TIME) OR E-MAIL US AT CONTACT@NAGLEFORGE.COM

NAGLE FORGE & FOUNDRY QUALITY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

At Nagle Forge & Foundry we believe in Quality, Craftsmanship and Durability. That is why all Nagle Forge & Foundry Plaid Brooches come with a life-time guarantee. If you break it, we'll fix it. For life. That is our commitment. So this --or one of our 147 other Plaid Brooch designs-- could be the last Plaid Brooch you ever need to buy.

(Of course, if you want more than one Plaid Brooch --for the sake of variety-- we could call that a need. Oh yes... we make Kilt Pins, Sash Brooches, Luckenbooths, Cufflinks, Seal Rings, Earrings & Poesy Rings too...)

NAGLE FORGE & FOUNDRY

2 FARVUE RD. ~ NOVATO, CALIFORNIA 94947

PHONE: 415-897-1732

WWW.NAGLEFORGE.COM





A new stage show takes audiences back to the merry old days of Ireland.

According to their website, “The Blarney Boys is the story of four fine Irishmen... four upstarts who not only kissed the Blarney Stone - they were born grasping it.”

It is an apt account of the new Irish musical created by Sean McCarthy and his partner Jacintha Sharpe of Fermoy, County Cork.

With hints of *Forever Plaid*, *Celtic Thunder* and *Riverdance*, the show is built around four outstanding vocalists and a troupe of graceful, acrobatic dancers.

“The name is a bit tongue in cheek,” smiles McCarthy. “However, it is a lot of fun for the audience, singing along and laughing, as well as being wowed by the music and dance.”

Although he is just 30 years of age, McCarthy is quickly making a name for himself in the world of entertainment. His company, Take2 Productions, was established four years ago and has since put on Eire-themed shows and managed talented Irish artists on tour in Europe, South America, China, Canada and the United States.

“It is not easy getting a relatively new show off the ground,” he admits, “but we are confident that it is going to go really far and we have the experience and network to back it up.”

So far, there has been great interest for The Blarney Boys from industry professionals both at home and abroad.

“This winter we will be showcasing at the Association of Performing Arts Professionals in New York, which is the biggest conference

in the world for the performing arts. We are very fortunate to have gotten this opportunity and it will be huge exposure to industry professionals from all around the world.”

The troupe is also slated to appear on stages across Europe for St. Patrick’s Day events, and it will be touring Canada and the United States in 2020.

“Over our careers we have spoken about different concepts, so The Blarney Boys is the culmination of many ideas. However, it is still developing all the time; each night things change and elements get worked on, from small tweaks to new songs or gags that make us laugh.

“The beauty of this type of show is that it is never the same twice.”

The production finds its roots in McCarthy’s own heritage; raised in the small village of Ballyhooly, outside Fermoy, his father’s family goes back hundreds of years. Similarly, his mother’s family has longstanding ties to West Cork.

The Blarney Boys is the second show McCarthy and Sharpe have put together.

“In 2016 we created a singing show called *Dúlaman* which has toured extensively, and was broadcast on German television. From that idea we wanted to create something similar in style, but more fun.”

The most challenging aspect of putting together the new production was coming

up with something fresh and distinctive, yet somewhat familiar.

“We pick our songs based on a mixture of things that the audience will know, but also music and dance that they will not have seen before. We have some new renditions of more obscure songs in the Irish language, and sea shanties that are great to sing along to even if you have never heard them before.”

McCarthy has spent most of his life in front of one audience or another. At the age of 17, he joined the renowned Irish music and dance show *Celtic Legends*.

“I played my first gig with them at the Olympia in Paris. In 2013, I was asked to become the musical director of the show and have been the director and a producer there since that time.”

He returned to the stage at the Olympia again in 2015 when *Celtic Legends* had a sold-out, 10-day run. It was there that he understood the global reach of Irish culture.

He believes that the popularity of the Emerald Isle is greater than ever around the world.

“Our hope with The Blarney Boys is to entertain, engage and educate people about what it means to be Irish, and to share our amazing and unique heritage through the merriment of music, dance and storytelling.”

www.blarneyboys.ie

SMOKY MOUNTAIN



SCOTTISH
FESTIVAL &
GAMES

Join Us!

MAY 18-19, 2019

At Maryville College

BRING YOUR WHOLE CLAN and join us
for a weekend of authentic Scottish Highland
festivities right here in the East Tennessee
highland—the Great Smoky Mountains.
Kids under 16 get in FREE!

FOR INFORMATION VISIT
SMOKYMOUNTAINGAMES.ORG





Màiri Britton and Fàrsan carry the torch of Celtic culture

With fiddles, accordion, pipes, piano, whistles and clear, bright voices, Fàrsan brings together the rich, deep musical traditions of old Scotland and rugged Cape Breton Island.

The band's four members may be spread out across North America - Katie McNally in Boston, Massachusetts; Neil Pearlman in Portland, Maine; Elias Alexander in Ashland, Oregon; and Edinburgh native Màiri Britton, who currently resides in Antigonish, Nova Scotia - but when they get together it is musical magic.

Nowhere is this more evident than on the quartet's recently released, self-titled, debut album.

The nine-song CD was recorded in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and is receiving strong radio play on both sides of the Atlantic. The band will soon be on the road in support of the album, touring Atlantic Canada in March, before taking off to Scotland and Ireland in May.

As Britton explains, Fàrsan's hybrid sound is intricately tied to the Gaelic language.

"There are songs - especially *puirt-à-beul* - on every track. And yet, it is not primarily a vocal CD. We are trying to treat the voice as another instrument in the sets, reaffirming the place of the language within the music."

Britton has been teaching Gaelic at St. Francis Xavier University and to community groups in Nova Scotia since 2016.

"I only planned to be here for a year, but I love the place so much that I stayed. I feel honoured to be contributing to the collective effort to revitalize and grow the Gaelic culture here."

Fàrsan's core mandate, she notes, is to get people dancing and thinking positively about the Gaelic culture.

"We are a traditional band, but we are

open to other influences as well. Neil's background in jazz piano brings a unique edge and excitement to many of the arrangements. Elias is a very creative player, quickly becoming renowned for his innovative piping. When combined with Katie's rock solid, driving fiddle style, they produce some thrilling variations."

When the band is performing live, Britton and Pearlman - both accomplished dancers - are frequently "steppin' her off" together.

"Essentially, we are all drawing on our love of Scottish and Cape Breton music, offering up our own interpretation of that with the Gaelic language firmly at the centre of the mix."

Geography remains the band's greatest challenge.

"Obtaining visas - especially for the U.S. - can be arduous and very expensive. Everyone is juggling multiple jobs, bands and projects, so coordinating four extremely busy schedules can be a challenge. Luckily, technology makes things easier with Skype meetings, Trello boards and other apps that help us keep track of band funds, musical material and calendars."

For Britton, the best songs are those that she connects with personally.

"I was really drawn to record a song by Rod C. MacNeil (Ruairidh MacIain Sheumais Dhòmhnaill of Barra Glen) as not only did it contain beautiful emotional expression but I could visit Rod in Cape Breton, sing the song with him, and hear about his experiences in the Second World War which influenced his song-making."

Other album selections, such as Taladh

a' Phuilein, were chosen for their poetic imagery and appealing melody - both of which Britton picked up from a singer in Ness where the song originates.

She admits that picking a favourite track is hard, but remembers *Drunk at Christmas* being the most fun to record.

"It is a set of three *puirt-à-beul*; starting with a strathspey about how drunk everyone got, and ending with a reel describing a mad house party that somehow migrated into the chicken coop."

She adds that *puirt-à-beul* - or mouth music - is all about rhythm and humour.

"We are listening for groove, syncopation and unexpected melodic tunes we can play with. Often the rhythm of the words in *puirt-à-beul* will directly influence our arrangement and you can hear this particularly in Neil's piano accompaniment on *Drunk at Christmas*."

Britton learned to sing at the same time she learned to talk.

"My mum is a lovely singer and used to sing folk songs with me and my sister at home when we were growing up."

Her interest in Gaelic music and culture was nurtured by the Feis movement, a Gaelic youth arts organization she was involved with from the age of five.

"It was there I started picking up the language and also learned step dance, *clàrsach* (the Scottish harp) and Gaelic song. I was very drawn to the language as a child - I think the sounds and rhythms just really appealed to me and that love and fascination kept growing through my teenage years. I just instinctively felt the Gaelic music and language was an important part of Scotland and, therefore, a part of me too."

www.farsanband.com

Bringing Ireland... into your Living Room



O'BRIEN &
CELTIC GIFTS

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

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

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

www.obriencelticgifts.com

The East Pointers

For award winning folk trio The East Pointers, music is a family affair. Celtic Life International correspondent Kristine Maitland tells us more...





Prince Edward Island's The East Pointers is a two-family affair; fiddler/singer Tim Chiasson and first cousin, banjo player Koady Chiasson, are joined by guitarist Jake Charron, originally from Barrie, Ontario.

Tim and Koady are part of a large extended family in which, says Tim, "almost everyone played an instrument, sang or danced." Before forming The East Pointers, Tim and Koady plied their trade in a "good old family band," touring throughout Eastern Canada and New England. Those gigs varied widely: from small town venues to opening slots for Cape Breton's Rankin Family, and even performing for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge during their visit to PEI.

After crossing paths in the folk music scene for a number of years, Charron teamed up with Tim and Koady in 2013.

"We would get together and drink way too much and play tunes until late into the night," recalls Koady with a chuckle. "We joked about starting a band for years. Jake flew to PEI to record a little EP, and we have been on the road pretty much ever since."

That EP forced the trio's hand naming the band; East Point is a small community

on the eastern tip of Prince Edward Island, near where Tim and Koady lived, and where Koady fished lobster for a number of years.

"It seemed like a good idea at the time," smiles Koady, "and so we ran with it."

Although notably influenced by "indie" music, the group's Celtic roots run deep.

Jake traces his love of Celtic music to his father. "He had a lot of Irish, Cape Breton, and French Canadian albums lying about. I also have two brothers who play the fiddle, so there were always lots of tunes around the house."

For Tim and Koady - both "born and bred Islanders" - the family lineage is mostly Acadian, with hints of Scottish heritage. They trace their ancestry in PEI back to 1625.

"It is an interesting history - how the Acadians landed on the east coast of Canada, and were later deported," explains Tim. "There was so much tragedy, but somehow the culture survived."

Along with those Celtic and Acadian roots, the band's sound incorporates the

banjo, an American string instrument of African origins. While popular in the U.S. folk and bluegrass scenes, the instrument is only now gaining wider traction in Canada's Maritime Provinces.

Once again, family played a role; the banjo was recommended by a cousin of Koady's who was on tour with world-renowned fiddler Natalie MacMaster.

"He convinced me to buy one of his tenors," shares Koady, "and I instantly fell in love with the sound and the feel of the instrument."

By Tim's own admission, the band members grew up on music of the 1990s, with exposure to pop, rap, and more. In addition, both he and Koady had older siblings who performed in local and area cover bands.

"When we initially got together we each had different musical projects on the go, in different genres," notes Tim. "However, our first common love was writing and arranging tunes. It was just a natural progression to incorporate songwriting and new sounds as the band evolved."



Despite the array of sonic influences, the traditional folk sound remains a staple.

"There is certainly a swing to the music," Tim notes, adding that jigs and reels are an integral part of the band's identity. "I'm not sure how to peg what we do exactly, but 'trad' music certainly relates in terms of structure. We also put an emphasis on dancing in our music, so we are always pumped to see people shake it up at our shows."

In recent months, audiences have been "shaking it up" in Canada, the U.K. and Australia. More gigs are planned for 2019.

Despite the hustle and bustle of travel, however, The East Pointers still find time to write new music. Once, while in Penguin, Tasmania, the band was inspired by the region's ongoing 82 wildfires. The story would later become a song of the same name on their most recent release, *What We Leave Behind*, which was produced by award-winner Gordie Sampson and nominated for the 2018 Juno Award for Traditional Roots Album of the Year.

Interestingly, the band was on the road

when they found out that they had won the 2017 Juno for their previous album *Secret Victory*.

"We were in the middle of the Australian bush, with a very spotty wifi connection, watching the live stream from the awards show," remembers Koady. "Never in a million years did we expect to hear our names called, so when it happened there was a lot of yelling and screaming and high-fives and a general sense of disbelief."

Australia would be an ideal place for the trio to celebrate.

"Australian audiences love to party and dance," says Koady. "There is no holding back - they just go for it."

"The U.K. is more of a listening crowd. Canada is a bit of both. It keeps things interesting. We definitely have to tailor the show depending on where we are in the world."

Tim adds that traditional music in Scotland, Wales and Ireland differs from that of Eastern Canada.

"It is a different musical dialect. That's how I learned to play. When I started diving into Irish and other Scottish players, it was really interesting to hear the differences and similarities. They essentially stem from the

same place, but over a few generations have changed subtly."

The storytelling element is found on both sides of the Atlantic as well. At a recent concert in Toronto, the band made mention of famed PEI folklorist Kay MacIsaac.

"She was a local school teacher and a historian and just a lovely lady altogether," notes Koady. "Unfortunately, she passed away before the band formed so we never got to meet with her as a group to talk about the folklore of our area."

It was through MacIsaac's work that the band learned the tragic story of the John Wallace - a 19th century shipwreck off the shores of their home province - later penning a song of the same name for *What We Leave Behind*.

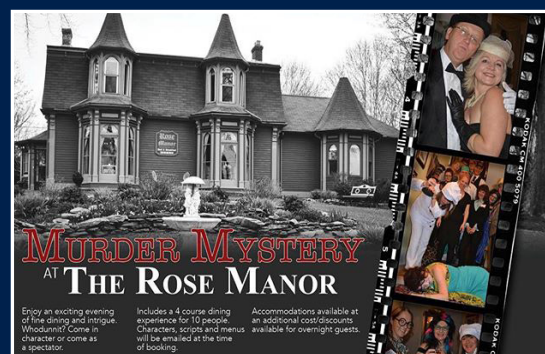
For all the joys of touring, The East Pointers delight in returning home. There are now two new members of the band clan; Tim has made up "150 different nonsense songs" since the birth of his son.

"I have done the same for my newborn daughter," says Jake. "And so the family musical tradition continues..."

www.eastpointers.ca



Rose Manor Inn



*Welcome to historic Rose Manor, circa 1878. Where yesterday meets today.
Savour gourmet breakfasts and 5-star fine dining, created by our very own Chef.*

*Come, stay and experience the oldest and most historic harbour in Newfoundland and Labrador.
4.5 Canada Select. Top 5 Romantic getaways, Top 10 Afternoon Teas*

Afternoon Tea, Murder Mystery theatre, Fine Dining, Excursions, Foraging, Pirate Tours, Traditional beach boil-ups.

Harbour Grace, Newfoundland • 1-877-596-1378

www.rosemanorinn.com

Come From Away

After taking North American audiences by storm, award-winning Canadian musical Come From Away travels to the Emerald Isle for its European debut...





After critically-acclaimed runs in New York City and Toronto, *Come From Away* - Irene Sanktoff and David Hein's heartfelt tale of triumph amidst tragedy - has made its European debut at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin.

The 95-minute musical takes place in the days following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when 7,000 travellers were stranded in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, after their flights were diverted from U.S. airspace.

"There are posters for the show everywhere," laughs Irish performer and *Come From Away* lead Rachel Tucker over the phone from Eire's capital city. "It is marvelous!"

A native of Belfast, Tucker has been performing since she was a child.

"Music was always a huge part of our family," she explains. "We would watch a lot of musicals. It was actually *The Wizard of Oz* - and Dorothy's beautiful ruby red slippers - that first inspired me to get into acting."

Following an inaugural performance at her grandmother's surprise 60th birthday party, Tucker found herself working Belfast's

small - but lively - cabaret circuit with her father.

"At the time I was only nine, and of course you can't make money unless you have an equity card - so I had to go get one!"

Now, almost 30 years into her career, Tucker is set to take the stage as two of *Come From Away*'s characters; pilot Beverley Bass, and a Gander librarian named Annette.

"I actually saw the play with my husband on Broadway. The two of us fell apart at the seams with happiness, with pride, with joy and with sadness. It is the most humanitarian musical - and it has some of the most beautiful storytelling - that I have ever seen."

Although Tucker's co-star, Irish actor David Shannon, had not seen the play prior to being cast, he had his own first-hand experience with its material.

"I was actually quite late to the game," he explains over the phone from Dublin. "I think everyone got cast between March and June, but I didn't get cast until August. When I first read the script, however, I was very excited. I am the only one of the entire cast who has ever been to Newfoundland, so I

kind of got how Newfoundlanders are."

Shannon - who portrays a number of characters in the play, including an American environmental energy worker, a Gander bus driver named Garth, and President George W. Bush - says that he "fell" into acting.

"When I left school I started out making furniture. I used to do shows sometimes when I was a kid, and I knew I could sing a bit, but no one from where I came from - a place called Drogheda, about 30 miles north of Dublin - had ever really been into musical theatre.

"But then a little-known show called *Les Miserables* came to Dublin and opened up some auditions, and I thought I would give it a go. Amazingly, I got cast in the show. All of a sudden I was an actor and a singer and it just went from there."

*Both actors agree that **Come From Away** hits close to home.*

"The people of Gander have a humor and sense of storytelling that is extremely



Rachel Tucker

funny,” notes Tucker. “I think it is very Irish. People go ‘How can it be a funny musical?’ But they are just very funny people. A lot of the play is actually verbatim.

“The sense of community in Gander is also very Irish. They leave their doors unlocked and always welcome people in for a cup of tea. It is all very, very Irish. That sense of community and generosity are very similar.”

Shannon concurs.

“There is an earthiness to the people of Gander that reminds me a lot of the people I grew up knowing in my life. They are massively similar, Newfoundland and Ireland. It made it very easy for me to slip into the role of Garth, because in many ways, I know a Garth.”

Even with that deeper connection to the script, Tucker says the role was not without its challenges.

“Having an Irish accent was both helpful and a hindrance. When you are doing an accent as an actor, the last thing you want to hear is your own accent. I listened a lot to the Gander accent, and there is so much Irish in it. I worried that anyone who knows me will just think I can’t pull off a Canadian accent.

“We also had to really know our scripts. We had to be off-script by rehearsal because there are a lot of chair moves, and a lot of accent changes. One second I was Beverly Bass, and the next minute I took off my jacket and was Annette - literally in the same scene.”

Shannon had similar issues.

“Actually, it was sometimes quite difficult for me to portray Garth, as I have an Irish accent. The accent of Gander is very close to an Irish accent, but different enough that it messes with my head.

“Then, of course, I play President Bush. That was really hard because he couldn’t be funny. Doing an impression of someone that is not supposed to be funny can be quite difficult.”

The two believe that, given the current global situation, *Come From Away* is a particularly important play.

“I saw a comment saying that this is the musical that we all need right now,” shares Shannon. “With everything that is going on - Brexit, the U.S., and the refugee crisis around the world - it is certainly true. It brings us back to that baseline of simply being human, to a sense of humanity. It is a reminder that, genetically, we are all made up of the same stuff.”

“Really, it does not matter where you mount this production,” pipes in Tucker. “Audiences will connect with it because we are all human.”



David Shannon

“This work truly taps into our better natures.”

Shannon says the show will resonate immediately with Irish theatre-goers.

“The play opens with a bodhran, which is an Irish instrument, so you have already won them over in the first two beats of the show. The plan is to take the show to the rest of Europe and Australia, and I have no doubt that it will do well in both of those places.”

Tucker echoes the sentiment.

“We have a real little gem that is just ready to explode over here.”

www.abbeytheatre.ie



GRAMMY[®]
NOMINATED

Celtic Woman Ancient Land

2019 NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

TICKETS AVAILABLE
AT **CELTICWOMAN.COM**
SPECIAL OFFER WITH CODE: IRISH



CD/DVD AVAILABLE
AT **CELTICWOMAN.COM**



Celtic Woman

Joining Irish supergroup Celtic Woman has been a dream come true for Megan Walsh. Celtic Life International Senior Writer Rebecca Dingwell tells us more.



Even before joining Celtic Woman, Megan Walsh was a big fan of the world-renowned Irish ensemble, and Eire's rich musical heritage, since she was a young girl growing up in Navan, County Meath, Ireland.

"Irish music is such a huge part of Irish culture," she shares with Celtic Life International via phone. "Everybody here knows the words to the classics, and they are sung everywhere. At family events, everyone is singing and playing traditional instruments - it is a big part of our culture no matter where you go here."

Celtic Woman is the brainchild of David Kavanagh, Sharon Browne, and former Riverdance director David Downes. The original incarnation of the group formed back in 2004, and made its debut the following year with a self-titled album, DVD, and a sold-out show at the Helix in Dublin. The group was lauded as "Riverdance for the voice" by Irish Music Daily and has been going strong since, with multiple best-selling albums and sold-out tours.

The quartet has evolved significantly over the years, with past members including the likes of Deirdre Shannon, Alex Sharpe and Susan McFadden. Méav Ní Mhaolchatha (known today simply as Méav), who sang with Celtic Woman from 2004 to 2008, is

now the ensemble's vocal director.

These days, Walsh joins Éabha McMahon, Mairéad Carlin and fiddler Tara McNeill in the musical troupe. At age 21, she is not only the newest, but also the youngest member of Celtic Woman.

Walsh was born to a family of musicians and became passionate about music early in life, mostly thanks to her mother.

"My mom was a part of the local musical society in my hometown. She brought me along to one of her rehearsals and I just fell in love with it. From then on I was involved in nearly every one of their shows."

Walsh also started performing theatrically, with roles in *Les Misérables*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Cats*. She began classical vocal training when she was nine, and later studied opera. However, it is Irish music that really holds her heart.

"Irish music was such a big part of my family... I grew up with it, so I always had a big love for it."

Prior to joining Celtic Woman, Walsh performed and competed as a solo vocalist to audiences in venues such as The Odyssey in Belfast, Dublin's National Concert Hall, and Carnegie Hall.

"Carnegie Hall will always stick with me as an incredible experience," says the soprano.

She has even taken the stage at the Helix, where the original Celtic Woman performed its very first show.

"I am so blessed that I can share my love of Irish music with an audience. Even to be considered by the group was such a big thing for me."

Walsh was in London studying at the Royal Academy of Music when Méav reached out to her. "She asked me if I could come and sing for them. I was so surprised and so excited that I rang my dad straight away and I was like, 'You'll never guess who's contacted me!'"

Her father responded with tears of joy. "My dad's a crier," she says, laughing. "He was just so happy, because again, Celtic Woman's music was always on in our house. He just couldn't believe it!"

Walsh then flew to Dublin to sing for the producer and musical director. "And, I guess, that was it. The rest is history."

She says that connecting with McNeill, McMahon and Carlin felt like a perfect fit.

"The first time I sang with the girls, it was like we had been singing together for years. It was just really easy, and our voices blended very well together."



Megan Walsh

Although she is used to performing solo, she takes comfort in having other singers by her side.

“Being onstage, I have the support of the other girls behind me. It takes away from the nerves, because I am up there in a group setting.”

Walsh found herself recording professionally for the first time as the group worked on the recently released Ancient Land album, spending time in Dublin as well as Real World Studios in South West England, where dozens of iconic musicians - including Loreena McKennitt, Van Morrison, and Beyoncé - have recorded.

“It was unbelievable. The people that we worked with were incredible. And to know that these amazing artists walked through those doors - it was an almost indescribable feeling to be there and be a part of something like that.”

Ancient Land is Celtic Woman’s first album of new material since 2016’s Destiny, and features traditional tunes, contemporary pieces, and original songs by Gavin Murphy.

For Walsh, the moving “Faith’s Song” -

her second solo on the album - is a personal favourite. The track is a cover of a tune written by Amy Wadge.

“It is a very sad song, but it also evokes hope; you could be going through a hard time, but your heart is still beating and you are still breathing, and you can still carry on.”

She also takes the lead on the group’s stirring version of the American folk song “Shenandoah.”

Over the coming months, Celtic Woman will be touring across North America in support of Ancient Land.

“I love to travel, so I am very excited to see more of North America. I have only ever been to New York, so nearly every place I go to is going to be a new experience for me.”

Walsh adds that she’s thrilled to share this album of “earthy, worldly” songs with audiences.

“It is going to be a mix of classics everybody knows, like ‘Amazing Grace’ and ‘Danny Boy,’ but there are also going to be new songs, along with a few fun surprises that I think the audiences are going to love.”

Current dates for the Ancient Land tour run from February 28 until May 23, with stops in both the United States and Canada.

“To be a part of all of this is really a dream come true.”

www.celticwoman.com

CELTIC WOMAN DISCOGRAPHY

CDs

Celtic Woman, 2005
A Christmas Celebration, 2006
A New Journey, 2007
The Greatest Journey, 2008
Songs from the Heart, 2010
Lullaby, 2011
Believe, 2011
Home for Christmas, 2012
Emerald: Musical Gems, 2014
Destiny, 2016
Voices of Angels, 2016
The Best of Christmas, 2017
Homecoming, 2018
Ancient Land, 2018

DVDs:

Celtic Woman, 2005
A Christmas Celebration, 2006
A New Journey: Live at Slane Castle, 2007
The Greatest Journey, 2008
Songs from the Heart: Powerscourt House and Gardens, 2010
Believe, 2011
Home for Christmas: Live from Dublin, 2013
Emerald: Musical Gems Live In Concert, 2014
Destiny: Live in Concert, 2016
Homecoming, 2018

WATERFORD CASTLE
The Island Resort



Start your
Happy Ever After

with a magical winter Castle wedding.
Undeniably the most romantic time of the year.

Book a wedding with us in 2019 or 2020 & be in for a chance to WIN a 6 Night Honeymoon on a Private Island Resort in The Bahamas + €1,000 towards flowers by Dutch Master Florist, Lamber de Bie

T's & C's apply

Kamalame Cay, Private Island Resort, The Bahamas: Travel + Leisure #1 Hotel in the Caribbean, Bermuda & Bahamas two years in a row & #33 in the World. Conde Naste #1 Resort in Bermuda, The Bahamas & Turks & Caicos #52 in the World.

Waterford Castle Hotel & Golf Resort | The Island, Waterford, Ireland | + 353 51 878 203
info@waterfordcastleresort.com | www.waterfordcastleresort.com

Barbara Hannigan

World-renowned soprano Barbara Hannigan is no stranger to the spotlight, performing on main stages around the world in an array of roles. Recently we spoke with her about her love of music, her passion for her profession, and her Celtic-Canadian roots.



What's it like being Barbara Hannigan?

Haha. Good question. Perhaps you might be better off asking my family and friends. From what I can tell, I am fairly well-grounded most days. Credit my Nova Scotia roots for that; I grew up in Waverly, just outside of Halifax. My family is still there. They instilled some pretty solid values in me; my work ethic, especially, comes from both my father and my mother - you know, the apple never falls too far from the tree kind-of-thing. Perhaps it has something to do with their Irish-Scottish heritage. I still see it every time I go home to visit, which isn't often enough. Those beliefs have served me quite well over the years.

How so?

When I left home at 17 to study music in Toronto, I brought those values with me. I had no choice, to be honest; they were ingrained in me from a very young age. Later, as my career evolved, with new challenges and opportunities presenting themselves both at home and away, it was the simple, little things that made all the difference in my professional life; the courtesy of saying "please and thank you," respecting others, making oneself available, giving back to the community in some form or another, or just lending an ear or a shoulder here and there. I was thinking recently that, with all of the digital distractions available at our fingertips all of the time, the art of good conversation seems to be slipping away. I like to think that I have become a good listener, and I believe that this, along with the other things I just noted, came from the home I grew up in, in the part of the world I grew up in.

Along with that Irish-Scottish work ethic, what else do you bring to your profession?

There are a lot of intangibles at play each day; a positive mind-set, living a healthy lifestyle, consistency, and self-discipline are the first things that come to mind. Bringing these things to the studio or the stage - whether as a performing artist, a conductor, an arranger - helps me to achieve and maintain optimal performance which, in turn, occasionally allows me to experience peak performance. I was taught that if I am going to do something, then I should do it well and to the very best of my ability.

The results speak for themselves - you have enjoyed great success.

I have been very fortunate through the years to have met so many incredible people who have brought out the best in me by inspiring me to push myself as an artist. Without their love and support, I would not be enjoying the life that I do. That said, and I say this in all modesty and humility, I was the one that showed up, suited up and did the actual work each day; studying, practicing, educating myself, exhausting myself. I believe it was Wayne Gretzky - perhaps the greatest athlete that Canada has ever produced - who said that talent alone wasn't enough; without hard work, talent would only take you so far. He was right, and that is why we call him the Great One.

He always made it look so easy on the ice.

Well, that is the trick right? Practice hard, play hard. He was on the ice all of his life; before school, at lunch, after school. Even as a professional he was the first one to the rink at practice each day, and the last one to leave. He never took a day off, because he loved what he did - it wasn't work to him, it was his passion.

And you feel the same about what you do?

Yes, absolutely I do.

And you make it look so easy on the stage.

Oh my goodness, I really hope so. Haha. If people only knew how much time and dedication was involved in making it seem that smooth! It is a good thing that they only experience the end result; much of what goes into a production can be quite messy! Rehearsal spaces and backstage areas are often littered with both production materials and people's emotions.

And yet, there is the prestige of the actual performance.

Haha. Okay, here's some prestige for you. Before speaking with you

now from my hotel room here in Germany, I spent seven hours in transit, sitting on an old newspaper on the floor of a train. There were no seats left, and so I simply sat on the floor...on an old newspaper. And then, tomorrow night, I will be performing to thousands of people in one of the world's great concert venues. That's prestige. Haha.

You seem to be handling it well.

Haha. Yes, no drama for this diva, thank you very much. I am grateful that my Nova Scotia roots gifted me with a good sense of humour. You have to laugh at these little things in life or you will never make it out alive. I mean, really, what else are you going to do in these situations except make the very best of it and try not to complain too much?

The impression is that performing artists, especially those in the music industry, can be full of ego.

In my experience, I would say that is mostly a myth. The reality is that the majority of us are professionals who are devoted to the music. We serve the music, and keep it at the top of the page at all times. I have rarely had issues with anyone. Listen, there are always going to be people in life, no matter what industry you work in, who are going to complain. For whatever reasons, that is what they do. That isn't exclusive to the music world. People are people wherever you go; our stories may differ, but our emotions, our thoughts, our issues, are mostly the same.

Speaking of the music industry, it has changed greatly in recent years.

It has, yes - for better or for worse. In many regards, it has made things significantly easier for both listeners and performers. There has never been a time when so much music has been made so accessible to so many people. We have the music of Mozart, Miles Davis and Miley Cyrus at our fingertips - literally. As a conductor and performing artist, the convenience of communicating with my musical peers whenever I need to has become vital in properly preparing for a performance. And I have greater access to more resources than ever; I can be sitting on a train bound for Germany studying scores and sheet music, listening to rehearsals, or watching Netflix documentaries on my musical heroes.

Is there a downside to this technology?

Well, it is a lot easier to be distracted for one thing. A lot of us - myself included - waste time on YouTube watching funny cat videos or whatever has gone viral that particular day. I also think that people tend to isolate a little more when they are holed up with their phones or tablets. We need human contact, and it is important that we connect with each other in person, face-to-face, on a regular basis instead of via social media. And, the amount of disinformation out there these days is staggering, even frightening - especially with everything that is going on in the United States right now.

Do you pay attention to that stuff?

I do and I don't. I mean, I keep an eye on world events, for sure. It is unavoidable. I suppose it is a little like reviews of productions or recordings that I am involved with, in that I will sift through them, but I don't really give them a lot of weight or headspace. In truth, I am so busy and focused with my work that there is little time for much else. Ask my boyfriend - he will confirm that. Haha.

Still, the challenges of doing what you do - time, travel, toil, etc - likely pale in comparison to the rewards.

Yes, oh yes. I wouldn't be doing what I do if it were not rewarding in all manners, especially creatively. When I was younger, and just starting my career, audience response and critical reviews meant a lot to me. And getting positive feedback from people I meet after a performance is still important to me - a few kind words go a long way. However, my greatest reward today comes from knowing that I have done my very best and given my all. Call it the simple reward of a job well done - something that I learned long ago from my father and mother growing up in Nova Scotia.

www.barbarahannigan.com



CHERISH YOUR MEMORIES WITH MCHARP
HAND-CRAFTED STONECAST
CROSSES THAT HONOR
FAITH, HERITAGE, AND FAMILY



BALLINA CROSS
TIPPERARY, IRELAND



SLANE ABBEY
CROSS
MEATH, IRELAND

McHarp

Crosses with Meaning

VISIT US AT
WWW.MCHARPCROSSES.COM
SHOP LOCAL AND FIND A
STORE NEAR YOU WITH OUR
STORE LOCATOR

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
AND FACEBOOK

ENJOY 15% OFF
COUPON CODE: TRAVEL15



STANDING CROSS
OF THE SCRIPTURES
CLONMACNOIS, IRELAND



Celtic Spirituality

Through Stillness, Silence and Solitude
~ Connecting With Celtic Spirituality



One Sunday morning last year, my friend, Carl Greenwood, and I made the trek from our Orange County, California homes up to Hollywood Presbyterian Church in nearby Los Angeles. We were going to meet Christian author and scholar Dr. Dale Bruner for brunch. Dr. Bruner had agreed to lead the annual retreat that year for the men at our Tustin Presbyterian Church, so we were meeting to discuss the topic.

Dr. Bruner suggested that we come early and attend a class at Hollywood Presbyterian that was led by his son, Dr. Michael Bruner, professor at Azusa Pacific University.

Of all the many church classes I have taken over the years, few stand out in my memory as this one did. Dr. Bruner was teaching a series, and the topic that day was meditation.

Effective meditation is the result of three elements: stillness, silence and solitude.

As Dr. Bruner was preparing the lesson, a Beatles classic, *The Fool on the Hill*, came to mind, and he found it remarkable that the words from the song hit precisely at what the lesson on meditation was trying to impart.

The song tells the story of a man sitting quietly by himself without speaking to anyone. In other words, he is still, silent, and in a state of solitude. However, though he is perceived as being inane, in reality he is aware of the truly important things that others miss because of the distractions that they let fill their lives.

Now every time this song comes to mind, I am reminded of that class and the need to take time to seek God's spirit through the meditative practice of silence, stillness and solitude.

We live in such a busy world, with countless diversions, that it can be hard to find a quiet time to be still and let God speak to us.

A number of years ago, I was introduced to Celtic Spirituality by Dr. Rebecca Prichard, currently a New Theological Seminary of the West professor. At that time, Rebecca was pastor at Tustin Presbyterian Church, and she invited Dr. John Phillip Newell to give a lecture there on Celtic Spirituality. Dr. Newell had been warden at the abbey on the Isle of Iona in Scotland, known as the birthplace of Celtic Spirituality. Rebecca asked my wife, Loretta, and I to host Dr. Newell for the night at our home.

I was up early the next morning to prepare a simple breakfast for Dr. Newell and myself. As we ate, Dr. Newell commented on how he appreciated the peaceful setting, with the view of the hills and valley out our window. His practice was to arise early in the morning for a time of quiet reflection and devotion.

Dr. Newell left with us a copy of his book, *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*. The title is taken from the scene at the last supper,

as described in John 13:23 - "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. One can visualize the disciple John listening at Jesus' chest. We are encouraged to seek God's presence, God's heartbeat, everywhere."

I used to be puzzled by this depiction, since when looking at the painting of the Last Supper John is leaning away from Jesus. When I was in Milan recently, and privileged to see Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece in person, this fact was confirmed. However, a guide pointed out that the painting was just a single moment in time, and just not the same exact moment that is referred to in the scripture.

I am part of a men's breakfast group that has been meeting on Friday mornings since 1980. Recently we studied one of Newell's newer books, *The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings*. I think a better title would be, *The Rebirthing of God in Us*, since God does not need rebirthing. We do.

Using different objects from Iona as symbols for each chapter, Newell discusses various aspects of reconnecting. One of those is reconnecting with spiritual practice. Newell uses the remote location of Hermit's Cell on Iona as the symbol. Here St. Columba would come in the 6th century to meditate. Newell also mentions other forms of spiritual practice, including walking a labyrinth and yoga.

When I entered semi-retirement, Loretta convinced me to take a yoga class with her



Dale Bruner & Gerry Herter

on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Along with various positions and exercises, there are moments at the middle and end where there is quiet time when the mind is cleared for sole, silent, still contemplation. While these are perfect occasions to let the Spirit come in, I have to admit that I often find myself taking those moments to plan the rest of my day. Having a type “A” left brain, task-oriented persona, I still have a long way to go to fully reach a complete meditative state in those sessions.

Dr. Newell points out that the term, yoga, is derived from the Sanskrit, meaning a desire to be yoked with the sacred. At the end of each yoga class, we stretch out our arms, and bow our heads to each other as we say, “My soul bows to your soul, Namaste.” Namaste actually means “the divine in me bows to the divine in you.”

Dr. Newell also refers to Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk, who followed a discipline of silence. For Merton, “spiritual practice is not seeking “to know about God,

but to know God...seeking the experience of presence.” Or as noted psychoanalyst Carl Jung put it, “I don’t need to believe. I know.”

Merton used a threefold pattern for spiritual practice: 1) remembering our diamond essence, 2) remembering the diamond essence in everyone and everything, and 3) accessing the diamond essence of our being in order to be strong for the work of transforming the world. For Merton, the diamond essence referred to the image of God.

Celtic spirituality focuses more on experiencing God in our lives as opposed to ascribing to a set of doctrines.

As Dr. Newell puts it, “Western Christianity...had confused faith with a set of propositional truths about the Divine, rather than a personal experience of the Divine that could be undergirded and sustained by particular practices and disciplines.”

This perspective has helped me overcome decades of guilt over the rigid, literal beliefs of the Fundamentalist church I attended during my high school years.

The Celtic approach is also evident in the book, *Rethinking Our Story, Can We Still be Christian in a Quantum Era?* by Doug Hammock, pastor of North Raleigh Community Church in North Carolina. The author affirms that “Celtic Christians honored diverse ways of experiencing God...Celts focused on divine image breathed into us at creation... By integrating meditative technique with our approach to scripture, we become more discerning...Christian tradition offers a spirituality deeper than learning, deeper than doctrine.”



John Phillip Newell

If only in my high school years I had a pastor like the Rev. Dr. Gary Demarest, renowned Presbyterian minister and church leader. He was honest enough to say, when giving a seminary board meeting devotional a few months ago, something like, “I believe in Jesus and the resurrection, but after all these years I still can’t answer the question: What if when I die, it all just turns black?”

We can have faith amid our doubts. As the theologian Paul Tillich once said, “Sometimes I think it is my mission to bring faith to the faithless, and doubt to the faithful.”

As a final example, I would like to share from the Preface to my new book, *From Ledgers to Ledges; Four Decades of Team-building Adventures in America’s West*. I am a big fan of John Muir. Muir and I have some things in common: like Muir, I am part Scottish, love the outdoors, am Presbyterian, went to the University of Wisconsin, headed west, hiked parts of the Muir Trail, and am a member of the Sierra Club, co-founded by Muir. Nevertheless, I could not hold a candle to all that Muir did for the American West.

Muir was hiking one time in Alaska with Stephen Young, a missionary to the native people, who wrote a book about the experience titled *Alaska Days with John Muir*. They were camped at the base of a mountain in Glacier Bay.

As recalled by Young after a rainy night, Muir’s gaze upon a mountain brought this breathless exclamation: “‘God Almighty!’ he said. Following his gaze...I saw the summit highest of all crowned with glory indeed... As we looked in ecstatic silence we saw the light creep down the mountain...Our minds cleared with the landscape...But there was no profanity in Muir’s exclamation, ‘We have met with God.’ A lifelong devoutness of gratitude filled us, to think that we were guided into this most wonderful room of God’s great gallery... ‘We saw it! We saw it. He sent us to his most glorious exhibition. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.’”

Story by Gerald Herter



7 Irish Quilt prints



“Once you
get home
from Ireland,
hang a bit of
Ireland in
your home.”

PRINTS of IRELAND by Barrie Maguire

High quality Giclée prints,
signed and numbered.
\$99 or \$160 + shipping

Irish Pony prints



15 Irish Writers prints



Irish Countryside prints



Wander through Ireland on my website...
it's not the same as actually being there,
but it's close!

www.maguiregallery.com



Matthieu Venot

www.matthieuvenot.fr

I live and work in the city of Brest, in the Celtic Bretagne region of France.

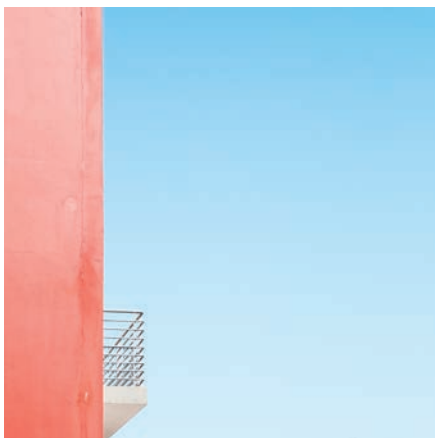
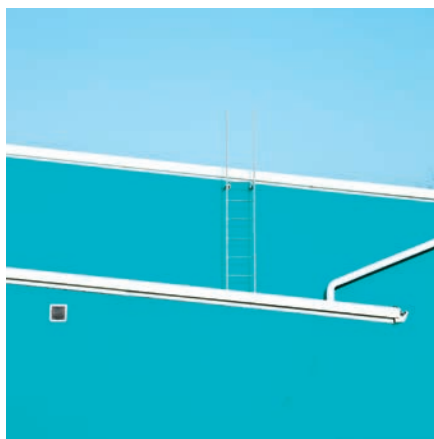
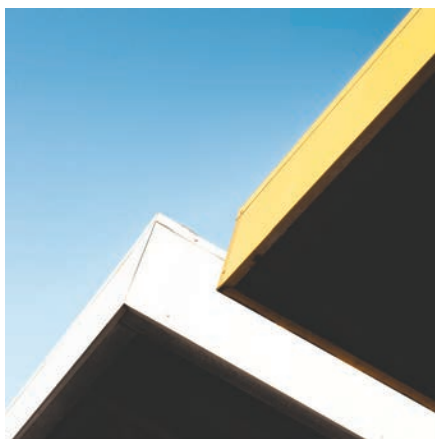
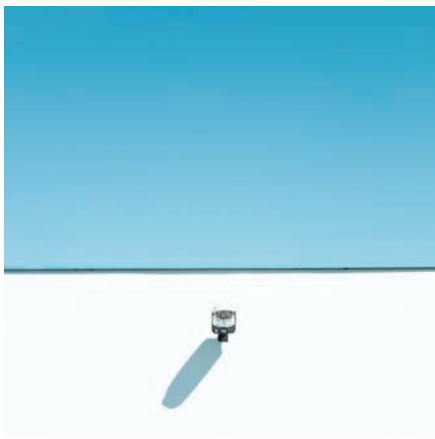
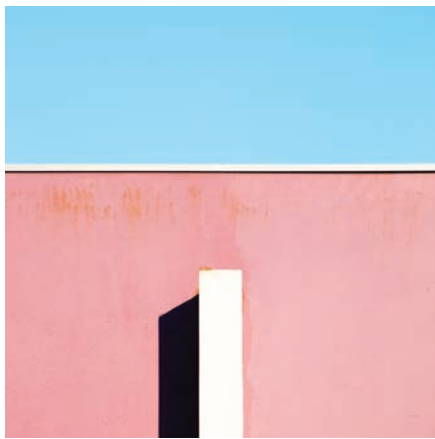
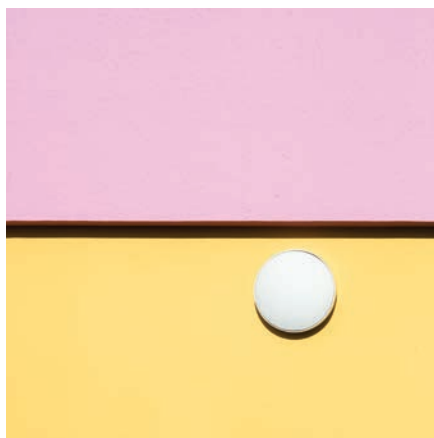
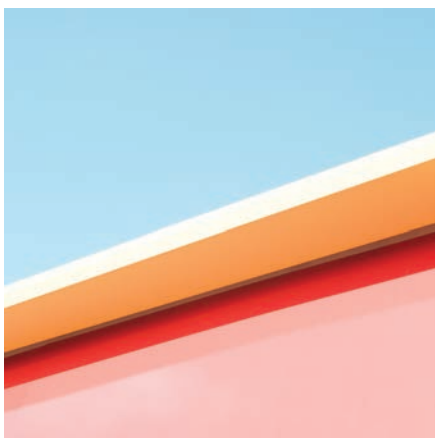
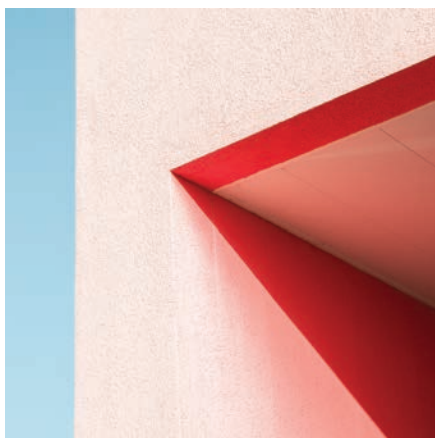
I have always had a passion for the visual arts. As a child, I was constantly drawing and sketching as - for whatever reason - I felt the instinctual need to create my own world. To a large degree, and the more I become immersed in photography, it is why I am still drawn to the medium today.

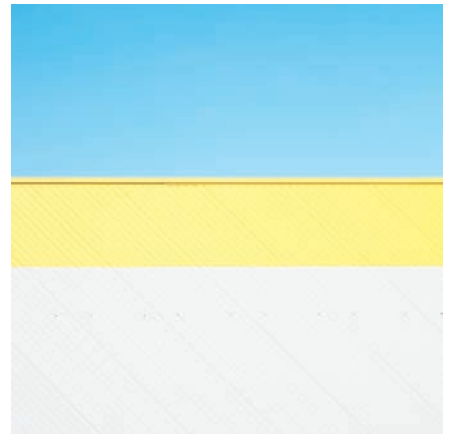
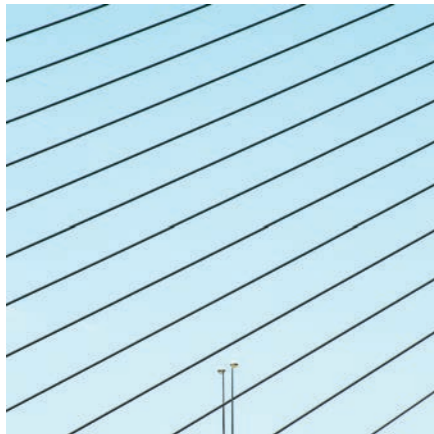
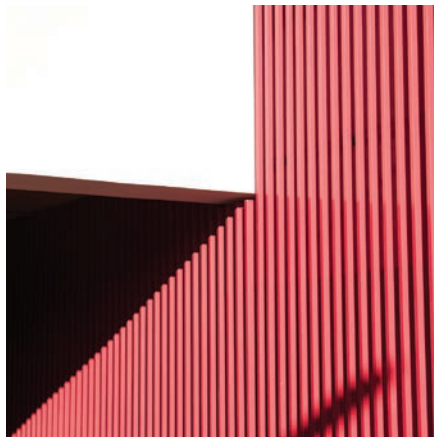
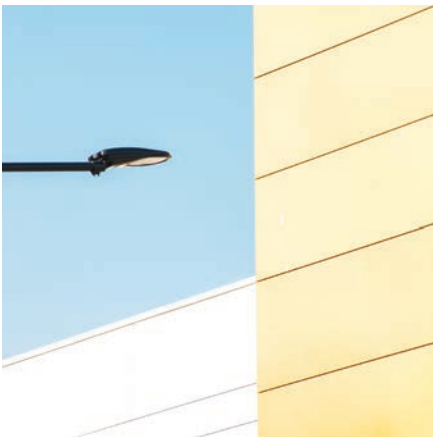
In 2013, my wife gave me a camera so that I could begin taking photographs of my children. As my technique improved, I started taking pictures of local and area architecture. Although Brest was left in ruins after World War II, there is still great beauty here and my hope has

been to capture and convey this place in an optimistic way. I love to uncover the extraordinary in everyday objects.

I believe that, over time, my work has become less minimalist, and more visually powerful. The real challenge has been to constantly reinvent myself by experimenting with new ideas. Admittedly, I do doubt myself a lot as an artist - even after my work was featured in a publication like GQ Magazine. However, the upside of doubt is that it forces me to move through the fear in the process of self-discovery.

A good photograph has nothing to do with the camera or the process. Rather, it is something emotional that emerges from the heart.





EST 2002

SCOTLANDSHOP

TAILORED TARTAN CLOTHING & INTERIORS

10%
DISCOUNT
USE OFFER CODE:
CELTIC2019

**OVER
500
CLAN &
FAMILY
TARTANS**

**VISITING NEW YORK FOR TARTAN WEEK IN APRIL
BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT ONLINE NOW**



www.scotlandshop.com



+44 (0)1890860770



info@scotlandshop.com

10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH2 4PG



Jorge Vázquez

www.jvporjorgevazquez.com

I am from Galicia, an area of northwestern Spain, although I have lived in Madrid for twenty years.

My mother had a textile business, and I have loved fabrics, garments and design since I was a child.

The challenges of the vocation are most-

ly with myself...and to improve each season and exceed the expectations of the press and customers.

The rewards include the personal satisfaction of a job well done and the general recognition.

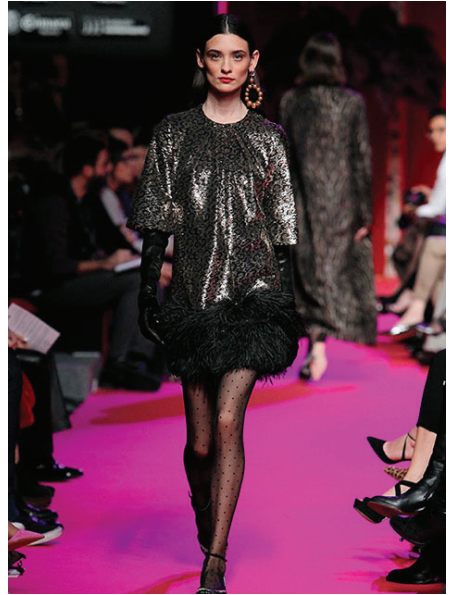
I continue to be inspired by books, mov-

ies, travel, and old-fashion magazines.

My work is defined by quality of the fabrics, the exquisite confection made in Spain, and the timelessness of the designs.

In all of my collections, there is a hint of Galicia, its scenery, its way of life - it is part of my work...







Discover Extraordinary Things to Do in Dublin and Ireland with LetzGo City Tours.

Some of our top tours include;

Book of Kells Early Access Tour with Dublin Castle

Avoid the crowds and explore Irish history on this 3-hour Book of Kells and Dublin Castle exterior tour. Visit the Trinity College Library, home to the famous Book of Kells — widely considered among the most important of all Ireland's ancient treasures. Listen as your local Dublin guide brings medieval Ireland to life, shedding light on the Book of Kells' profound historical significance. Learn about the artistry, meaning and symbolism of this revered illuminated manuscript from an expert guide. Afterward, enjoy a guided walking tour around Dublin Castle's mighty exterior. Visit the gardens and yards, and learn of the castle's role as court, fortress, treasury and jail.

**** Trip Advisor Review

Kimberly, Ohio , Jun 2018 This was an absolutely phenomenal tour. I am so glad I booked it! This was our last big tour on our trip, and it really ended things on a high note. Our tour guide Neil was extremely friendly, knowledgeable and funny! While some history-focused tours can be a bit stuffy and sometimes even boring, this one was both fascinating and fun. We learned many interesting things about Trinity College, the Book of Kells, the Dublin castle and the city of Dublin in general, all while laughing and having a great time. I recommend this tour to ANYONE visiting Dublin, not just the history buffs!

Fast-Track Guinness and Jameson Irish Whiskey Experience Tour in Dublin

Save time and guarantee your fast-track admission to Dublin's top attractions—the world famous **Guinness Storehouse and the Jameson Distillery**—on this combination tour. With a guide in the lead, breeze past the crowds in line at both locations and begin exploring right away. Learn about the history and culture of both institutions through your guide's commentary and incredible storytelling abilities. Sample the best of both locations with free drinks included on this fully guided tour by a local Dublin Guide.

Why book with LetzGo City Tours

We offer fully guided tours that include the best things to do and see throughout Ireland. We are experts in developing tours that give you the best Ireland experience from must-see city historical highlights to lesser known treasures. So, when planning your trip to Ireland, why book anywhere else?

We can plan everything for your trip to Ireland including full itineraries of Ireland as well as one-of-a-kind experiences as well as ½ day of full day fully guided tours not only in Dublin but all throughout Ireland including Northern Ireland.

- Our Guides are the best – insightful, articulate and master storytellers
- The best tours at great prices – many with Skip the Line & Fast Track Access
- We offer exciting, engaging city tours with meticulously crafted itineraries
- Book with confidence – officially recognized as Tour Organizer
- Our tours consistently receive 5 star reviews. Check us out on Tripadvisor.

Some of our other best selling tours include;

- Kilmainham Jail, War & Revolution Tour
- Irish Storytelling & Oldest Pub in Ireland Tour
- Private Tour Of Epic Emigration Museum with Famine Monument & Jeanie Johnson Ship Visit
- Irish Ancestry Tour
- Fast Track - Irish History & National Museum & Treasury Tour

LetzGo
CityTours

Experience the
Extraordinary



Book directly at www.letzgocitytours.com
or for more information send an email to info@letzgocitytours.com



The Celtic Traveler

Wanderlust flows through the blood of Celts the world over. Celtic Life International senior writer Chris Muise takes us along for the ride...

Even if you have never been to any of the seven Celtic nations, you need only read excerpts from the escapades of our resident travel columnists - Tom Langlands, Lesley Choyce and Ken McGoogan - to know that it doesn't matter which of the Celtic nations you might choose to visit, they all have their charms.

Ireland isn't called the Emerald Isle for its rich deposits of gemstones, but for the rich shades of green you will find across its lush landscape. The Scottish Highlands run deep with history and links both ancestral and of the golfing variety. Be it the clifftop views of Cornwall, the balmy beaches of Galicia, or the rich linguistic traditions of Wales, there are plenty of reasons why folks around the world have Celtic hotspots on their travel bucket lists.

Interestingly, despite these regions' longstanding histories and customs, the tourism landscape surrounding them is forever shifting, due to trends both local and global. Do golfers still flock to Scotland? Is Ireland still as quaint and hospitable a place as it's always been?

Knowing tourism trends is essential to productive trip planning. As such, it is prudent to pre-peruse places where one might plan a pilgrimage, and to explore what Celtic tourism looks like today.

One thing is abundantly clear; Celtic tourism in general, and to Scotland and Ireland in particular, is on the rise.

"Ireland is breaking records year-on-year for visitor numbers coming in," says Genevieve Sheehan, co-founder of Sheenco Travel, over the phone from her office in Clashmore, Co. Cork, Ireland.

Sheehan's business organizes guided tours throughout Ireland and the U.K., with a focus on exploring the many castles that dot the countryside. She is seeing an increase in visitor numbers overall, and they are coming from farther away than ever before.

"We are getting more on the map; for example, Ireland actually has direct flights, and two new routes coming in from Asia. Before, it would have just been, typically, North America and Europe, with a little bit of Australia. Now, we are expanding our reach into parts of the world that may have never even heard of Ireland before."

Direct flights account, in part, for the increase in travellers.

"It's probably gone up about 20 per cent," says Faith Sproule, owner of Niche Travel Group in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Sproule's company employs only seasoned agents - those who have spent years specializing in specific regions - in order to help plan trips down to the smallest detail.

"They have direct flights into Glasgow with WestJet now. You can go to Dublin with WestJet via St. John's. It is open now, and it is easy. You don't even have to go for 10 days - you can go for three. You can go to Scotland multiple times for the same prices that you can go to Calgary."

She adds that one of the biggest changes in Celtic tourism in recent years is that, before, a journey to Scotland, Ireland or Wales might have been a once-in-a-lifetime journey. Today, however, more people who visit those spots expect to return.



“That takes away the stigma of it being such a big trip; it doesn’t have to be a six-country, 12-day guided tour. You can hop over to Dublin for five nights.”

“That is happening on a worldwide basis,” continues Sheehan, who notes that her company is currently recruiting agents in the U.S. for the coming year. “Travel is becoming more accessible to everybody. You only have to look at our levels of repeat business, which is around 10-20 per cent. That is huge for such a niche area, and shows how popular the region is.”

But what, traditionally, has drawn people to these regions, even if only on grand, once-in-a-lifetime journeys? And what draws them there today?

“Right across the board, scenery & landscapes, history & culture, and Scottish ancestry are the three top draws for visitors from these nations,” says Noelle Campbell of Visit Scotland via email, referring to travelers from the U.S., Canada, and Australia.

Scotland hosted 566,000 visitors from the United States in 2017, accounting for 18 per cent of their total tourism market - the country’s best numbers in the last 10 years. 2017 was also the second best in terms of Australian visitors, and 2016 was the strongest year for hosting Canadian tourists to the region.

It is not just Scotland enjoying the extra foot traffic lately, either; Ireland reports record visits from around the world last year, seeing 9 million tourists from overseas - a 4.2 per cent increase over the previous year.

You will find pockets of outliers here and there; tourism in Britain, for example, has slowed in recent years due to the looming uncertainty of Brexit. But, by and large, the trend is on the rise.

It is worth asking, then, what has brought about such growth in the market?

New, direct flight routes and a recovering global economy can account for some of that increase, but those are factors that apply most anywhere. So, what is bringing people specifically to Scotland, Ireland, and the other Celtic nations?

At the core, nothing has really changed – scenery, history, culture, and ancestry have always been at the heart of the appeal of Celtic travel. However, Campbell explains that the Scottish tourism sector is hard at work finding new ways to express those main attractions.

“Scottish operators don’t rest on their laurels; they are continually developing innovative and new experiences for visitors to stand out from other destinations and to encourage existing visitors to return.”

By way of example, a 2018 VisitScotland survey on trends identifies that, by leaning on the most popular spots in the country, the industry risks alienating travellers seeking to avoid multitudes of other tourists during peak season.

The solution, notes Campbell, is marketing more off-the-beaten-path experiences.

“We do a lot of work to encourage visitors to come to Scotland away from the peak-season months of July and August, so that they can enjoy all the country has to offer in the spring, autumn and winter. We also encourage people to explore widely, visiting different geographical areas in Scotland, so that every area receives visitors. These two points are an important part of our development plans.”

Tour guide Andrew Nicholson knows a little something about the value of introducing his patrons to the sites less travelled.

“Because we only run small tours, we are able to take people to more out-of-the-way locations than some of the larger tours,” he says. Nicholson’s business, Outlander: The Past Lives Experience, is taking advantage of another trend that has revolutionized and revitalized the Celtic tourism sector: screen tourism.

“We first witnessed it back in 1995 after the movie Braveheart was released,” says Campbell. “Fans of the film flocked to see the real-life places featured in the story of Sir William Wallace.”

There has always been an element of screen tourism present in the region, but the popularity of productions like Harry Potter, the



SCOTLAND

new Star Wars trilogy, Game of Thrones - and especially the Scottish time-travel drama series Outlander - have truly invigorated people's interest.

Nicholson and his wife and business partner Diane are also big fans of the show. In addition, much of the Outlander story takes place just beyond their doorstep.

"We actually live in Culloden, which is a major location for the show," says Nicholson, who opened the business halfway through the 2017 season.



NOELLE CAMPBELL

"Obviously, a big part of it is all about the Highlands; Highland culture, The Battle of Culloden, and Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Jacobite rebellion."

Paired with their own interest in local history, the couple offered 7-day guided tour packages to visitors, mostly focusing on the actual locations represented in the Outlander books and the narrative of the television series, rather than the filming locations around Glasgow and Edinburgh that the larger Outlander-themed tours frequent.

"With Outlander, there's a fantastic combination of amazing history, beautiful scenery, stunning locations, etc...and then, on top of that, threading its way through is the whole series storyline. It is a unique and wonderful way to experience Scotland."

Nicholson notes that he has already booked 75 per cent of his available tours for next year, and has inquiries through to 2022. As such, he isn't worried about the well of screen tourists running dry anytime soon, even if and when the Outlander series comes to a close.

"It is increasing, and not just due to Outlander," he says, citing other recent, major productions like Mary Queen of Scots and King Robert the Bruce.

"The Scottish government has just announced that they are investing in new film production facilities so, really, they are investing in the country's gross domestic product. In that regard, tourism and the film industry are now seen as vital, synergistic elements."

The historical context of Celtic culture isn't the only thing drawing people, however. There are things to do, see and taste in these parts of the world.

"So much of tourism is now food-focused in Ireland," says Genevieve Sheehan, pointing out that Michelin-starred restaurants have been popping up in Cork and beyond.

"It is really cool to see these little country rural restaurants operating at that level. We have gone from a time, not that long ago, where you just had food - it was good food, but it certainly was not gourmet - to now, being on the map as one of the great food destinations of the world."

Galicia, Wales, and Bretagne have also taken a bite out of the global interest in gastronomy in recent years.

It is not just the haute cuisine that shows off Ireland's contemporary culture, though; brewery and distillery visits, arts events like the Macnas Parade and the Galway Festival of Lights, and frequent tour stops in Dublin for major musical artists all bring the country up to speed.

That urbanity hasn't changed the region's historic friendliness and hospitality.

"Yes, okay, you are not going to see the old farmer in the donkey cart anymore," says Sheehan. "But you are going to meet them in the pub after. That is how you get the best of both worlds."



FAITH SPROULE

Still, screen tourism and upscale eateries can't overshadow what is still a major motivator for folks travelling to the Celtic nations - the opportunity to reconnect with their ancestry. However, even that attraction has found new ways to be expressed.

"The Diaspora around the world is huge," continues Sheehan. "Tourism is expanding because, whereas just a couple of generations ago people would have been coming back and seeing their family in person, more and more of those family connections are gone. So, instead, they are tracing their roots via the tourism route."

Additionally, in lieu of travelling to visit far-away relatives, folks - especially people with grandchildren - are bringing their families from home with them, on multi-generational "legacy tours."

"Grandparents are celebrating their 50th anniversary, or their 75th birthday - some milestone holiday - and they want to go away to celebrate it, but they want to take their children and the grandchildren," explains Faith Sproule.

For many whose parents rarely spoke of their ancestry, there is a yearning to connect with that heritage.

"My father received no information from his parents or grandparents about their history," says Sproule, who is a Doyle on her



father's side. "They didn't want to talk about it, because it was just tragedy. I think it is different today; grandparents who are now in their 70s didn't experience the same kinds of tragedies. They are nostalgic, and know enough that they want to visit in person."

"I have always seen a steady stream of guests wanting to connect with their Scottish forebears and we have seen a real rise in this area over the past decade," says historian Steve McLeish, who runs historical tours through his company Scotia Ancestral. "With the advent of new DNA technology, and more and more genealogical records going online, the search for one's ancestry is far easier than it was 10 years ago."

Sproule often encourages her retired clients to invest a little less in leaving a nest egg for their children when they pass, and a little bit more on creating lasting memories with them while they are still here.

"I don't like to do doom-and-gloom with people, but you just don't know if your knees are going to be in good shape next year," she

notes, adding that she sometimes visits clients who proudly showcase photos of their trips in their homes. "Kids get older and go to university, and then you are working with five different schedules. So if there's an opportunity where you, as grandparents, say 'let's do this,' and you get a buy-in from the kids, just do it."

"It is my personal philosophy as well; a hundred years ago, people just scrimped and saved, and then left all their money to their children - their land, property, money. Just, stop. Most of your kids are okay - they have good careers."

With the first boomers entering retirement age over the past decade, Sproule expects legacy tours to trend for the next 20 years.

"Spend your money making people smile. It is your money, you should enjoy it! See it, enjoy it with them, and take them on this experience. Everyone always talks about adding years to their life; your legacy is about getting them to add life to their years."



ARDORAN

HOUSE ISLE OF IONA

Luxury Bed & Breakfast





Come and stay with us!

Visit historical Iona Abbey
See impressive Fingals cave
OR just relax and unwind

Ardoran House
Isle of Iona
PA76 6SP
Tel: 01681 700070
www.ardoranhouse.co.uk



Take advantage of our
special 2019 offer!



Book a Hebridean Island Cruise or Hebridean River Cruise before January 31st, 2019 and receive **10% off** the cruise fare. Past passengers will receive an additional **5% off**. Hurry and book now to take advantage of these exclusive offers!



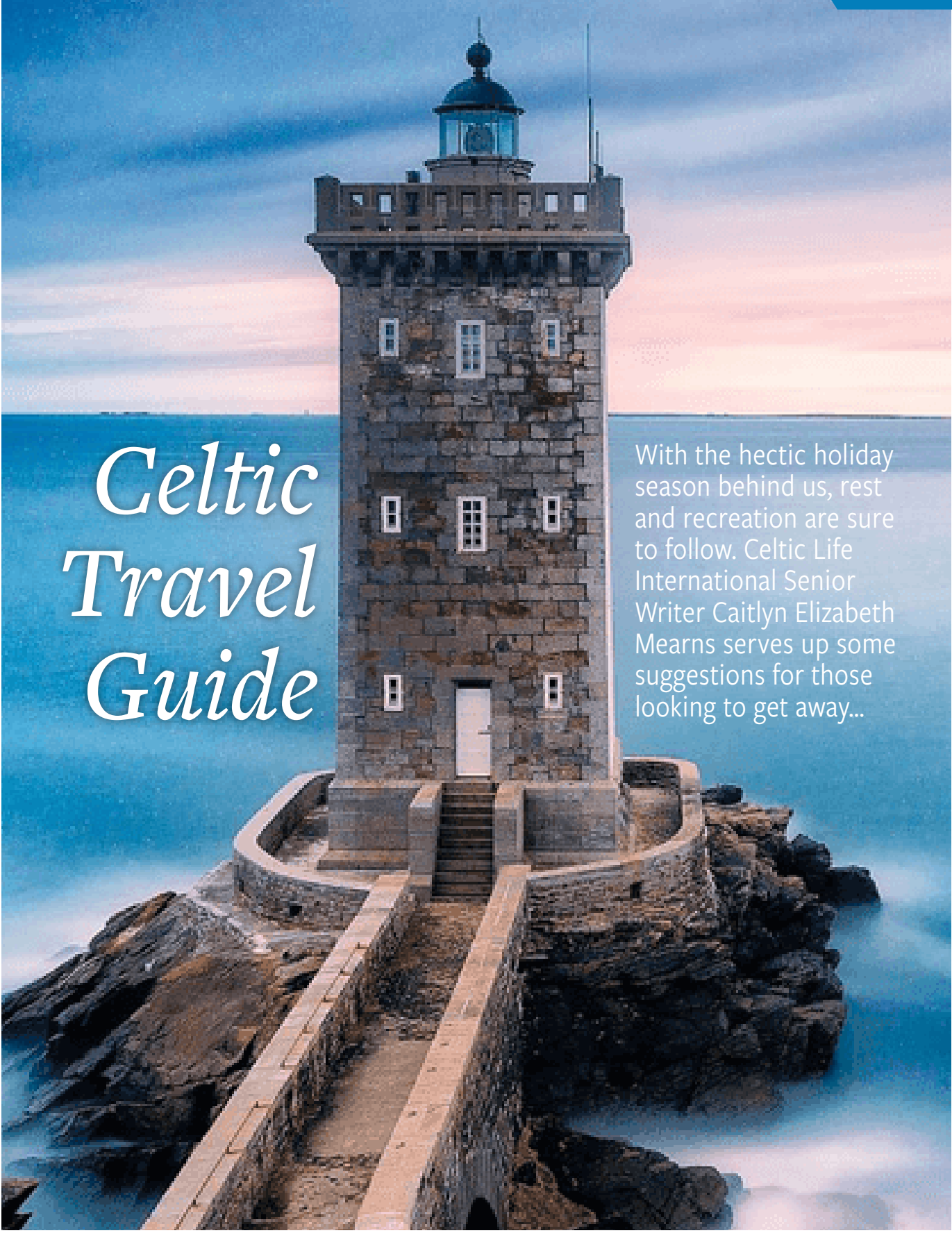
HEBRIDEAN ISLAND CRUISES

For further details:

877 600 2648

www.hebrideancruises.com





Celtic Travel Guide

With the hectic holiday season behind us, rest and recreation are sure to follow. Celtic Life International Senior Writer Caitlyn Elizabeth Mearns serves up some suggestions for those looking to get away...

Go traditional in Dublin, Ireland



Where to Stay: Ariel House

Situated in the quiet suburb of Ballsbridge, the Ariel House - a traditionally-styled hotel - is perfect for a quiet and comfortable weekend away. The hotel contains close to forty warmly decorated rooms, all of which accentuate the building's authentically Victorian features, as well as a central Drawing Room, where guests are welcome for tea, music, or simply an afternoon of socializing.



Where to Eat: Darkey Kelly's

Have you even experienced Dublin if you haven't popped into a classic Irish watering hole? Darkey Kelly's Pub and Restaurant is one of the city's most popular spots for traditional Irish music, and a must for anyone looking for some good old-fashioned craic. In addition to its authentic Emerald Isle food and drink - with arguably the best pint of Guinness in town - the location is steeped in history and local folklore.



What to Do: EPIC Ireland

EPIC Ireland, or the Irish Immigration Museum, is a no-brainer for those travelling to the Emerald Isle. This entirely digital facility - the only of its kind in the world - provides visitors with an interactive experience, highlighting the country's 70 million who left Eire's shores through the years. This award-winning museum is a true celebration of the international impact of Ireland.

Get lost in Belfast, Northern Ireland



Where to Stay: Europa Hotel

Although renowned as "the most bombed hotel in the world" (with over 30 attacks during the Troubles), Belfast's Europa Hotel is the city's most prestigious, comfortable and central place to stay. In addition to its 297 beautifully decorated rooms, the 4-star facility also includes a modern bistro, a relaxing piano lounge, and a fabulous late-night bar where patrons are happy to get "bombed."



Where to Eat: Muddler's Club

The Muddler's Club - an award-winning, "hole-in-the-wall" restaurant - is the place to go for a romantic dinner or late-night meal in Belfast. Quietly tucked away in a back alley of the city's bohemian Cathedral Quarter, the eatery showcases an open kitchen that serves up simple dishes made of fresh and local ingredients. Be sure to round out your meal with one of the team's expertly-curated whiskies or wines.



What to Do: Titanic Belfast

Titanic Belfast is the city's largest and most popular attraction. Located on the former site of the Harland and Wolff shipyard (where the liner was originally built), the modern museum offers an array of activities - including the "Titanic Experience" - a collage of nine interactive galleries. In addition, visitors can view a variety of well-preserved artefacts from the "unsinkable" ship itself.

Cozy up in Edinburgh, Scotland



Where to Stay: Brooks Hotel

The Brooks Hotel in Edinburgh's west end combines contemporary luxury with the cosiness of a home-style B'n'B. The three-star facility was completely refurbished in 2013, and includes 46 beautifully styled bedrooms - ranging in size from "compact" to "king" - that highlight the hotel's historic Victorian roots, while meeting the needs of the modern-day traveler.



What to Do: Edinburgh Castle

Perhaps Scotland's most historic attraction, Edinburgh Castle has been safeguarding citizens for over 3000 years. The location is best known as one of the country's main military strongholds, and has provided sanctuary for Royalty throughout history. Today, the castle is at the heart of Scotland's tourism industry, with a slew of on-site tours, children's activities and events



Where to Eat: Stables Restaurant

Once a historic coaching inn, the family-owned and operated Stables Restaurant is tucked away in downtown Tenby, overlooking the seaside. Simple, homespun meals - made from fresh, locally sourced ingredients - comprise the core of the eatery's extensive menu. In addition, an excellent beer and wine list makes for a complete culinary experience.



Where to Eat: A Room in the West End

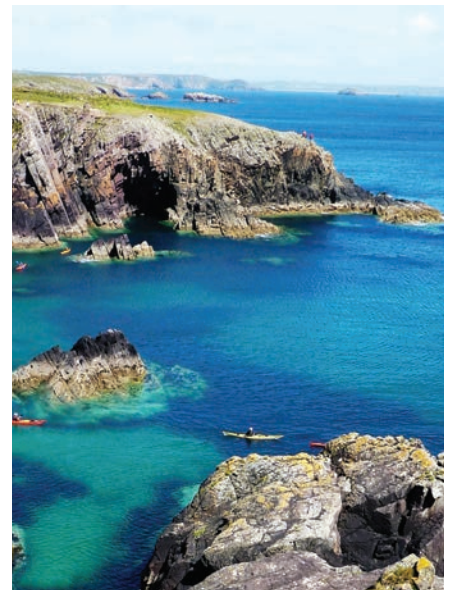
Cozy, quiet and quaint well-describe A Room in the West End, a small, Scottish bistro located in the basement of Scotland's famous Teuchters Bar. The intimate eatery serves up authentic Scottish cuisine from locally sourced ingredients. In addition, the restaurant also features a world-famous wine list, 90 malt whiskies, and over a dozen domestic, imported and craft beers on tap.

Keep it simple in Tenby, Wales



Where to Stay: Trefloyne Manor

A fourteen-room residence in the heart of Tenby, Wales, Trefloyne Manor keeps things simple and satisfying. Each of the Manor's rooms is spacious, comfortable and beautifully designed, making it ideal for no-nonsense travel. In addition to its superior accommodations, the facility also has both a fully-licensed spa and 18-hole golf course on site.



What to Do: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

While it would be easy to fill up the itinerary with some of Tenby's many tempting tourist attractions, the area's plush Pembrokeshire Coast National Park is the go-to spot. The 629km² of greenery is an ideal place to enjoy both a calm, quiet solo stroll, or let the kids run wild with an array of family-focused activities.

Splash Around in St. Ives, Cornwall



Where to Stay: Pedn Olva Hotel

Located in St. Ives - one of Cornwall's most popular surfing towns - the Pedn Olva is a modern hotel with a signature seascape style. Each of the facility's 30 rooms is adorned with light, contemporary furnishings, and overlook one of the area's beautiful beaches. Guests will also enjoy a comfortable terrace, a warm granite fireplace, and an indoor swimming pool.



Where to Eat:

Mermaid Seafood Restaurant

No spot complements St. Ives' scenic landscapes like the Mermaid Seafood Restaurant, one of the city's oldest and most popular places to dine. Renowned by locals as the area's best and most romantic restaurant, the Mermaid's broad menu showcases the region's succulent seafood specialties, with something scrumptious for everyone.



What to Do: Barbara Hepworth Museum and Garden

St. Ives is also renowned for its world-class culture, including the work of English painter and sculptor Barbara Hepworth. Based in her old house, the namesake Museum and Garden showcases the artist's best work, including sculptures in bronze, stone and wood, as well as a collection of her most notable drawings and paintings.

Find Luxury in Douglas, Isle of Man



Where to Stay: Ellan Vannin Hotel

The Ellan Vannin Hotel believes that guests don't have to sacrifice luxury for affordability. The 29-room, Victorian-styled townhouse - which has been rated as Douglas' number one hotel by tripadvisor.com - provides its visitors with a comfortable and convenient stay at a very reasonable price. Each room is designed with world-weary travelers in mind, offering comfortable bedding, lavish furnishings, and full in-house amenities.



Where to Eat: The Courthouse

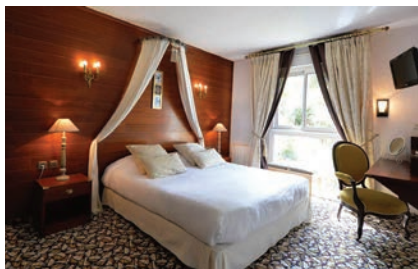
Don't let its name and exterior fool you, The Courthouse - located in the heart of downtown Douglas - is no longer a location of legal proceedings. Instead, it is one of the city's premier bars, offering quick lunches, gourmet dinners, and an assortment of tasty cocktails. The eatery's lower-level late-night bar includes everything from great live music to an elegant VIP area.



What to Do: Manx Museum

The Manx Museum, an impressive collection of artefacts and exhibits organized by Manx Natural Heritage, is the perfect opportunity to discover the island's 10,000-year-old history. Highlighting the country's Celtic and Viking ties, permanent displays are accented by a series of annual events involving a multitude of media that will appeal to learners of all ages.

Relax in Auray, Bretagne



Where to Stay: Branhoc Hotel

Relaxation and comfort are the pillars upon which the Branhoc Hotel stands. Quiet and quaint, the locale is ideal for those looking for a little rest and restoration. Along with large, open rooms - all of which include a private bathroom and complimentary amenities - the hotel is set amidst a 5000 square meter woodland park, and guests are invited to stroll the beautiful botanic garden pathways at their leisure.



Where to Eat: Le Café qui Fume

Nothing will enhance your Breton experience quite like a delicious speciality coffee. Le Café qui Fume (Smoke Café) is the ideal spot to sip on a finely milled cup of organic, in-house coffee. Along with roasting, the café also offers tours, as well as a delectable breakfast and lunch menu, which includes everything from crepes to wholesome and hearty sandwiches.



What to Do: St-Goustan

St-Goustan is one of Brittany's busiest ports, and a great way to enjoy a casual afternoon by the waterfront. While the area's history is rooted in the fishing industry, today it is a popular destination district, ideal for people watching, and replete with restaurants and quaint cafes, as well as a number of market vendors and locally owned shops.

Get Rustic in Santiago de Compostela, Galicia



Where to Stay: Oxford Suites Santiago de Compostela

Both rustic and modern, the Oxford Suites is nestled conveniently in the heart of the city, only a few minutes from most attractions by foot. With 15 beautiful rooms, each including a private bathroom and all amenities, it is an ideal locale for those looking to escape the hustle and bustle of crowds who are undertaking the Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage.



Where to Eat: Curro da Parra

Fresh local produce and superior customer service come together at O curro da Parra, a charming culinary destination in the city center. Located by the Plaza de Abastos - one of Galicia's premier food markets (and Curro's only source for ingredients) - the intimate eatery serves up a menu of variety, with an excellent array of local and area wines for pairing.



What to Do: Catedral de Santiago

No sight is more of a "must-see" in Galicia than the Catedral de Santiago, a stately temple with a rich, robust history and deep connection to the Catholic faith. In addition to being a beacon of spirituality and self-discovery - welcoming thousands of visiting pilgrims each year - the cathedral is also a celebration of culture, showcasing swaths of classic and contemporary art.



TOLL FREE

888-674-3244

www.sheencotravel.com

Luxury Vacations in
Ireland, Scotland,
England & Wales



SKYE SKYNS

**FASCINATING FREE GUIDED
TOUR OF SCOTLAND'S ONLY
TRADITIONAL TANNERY.
SHEEPSKIN, DESIGNER
WOOLLENS AND LOTS, LOTS
MORE IN OUR SHOWROOM
PLUS OUR POP UP TEA TENT
IN A YURT! FIND US IN
BEAUTIFUL WATERNISH,
ISLE OF SKYE, SCOTLAND
WWW.SKYESKYNS.COM**

01470 592 237 - FOR YOUR SAT NAV IV55 8GD



V&A Dundee

Our award-winning photojournalist
Tom Langlands visits the V&A Dundee

V&A



The Victoria and Albert Museum, London - known simply as the V&A - is the world's leading museum dedicated to art, design and performance. It owes its genesis to the Great Exhibition of 1851, when the first-ever international exhibition of manufactured items was held in a temporary glass and steel 'Crystal Palace' in Hyde Park. From this evolved the Museum of Manufactures and the subsequent South Kensington Museum - later renamed the Victoria and Albert Museum. The building underwent many changes over the following century and although its galleries embrace exhibits from across the globe, the V&A London has always remained the only V&A museum in the world - until now that is.

V&A Dundee opened its doors in September 2018. It is Scotland's first design museum, and the only V&A outside of London. While visitors flock to see the stunning building and its exhibits, the opening of V&A Dundee embodied a symbolism that goes far beyond the usual hype associated with the launch of a new museum; it heralded the re-birth of a city. Designed by acclaimed Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, this cliff-like edifice - with its stratified, exterior cladding rising over the River Tay - not only provides the perfect backdrop for Captain Scott's RSS Discovery (which is moored alongside), but also reunites the City of Discovery with the river that was once its lifeblood.

Dundee grew from a small settlement on

the River Tay to a major whaling and ship-building port. It was the discovery in the early 19th century that treating jute fibres with whale oil made them pliable enough to spin that changed the fortunes of the city - thus earning it the name "Juteopolis." Between 1820 and 1900 Dundee's population grew from 38,000 to 190,000 inhabitants and, by 1911, 40 per cent of the working population was employed in the jute industry.

But by the 1930s things were changing. Jute products could be made cheaper in India, and synthetic fibres were flooding the market. During the latter part of the 20th century the last of the jute mills closed, unemployment rose, social deprivation increased and, perhaps unsurprisingly, a major drug problem surfaced. But, like the mythical phoenix, something very exciting was rising from the ashes.

Dundee is an innovative city, and perhaps it was the challenges of responding to rapid industrialisation, along with the problems of disease caused by a large population housed in insanitary conditions, that led it to explore creative solutions. Mill owners invented their own machines. At Dundee Royal Infirmary, Dr. Thomas John MacLagan experimented with salicin, his research paving the way for the manufacture of aspirin.

From such beginnings Dundee developed rapidly in the fields of art, technology and medicine.

Today, the University of Dundee School of Life Sciences leads the world in many aspects of medical research, paving the way for the creation of hundreds of new cancer treatments. In 1982, Clive Sinclair launched his home computer - the ZX Spectrum - and it was later assembled at Dundee's Timex factory. With ready access to locally built home computers a generation of programmers was born, and from this would emerge the world's first computer games degree course at Dundee's Abertay University; games such as Lemmings and Grand Theft Auto originated in Dundee. Dundee is also home to Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, now a school within the University of Dundee. This faculty - rated first in Scotland for art and design - offers degree courses across many facets of the arts including Architecture, Digital Interaction Design, and Product Design. It was the University of Dundee that donated land for the construction of Dundee Repertory Theatre - now home to the only full-time company of actors in Scotland as well as the Scottish Dance Theatre. Along with the city's McManus Art Gallery and Museum, the opening of Dundee Contemporary Arts in 1999 furthered the city's dedication to culture with two galleries, a cinema, and a Visual Research Centre affiliated with Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

It was against this background of creativity - and a master-plan for a £1 billion redevelopment of Dundee City Waterfront - that



Dundee approached V&A London to explore options for celebrating and promoting the very best of Scottish design, some of which was exemplified in Dundee's track record of recent years. The V&A embraced the project, and in January 2010 an international architectural competition for a new building for V&A Dundee was announced. It was a daunting challenge requiring an innovative solution. It had to be a work of inspirational architecture, while its location on the waterfront presented an opportunity to reflect upon Dundee's maritime history and to reconnect the city to the River Tay. Six designs were shortlisted from an initial submission of one hundred and twenty. Following public consultation, it was announced in November 2010 that Kengo Kuma & Associates had won the competition. Work started on site in 2015 and it took three and a half years to construct the project.

Drawing inspiration from the craggy cliffs of Scotland's rugged north-east coastline, the building appears to float on water with more than a passing resemblance to the hull of a large boat, its prow jutting out into the River Tay. The complex geometry - akin to two twisted and inverted pyramids - creates a cave-like passageway at ground level through which the Tay Bridge and the river can be viewed from the city, while the projecting concrete bands and the twisted geometry generate interesting shadows that bring the building to life with the passage of the sun. With the entrance tucked below a huge cantilever there is the feeling of be-

ing drawn deep into the building's interior by shafts of light leaking from an inner cave hidden in the shadows. Upon entering, the internal atrium opens up into a stunning space where the craggy walls of the exterior are replaced with angled, wooden panels. Other walls are of polished white concrete mixed with sustainably-sourced mussel shells, while the floor is buffed Irish limestone with the fossils of ancient plants and sea creatures visible on its surface. It is perhaps unsurprising that a Japanese architect has created such an interesting combination of natural and man-made elements, for in Japanese culture those distinctions are often blurred. Kuma described his intention to create "a living room for the city." And although the building is big it does feel surprisingly homey.

The upper level of the building houses the Michelin Design Gallery, The Thomson Learning Centre, and 550 square metres of Scottish Design Galleries hosting nearly 300 exhibits that celebrate the best in Scottish design. This includes a full reconstruction of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Oak Room, designed for Miss Cranston's Ingram Street tearooms in Glasgow that had been in storage for almost fifty years. Along with the Scottish Design Galleries, there is a further 1,100 square meters of museum-standard, changeable exhibition space - the largest in Scotland. The inaugural exhibition - Ocean Liners: Speed and Style - is a fitting one, given Dundee's maritime past. It is truly a stunning demonstration of what can be expected

from the world's leading design museum.

Sophie McKinlay, Director of Programme, is responsible for the exhibitions at V&A Dundee, "Dundee was built on trade and exchange, and I want the new museum to be a gate through which the city can once again access the world."

"Reflecting upon its past as a port city is a crucial part of rethinking Dundee's future. V&A Dundee is a new opportunity for the city and the museum is poised to trade and exchange ideas globally."

Dundee's rise on the world stage has not gone unnoticed. The Wall Street Journal described it as "Scotland's coolest city," while travel experts Lonely Planet put it sixth in the top ten European destinations to visit in 2018. Dundee was also the first city in the U.K. to be granted City of Design status by UNESCO in 2014, placing it alongside the likes of Bilbao, Turin and Helsinki.

Cantilevering over the River Tay, and sitting alongside RSS Discovery, the V&A Dundee is more than a very important museum; it is a symbol that marks the moment when the City of Discovery rediscovered itself.

www.tomlanglandsphotography.com
www.vam.ac.uk/dundee

Lionheart Tours



The best in small bespoke
'Go Where You Want Tours' in England,
Wales, Scotland, Ireland,
France, Belgium, Holland, Germany,
Italy, Western Europe, USA and Canada.
paul@lionhearttours.com

www.lionhearttours.com



OUTLANDER INSPIRED TOURS OF SCOTLAND

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JAMIE & CLAIRE
WITH A PERSONAL HISTORIAN AS GUIDE



RATED 5-STAR ON TRIP ADVISOR
NOW BOOKING FOR 2019 AND 2020

WWW.OUTLANDISHJOURNEYS.COM
EMAIL: OUTLANDER@SCOTIAROOT.COM

TRACS

TRADITIONAL
ARTS + CULTURE
SCOTLAND

**Scottish
Storytelling
Forum**

Supporting and
celebrating the traditional
art of storytelling and the
diverse network of
storytellers across
Scotland today

**Traditional
Music
Forum**

Scotland's network of
traditional music
organisations - putting
traditional music at the
heart of Scotland's
culture

**Traditional
Dance
Forum**

Celebrating the
diversity of traditional
dance and other
related traditional and
social dance forms in
Scotland

**A Common Platform & Collective Voice
for Traditional Arts**



www.tracscotland.org



Friday 18 – Thursday 31 October 2019

Scottish International Storytelling Festival

The **31st SISF** celebrates old traditions & new
connections, building bridges between artists,
regions & communities in a feast of storytelling,
music & dance. Plus a special focus between Scotland
& Canada, developing new collaborations & creative
exchanges between Scottish & Canadian artists &
festivals.

www.sisf.org.uk



Coming to Know Cumbria

In the second instalment in a three-part series, Lesley Choyce wanders through Celtic Cumbria in search of Wordsworth, wisdom and wonder...



Today was our day to head north to Keswick and then back down to Grasmere itself, ground zero for Wordsworthian connections. I was giddy over the idea of simply being here, with my wife and my own intimations of immortality singing to me from every quarter. Already I was remembering back to my readings of *The Prelude* in Manhattan and how much the archaic language of Wordsworth's prose had resonated with me when he wrote about where his inspiration came from. "Emotion recollected in tranquility," he wrote, makes for good poetry. My graduate school professor, who actually smoked a cigarette in a cigarette holder during classes, had taken the trouble to quote T. S. Eliot's malignant view on this principle. Eliot had written, "Consequently, we must believe that 'emotion recollected in tranquility' is an inexact formula - for it is neither emotion, nor recollection, nor, without distortion of meaning, tranquility." And I had thought, Screw you, frigging Prufrock. Don't even dare to eat a peach, eh?

Thus there would be no pilgrimages to Mr. Eliot's birthplace in East Coker. No, today was all about the Wordsworths and connecting with the deep past. I admitted to myself, though, how much tougher it had become these days to find that tranquility the poet spoke of and indulge in the luxurious license to recollect old emotion. But he was right, of course, and I needed to remember that. Once we were young and our emotions were explosive. Once the world really was "Apparelled in celestial light, The glory and the freshness of a dream." And did we always eventually lose sight of that, each one of us?

It is not now as it hath been of yore; Turn wheresoe'er I may, By night or day. The things which I have seen I now can see no more.

But enough of that, I said to birds outside my window, as I got up to make us coffee.

We passed through Grasmere first and then north along another skinny, glacially formed finger lake known as Thirlmere with the heights of Great Dodd to the right and High Seat to the left. First stop was the stone circle called Castlerigg just shy of Keswick.

Rather than driving into Keswick and following well-positioned

signs on a substantial road, I took a shortcut I saw on my map which turned out to be yet another single-track lane with stone walls on either side and no pull offs to speak of. I booted it down the road lest we encountered an advancing car and it blessedly spilled us out the other end into a well-marked parking area and a field of visitors snapping photos with absurdly long-lensed cameras.



Wordsworth took his druggie buddy Samuel Taylor Coleridge here in 1799 and the author of "Kubla Kahn" wrote that here was "...a Druidical circle... the mountains stand one behind the other, in orderly array as if evoked by, and attentive to, the assembly of white-vested wizards." The two poets did note that some of the stones had been splashed with white paint by vandals or sloppy eighteenth century graffiti artists, but that couldn't quite diminish the full grandeur. On another occasion, Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy visited Castlerigg only to discover that those damn tourists from the south who had come in on the Windermere train had found it out and that, as a result, it had completely lost its charm due to the crowds.

More recently, Lonely Planet described it this way: "Set on a hill-top a mile east of town, this jaw-dropping stone circle consists of 48 stones that are between 3000 and 4000 years old, surrounded by a dramatic ring of mountain peaks." Jaw-dropping, I will admit, is not an exaggeration. And, hey, it's older than Stonehenge by a few thousand years, and it has been determined that the circle served some sort of astronomical purpose as well as a spiritual dimension because, even today, locals see strange lights coming from the stones at night.

I was just happy to be here, sidestepping sheep poop on such a generous morning and gloating over the fact that this ancient structure was less developed than Stonehenge and had a much grander view of the country around it as Coleridge had noted.

As we left, we took the wider well-maintained road to downtown Keswick. My first impression was that there wasn't much of interest here. But I was wrong. For here was the Derwent Pencil Museum. Yes, a museum devoted to the history of the pencil with its own café and gift shop. What more could a writer ask for? One online reviewer, Michael Gooch, summed it up nicely: "We love this place. It's a beautifully simple and happy museum - a celebration of a childhood tool. It always brings a smile to my face."

Well said, Michael. I'm not sure where he is from or who he is

but I envisioned him waking up his young family on a crisp Saturday morning saying something like, “Wake up kids. Guess what? Today we’re going to the pencil museum in Keswick.”

If that weren’t enough excitement for one day, then Michael would probably take his crew on over to the Keswick Museum and Art Gallery where dogs are welcome and reviewers give it high marks for its cleanliness. Here are “musical stones” and a giant xylophone and more importantly a display of stone axes, other “industrial artefacts” (including pencils!), and for some strange reason, Napoleon’s very own teacup. How the French dictator’s teacup came to Keswick is another story but I grieved that I did not have my dog here with me to say, “Look, Kelty, there’s ole Napoleon’s cup from which he sipped tea.”

We probably should have lingered longer in Keswick, as it seemed bubbling with possibilities, but the dead poet was whispering in my ear that it was time to pay homage.

Thus, we backtracked south on A591 to Grasmere where Wordsworth is not so much a poet as a cottage industry. I’d visited here once many years ago and what I most remembered was that there was a display of Wordsworth’s shoes and socks behind glass in the museum near Dove Cottage. Well, he was a hell of a hiker, so why not? And perhaps it was just a good reminder that even legendary poets put their socks on one at a time when they awake to the symphony of songbirds on a splendid morning in Cumbria.

Another book I had been carrying around was H.V. Morton’s somewhat-classic *In Search of England*. The author had visited Grasmere in the 1920s. He wrote,

“No matter what opinion you have of Wordsworth as a poet, you must recognize him as a great, but unconscious, publicity agent. The solitudes he once loved are now well populated.”

And, by 2018, they were even more populated. Grasmere was a most busy little burgh with crowded coffee shops and discount outdoor stores where you could buy a full complement of ordnance maps. There were more than a few hiking trails hereabouts where you could see wide-brim-hatted men and women poring over those ordnance maps spread out over large boulders, trying to determine if they could get to the next tarn by hiking over the beckoning fell.

I was trying not to share Morton’s cynicism, as I had plenty of my own to weigh me down in a place like Grasmere. However, Morton had written, “One of England’s great sights is that of a New York businessman, determined to get every cent of value from his tour, trying to work up enthusiasm for Wordsworth in the little churchyard at Grasmere.” This struck me as curious in that my own enthusiasm for the great poet was formed back in my seminar room twelve stories above Forty-Second Street and riveted into place later while reading *Lyrical Ballads* at lunchtime in Bryant Park.

And so it was time to park the car, pay the meter with appropriate contemporary coins recognized by the electronic machine, and drop into Dove Cottage itself. It was a guided tour, which I sometimes dread, but there was an articulate, spirited and informative guide who took our small group into a dark room and said, “And there is the chair where Wordsworth sat and wrote.” I was pleased to note a painting of a dog on the wall. According to our host, this was Wordsworth’s dog, Pepper, given to him to by none other than Sir Walter Scott. According to the BBC, “The great Scottish novelist was an amateur breeder and used to name his dogs according to their furs. The dogs were usually called Ginger, Pepper or Mustard.”

Well, I was mightily pleased to see the artwork of the handsome mutt first thing as we entered. It was indeed a dark and gloomy house throughout, but then most of Wordsworth’s inspiration came from outdoors. These days, scholars recognize that Dorothy had much to do with her brother’s poetry, his fame and his success. She kept extensive journals about everything and, according to our guide, tried to write down William’s oral creation of his poetry as he muttered away while the two of them hiked mile after mile.

Wordsworth scholar Suzanne Stewart of St. Francis Xavier University had written to me about the extensive hikes taken by the two Wordsworths and sent along this quote from Dorothy’s 1818 journal:

“At 46 I can walk 16 miles in 4 and $\frac{3}{4}$ hours with short rests between on a blustering cold day, without having felt any fatigue except for the first $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after my entrance into the house at my journey’s end when my body remembered the force of the blast and I was exhausted.”

Stewart notes, “I imagine her as a small woman, with little legs and wondered how she managed this,” and adds that by 1820 Dorothy was frail and unhealthy and spent the last twenty years of her life indoors, “confined” in her “prison house,” as she would say.

Both brother and sister loved the outdoors and they loved dogs. On a six day “holiday ramble,” Dorothy wrote, “Mrs. Luff’s large white dog lay in the moonshine upon the round knoll under the old yew-tree, a beautiful and romantic image - the dark tree with its dark shadow, and the elegant creature as fair as a Spirit.”

No wonder that a painting of a dog greeted the thousands of visitors as they first entered Dove Cottage.

Coleridge lived here with the Wordsworths for extended periods of time and, according to our cheerful guide, they rather accepted his opium habit without judgement. Robert Southey had stayed here too, she said, but the blank faces all around the dark room revealed that none of us knew a damn thing (or cared about) Southey.





Poets do mostly come and go in England and elsewhere and are quickly shuffled out of the national canon like so much dandruff brushed from the shoulders of gentlemen.

The Encyclopedia Britannica is not exaggerating when it says "Southey's poetry is little read today..." although he wrote, "lucid, relaxed, observant accounts of contemporary life." His portrait in the Wordsworth house suggested he was slightly effeminate as were many of the Romantic poets and he appears relaxed, yes, but somewhat aloof and full of himself - which I guess you can



say of most of the well-known Romantic poets, if not most twenty-first century pop stars who may indeed be looked upon as the poets of our time.

Southey was heavily influenced by Wordsworth and Coleridge, and Walter Scott liked him enough to have him installed as poet laureate rather than giving him a dog for a pet. Southey was an opinionated man and disliked Lord Byron in particular. The two of them got involved with what Britannica called an "imbroglio," which is a polite term that I had to look up. Apparently an imbroglio is "an unwanted, difficult, and confusing situation, full of trouble and problems," according to The Cambridge English Dictionary.

And before we relegate the poet laureate to the dustbins of history, lest we forget that he wrote "The Story of the Three Bears" which trickled down over time as the traditional children's Goldilocks tale. If Southey were alive, and could still collect royalties on the silly tale, he would be one wealthy fellow.

Our guide gave us the impression that William was more than a bit of a kook himself and, at times, a grumpy brother who was looked after by his sister and his sister's best friend, his wife Mary Hutchinson. And the house really was a cramped, dark dungeon of sorts that was probably quite cold much of the year so I can see why it was preferable to be out hiking the hills soaking in as much sunshine as possible while conjuring up odes to everything under the sun. And let's face it; Wordsworth was pretty much opposed to civilization with its industrialization, urban squalor, materialism, burgeoning tourism and wholesale destruction of nature. He preferred the forest, the field, the fells, the tams,

the waters and all the wildlife therein.

And yes, here was Wordsworth's writing desk, his favourite chair, his wash basin, his bed and over there in the corner his chamber pot.

We were then directed out back into the garden where the bees were buzzing and the birds singing - all so perfectly orchestrated to seem like a poem that it's possible they were staged by the foundation that kept the house in proper condition and raked in the cash of visitors like us.

Next up was a tour of the Wordsworth Museum that I had been looking forward to, including manuscripts behind glass and whatever personal artefacts had been saved after the great poet had gone on to his next incarnation. But just as we were about to enter, a fire alarm went off inside the museum. "Oh dear," our guide said. "I'm sure it's nothing but we can't go in until a fire official comes to give us an all clear."

England was, after all, a country with a lot of rules and regulations and fire or no fire, things were meant to be done properly. None of the staff were certain exactly who the proper authority was to give the all-clear, but they would look into it. With that in mind, Linda and I decided to wander the town and come back after the appropriate inspection had taken place. I made a mental note to write a poem called "Fire Alarm at the Wordsworth Museum," as we made our way into the bustling town buzzing with tourists instead of bees but still charming and quaint - or at least as quaint as a Lake District tourist destination can be with busloads of visitors unloading near the chapel.

Linda was looking for some new sports apparel for running so we ended up in one of a dozen outdoor type shops that reminded me of just how much the English love to hike.

Here was a treasure trove of those massive folding ordinance maps and aluminum walking sticks, folding plastic dog dishes, expensive shiny backpacks, sleeping bags that would keep you warm down to - 20 degrees Fahrenheit, nylon tents with mosquito netting, endless quantities of expensive outdoor shoes and much more. I found myself studying a display case of compasses and found some satisfaction in thinking that not everyone afoot in the hills carries a GPS or some other device tuned in to a satellite. I almost always travel with a compass myself, on an airplane or hiking in the woods. It's a habit that goes back to Boy Scout days. If I were truly lost in the fells near here I may not be savvy enough of the lay of the land to find

my way back to civilization but I'd damn well know where north was. But then, most of the waters (lakes) hereabouts ran north to south (just like back home in Nova Scotia) thanks to the scraping of the long powerful claws of the glaciers. So, even without a compass, I'd have a 50/50 chance of finding north.

As Linda was finishing her shopping, I noticed that on the counter was a display of smallish hobby drones that were on sale. I asked the dapper looking clerk if the drones were popular with hikers. "Oh, yes. We just started carrying them. Folks come up from London and they either have their own or they like to buy them. One fellow said that if you get yourself good and lost, you just send up your drone high enough so you can figure out where you are."

I was afraid to ask but I'm sure that, lately, the sale of compasses was well down from previous years.

Not knowing how swiftly the fire safety bureaucrats could do their job, we decided to have an early lunch at one of those nursery/garden supply establishments that doubled as a cafeteria style restaurant. So it was fish and chips at the Pot Shed. I had my copy of *Man Seeks God* with me and, once sated on the seafood and spuds, I thumbed through it while Linda looked over the plants and garden ornaments that we couldn't possibly take with us back to North America. I was reading the chapter titled "God is a State of Mind" about Buddhism and noted that the author's mentor on the subject - a young Jewish man from Long Island - insisted that for Buddhists, it's all about intentions not results.

Wow, did that ever resonate with me, the sometimes king (or at least prince) of lost causes. My father, I suppose, was the one who taught me that you should always do the right thing - which I believe is different from the proper thing - even if you expect to fail. The right thing being the kind thing, the compassionate thing, dare I even say the noble thing.

Linda retrieved me from my mini-spiritual reverie just as the busloads of tourists were leaving the cafeteria line and looking for a place to sit.

Back at the museum, it was all clear as we showed our ticket stubs from the morning and were permitted entrance. Here were those artefacts and manuscripts and various quotes displayed by the poet who was either ecstatic or despondent about just about everything. William almost single-handedly launched poetry into an emotionally-heightened bipolar phase where one was either higher than a kite on the positive side of liv-



ing or deep down in the basement of despair and celebrating that as well. If you are ever in doubt about the manic depressive nature of the Romantics, read Keats' "Ode on Melancholy" - Ay, in the very temple of Delight, Veil'd Melancholy has her sovran shrine.

In the museum I remembered that in an old notebook, I had once scribbled a quote from Wordsworth:

*Dreams, books, are each a world;
and books, we know, Are a
substantial world, both pure
and good: Round these, with
tendrils strong as flesh and blood,
Our pastime and our happiness
will grow.*

I sometimes wrote that line on the blackboard for my students to let them ponder the thought and would occasionally become despondent myself when the only questions that would arise would concern the oddness of the poet's use of punctuation and capitalization.

Among the many paintings in the museum is one of Wordsworth with his right hand held to his forehead. He was either deep in thought or he had a headache or maybe both.

It is a famous painting, but to me it appeared much more human than so many of the other portraits I'd seen. "The world is too much with us," it seemed to say. I was somewhat thankful that so much of Wordsworth's world was preserved here - his letters, his handwritten manuscripts, his walking stick and, of course, there they were, shielded behind glass so they could not be touched and sullied - his shoes and his socks that I had marvelled at and written a poem about decades ago.

The world had changed greatly since the early 1980s when I had first arrived at Gras-

mere, but not Wordsworth's socks. They were right there where I had seen them so long ago. For me, the sight was a kind of anchor in time. I felt confident that for years in the future, those socks would still be there, stared at by visitors from around the world. I thought about my daughter Pamela, who was expecting twin daughters. Sometime after the two girls turned 21 I would ask them to make a pilgrimage to Grasmere to check on those socks. When I shared this thought with Linda, possibly with moist eyes, I'm not sure, she said, "I think it's time to get you out of here."

And, as always, she was right. Alas, we retreated south through Ambleside.

We drove further down the lake to Bowness-on-Windermere but couldn't find a single place to park so returned home to Birthwaite Cottage, left the car and walked into town for a beer at the Crafty Baa with its cartoony images of sheep. (Get it? Crafty as in beer... Baa as in...). It was about as small as a pub could possibly be and a carpenter was doing some kind of repairs to the front door. He asked if he could put his hammer and level on our small round table which was a recycled cable spool, I believe. We said he could and he was careful not to knock our twin glasses of Cumbria IPA as he worked and retrieved his tools. My head was still swimming with thinking about Wordsworth, the future and a life lived with good intentions without worrying about results.

As you can tell, I can be a bit long-winded, prone to going on tangents, mental meanderings and near-purposeless ponderings. After going on a bit like that to my dear wife, the IPA finally settled me down. Think of a wind-up toy dancer as the spring is nearly fully unwound.

To sum up the rest of the day thereafter, I'll quote directly from my succinct wife and her notebook where she wrote, "Walked path back from town. Cod for dinner."

Photo & Sightseeing Tours



Dingle, Killarney, Kerry and Ireland

Photography Workshops & Vacations
on The Dingle Peninsula

Private photography & sightseeing tours
for individuals and groups around Ireland

+353-83-830-1788

www.dingledarkroom.com

See our wonderful reviews on Tripadvisor!

Milltown, Dingle Co. Kerry Ireland

DACEY'S CORNISH TOURS

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



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

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

DACEYSCORNISHTOURS.COM • 651-484-4689

We're a big name in Quality Haggis

ESTABLISHED IN 1920 & STILL USING
THE OLD FAMILY RECIPE



US Distributor: CAMWRAP of Mobile, AL.

FOR INFORMATION ON A STOCKIST NEAR YOU
AND FOR ALL TRADE ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

USA 1(800)353 9004

camwrap@birch.net



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



Snow Candy

I recall some less-than-stellar cooking attempts with a little smile. My children were close in age and, as a result, there were many times that I cooked by the seat of my pants. Occasions often arose where, as a mom, I was expected to bring a treat, and I always kept a cake mix on hand which could be prepared into cupcakes. We would ice these dainties and decorate them with sparkles. Upon entering the room with our culinary contribution, anyone could tell it was obviously the work of a chef par-excellence. Making fudge was always fun

as well; I would boil it to the “hard ball stage” though, sometimes, not long enough, and the fudge did not set. Not a bother, however; we simply grabbed spoons and placed the pan of molten fudge on the table and dug in. A veritable feast! I thought it would be fun to make a candy that cooled in the snow for our winter edition. What could be more magical this time of the year than watching children turn a hot molten mixture in a pot to a delectable dessert cooling in the snow - the best use of snow that I can think of!



Ingredients

8 oz of pure maple syrup

1 cup snow (for testing)

1 quart saucepan filled with
packed clean snow

Instructions

Pour the maple syrup into a deep pot and bring to a boil (but don't let it boil over.)

Boil for 4 minutes. Make a snowball out of the one cup of clean snow and put it on a plate or small bowl. Test the syrup by pouring a small amount onto the snowball; if it clings to the snow and stops running, it is ready. Slowly pour the syrup in short, thin lines onto the packed snow in the pan. As it hardens, pick it up and eat it with a spoon or twist it onto popsicle sticks.

Ith do shàth! ~ Cabrini

4K Design

T-shirts
with a bit
of whimsy!



Looking for a
unique gift idea?

You've **found** it!



Children and Adult
Sizes Available

Visit us at:

4kDesign-Tees.com



Celtic Corner

Scottish Treasures
Family owned since 1989



 @ScotIrishShop



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



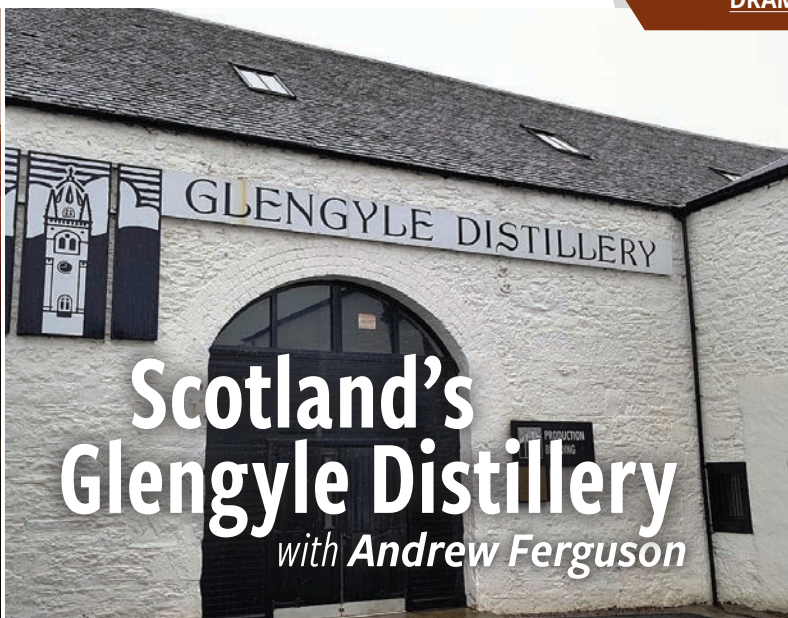
Imports from Scotland, Ireland, England, and Wales

30 Years in Business! We Specialize in Rare Tartans

Look us up online
www.CelticCorner.NET

(619) 435-1880
scottishtreasures@gmail.com

916 Orange Ave.
Coronado, CA 92118



To the best of my knowledge (and when it comes to whisk(e)y I like to think I am reasonably informed), Scotland's Glengyle Distillery is the only distillery opened solely to settle an argument.

The dispute in question related to Campbeltown's place in the Scotch whisky industry. In the late 1800s, the area was a major center of production, with 34 distilleries operating in or near a town with less than 5,000 inhabitants. By 2000 there were but 2 operating distilleries remaining, Springbank and Glen Scotia. In the late 1990s, the Scotch Whisky Association, an industry lobby group, was codifying the Whisky Regions of Scotland into EU Law. The Speyside, Highlands, Islay, and Lowlands would be the only four recognized regions.

This didn't sit well with Hedley Wright, whose family had been in the whisky business at least since the opening of the Springbank Distillery in 1828. Hedley was incensed that the Scotch Whisky Association would not grant Campbeltown a similar designation, given its significance in the 19th century. The SWA noted that, in their opinion, two distilleries did not warrant the granting of regional status. However, as Hedley argued, the Lowlands only had three distilleries, and were Campbeltown to also have three active distilleries, the SWA would have to acknowledge it as a whisky region in its own right. The Scotch Whisky Association conceded the point and likely assumed that was the end of the matter. It was not.

The Mitchell's Glengyle Distillery was opened in Campbeltown in 1872 by William Mitchell. William was the son of Springbank Distillery founder Archibald Mitchell. After

Archibald's passing, William and his brother John ran the Springbank Distillery in partnership. The family was from a farming background, which was quite common for distillers at the time, and many facilities turned their surplus production into whisky.

The spent grains from making beer and/or whisky were then - and still are - a popular animal feed. Over time, it became apparent that making whisky was far more profitable than farming or rearing cattle. William and John's other siblings ran another Campbeltown Distillery, Reichlachen.

When William and his brother John had a falling out - allegedly over sheep - William left Springbank and opened Glengyle. Less than 100 meters separated the two distilleries!

In the last decades of the 20th century the Scotch whisky industry was booming, nowhere more so than Campbeltown; the fastest place from which to ship whisky to the burgeoning markets in the Americas. At the end of the 18th century there were no fewer than 31 illicit stills operating in the area. When the great Victorian whisky writer Alfred Barnard came calling in 1885 the town had 21 operating distilleries. At the height of the boom Campbeltown was said to have more than 32 distilleries, only eclipsed by the number of churches. The vestiges of this history can still be seen today whilst walking the town's streets; the lochside and hills are lined with the mansions built by whisky barons.

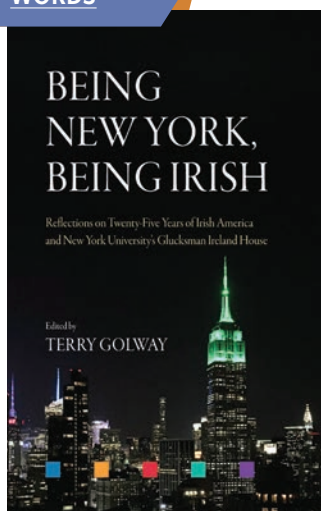
But boom turned to bust in the first years of the 20th century, and many of Campbeltown's distilleries closed. Glengyle was sold to West Highland Distillers in 1919, and then again in 1924 for just £300. The distillery closed altogether in 1925, and the remain-

ing stocks of casks were put up for auction in April of that year. The buildings remained rather miraculously intact for the following 79 years, used as a shooting range, a depot, offices for an agricultural firm, and eventually a cooperative. Several attempts were made to revive the distillery both before and after World War II, but none of them came to fruition until 2000 when Hedley Wright, chairman of J&A Mitchell and Co Ltd (Springbank), reopened Glengyle and settled his score with the Scotch Whisky Association.

Glengyle Distillery started producing in 2004, and Campbeltown was re-recognized as a whisky region. Campbeltown is often overlooked by whisky pilgrims on their way to Islay. Just 45 minutes past Kennacraig - the gateway to Islay - Campbeltown is worth a visit. All three distilleries - Glengyle, Springbank and Glen Scotia - offer great tours. The town is also home to independent bottler WM Cadenhead, and their Warehouse Tour is one of the best whisky experiences in the world.

Glengyle Distillery bottles its whisky under the name Kilkerran, the name of the original settlement around Campbeltown Loch. The anglicized Kilkerran is derived from 'Ceann Loch Cille Chiarain' - Scots Gaelic for the Loch of St. Kerran's Church. The Kilkerran 12 Year and 8 Year Cask Strength are each very limited in production and not always easy to come by - all the more reason to visit Campbeltown, Scotland's smallest whisky region.

www.kilkerran.scot
www.kensingtonwinemarket.com



Being New York, Being Irish

Edited by Terry Golway
Irish Academic Press
210 pp / \$29.99

Like the Italians and Jews, the Irish arrived in New York City with little other than the clothes on their backs. More than a century later, those of Irish descent are now firmly entrenched in the city's vast human ecosystem.

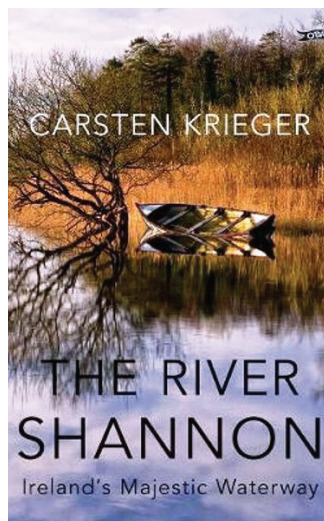
With contributions from both sides of the Atlantic - and from the likes of renowned writers Seamus Heaney, Colm Tóibín, Alice McDermott, Colum McCann, Dan Barry and more - *Being New York, Being Irish* is a collage of contemporary stories, essays, poems and the like that merge to mold a modern perspective on The Big Apple. The result is a brilliant and bold book that may be long on longing, but short on nostalgia. Alas, that ache from afar continues to flow in both directions.

~ SPC

Becoming Belle

By Nuala O'Connor
G.P. Putnam's Sons
384 pp / \$25

How or why this warm and witty novel ended up on the bottom of my book pile is beyond me. Perhaps I already knew that the story of a Victorian-era feminist in London would sweep me away for hours of engaging reading. Maybe I foresaw getting caught up in the tale of two bohemian sisters who take the city by storm with their daring double dancing act. Perhaps I predicted pangs of jealousy as the novel's pretty protagonist Belle falls for a high-society viscount, later troubled by her hardnosed father-in-law's efforts to stifle her spirit. It is possible that I knew, in advance, that once I picked the book up I would not want to put it down or to end. Turns out I was right. ~ SPC



The River Shannon; Ireland's Majestic Waterway

By Carsten Krieger
O'Brien Press
176 pp / €24.99

Irish photographer Carsten Krieger cut his teeth capturing the Emerald Isle's lush landscape over the course of half a dozen critically acclaimed table-top tomes. His latest hardcover effort is another sojourn of sorts, this time a backdoor, behind-the-scenes stomp along Eire's famed western waterway. Between the stunning imagery and the tidbits of text and trivia, the work frames both the life of - and life on - the 360km-long River Shannon, from its source at the Cavan-Fermanagh border to its mouth by Kerry Head. Along the way, readers pass through small, time-stand-still villages where locals and their families have resided for generations. Unlike many of his contemporaries, however, the artist has little interest in the Ireland of yore, instead offering a fresh look at the country's rural beauty. ~ SPC

Walk East Until I Die

By Mike Pinnock
YPD Books
330 pp / €9.99

Subtitled *A Trek Through Irish History and Beyond*, *Walk East Until I Die* details the fascinating foray of one man's efforts to hike Europe's E8 path. At the age of 67, retired engineer Mike Pinnock began his earthly expedition on Dursey Island, Co. Cork, Ireland. Accompanied only by his wife in the couple's campervan, the author wove and wound his way to Dublin, all the while recording his impressions of the Emerald Isle. The end result is more than a first-foot account of Irish history and culture, however; by journey's end, Pinnock bares his soul, uncovering a rich inner empire of thoughts, memories, moods and emotions. With the goal of reaching Istanbul by the age of 87, readers have much more to look forward to.

~ SPC





Van Morrison

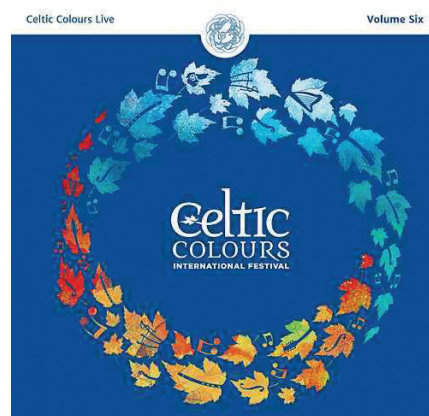
The Prophet Speaks

The Bard of Belfast is back with his 40th studio recording - his fifth in the past two years - a smooth and silky selection of 14 songs that showcase the songsmith's true love for rhythm, blues and soul. Strong and subtle melodies weave and wind their way under the skin, leaving listeners with an aural aftertaste that is by turns bitter and sweet. While there is no filler here, tracks like Dimples, Tear Drops, Worried Blues and Spirit Will Provide remind us that, even at the age of 73, the long-revered recluse is a master craftsman who welds words and music together better than anyone on the charts. If consistency is the true hallmark of genius, then Morrison's tenure at the top is assured. ~ SPC

Various Artists

Celtic Colours Live ~ Volume 6

Like its namesake event, Celtic Colours International Festival - which takes place across Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island each October - this 13-song selection highlights the vibrancy, vitality and variety of contemporary Celtic music. Though rocked, rolled and revved-up for modern audiences, many of the pieces - including Breabach's stirring rendition of The Last March, The Gamekeeper's Cottage by Blazin' Fiddles, and Mary Jane Lamond's terrific take on An Gàidheal am measg nan Gall - are rooted in the region's rich and robust tradition of jigs and reels. It is perhaps interesting to note that - like the gorgeous geography of Cape Breton itself - the collection serves as a crossroads of sorts, where old and new worlds collide to create a unique cultural collage. ~ SPC



Scran

Nane

Although less familiar with Manx music than I should be, I am looking forward to hearing more after enjoying this dazzling debut release from Isle of Man collective Scran. Nane (Manx for One) is an exceptional assortment of ten terrific tracks that is sure to get knees-a-slappin', toes-a-tappin' and tears-a-sheddin'. Comprised of some of the most talented young traditional musicians in the smallest of the seven Celtic nations, the group is the offspring of Culture Vannin's Manx music youth movement, Bree. Skillfully guided by mentor Paul Rogers (Mabon, Strengyn & The Fecktones), the band's members are only between 13 and 18 years of age, yet punch well above their musical weight. Hopefully a harbinger of things to come, the project is certainly trending in the right direction. ~ SPC

Sineag MacIntyre

Lòn Bàn

As a critic, or reviewer, I learned long ago that I don't necessarily have to like something to appreciate it. And that is the case here. While not to my taste, I can respect the talent of Scottish singer-songwriter Sineag MacIntyre, and her heartfelt effort to promote and preserve Gaelic music and lyric with these 14 songs. An impressive line-up of players - including Sarah Hoy (fiddle), Mhairi Hall (piano), Gillie MacKenzie (vocals), Kathleen MacInnes (vocals), Seonaidh MacIntyre (whistles, Highland & small pipes), Katie Shaw (step-dance), Iain MacDonald (whistles & concertina), Ewan MacPherson (guitar & mandolin) and Luke Daniels (button box) - bring these traditional pieces to new places, showcasing the simple beauty of ancient melodies, and bringing the music of our ancestors to light. ~ SPC





LOW D WHISTLES,
HARDIE TWIST-TRAP PIPES,
MCCALLUM FOLK PIPES.
CHANTERS, REEDS,
HIGHLAND DRESS &
PIPE BAND SUPPLIES.

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



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

reelpipes.com

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



School of Celtic Studies,
Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies

VALENTINES SPECIAL



25% OFF
ALL PUBLICATIONS

11TH - 17TH
FEBRUARY
2019

order online
www.celt.dias.ie



Published by Outskirts Press Inc.
Available at Amazon.com and other online sites

Daniel Lidgren

Despite the nature of the instrument, piper Daniel Lidgren quietly goes about his business...

Canadian piper Daniel Lidgren made his way to the instrument via the sports field, the acting stage, and a variety of other activities that failed to energize him.

"As a child, I tried many different hobbies but I was never too keen on any of those," shares the 36-year-old via email from his home in Calgary, Alberta. "My mother, who was a Highland dancer when she was a young girl, suggested that I try my hand at piping. She also got me involved with the Ogden Legion Pipe Band in Calgary."

Since then, Lidgren hasn't put the pipes down.

"The Ogden Legion Pipe Band was - and still is - a great group for young people who want to start learning the pipes and drums. I was fortunate to also teach with that band from 2001 to 2010."

He acknowledges that there are easier instruments to learn than the pipes.

"Playing requires a lot of time; memorizing the music, and simply keeping your instrument going well. In order to sound good and play well it is important to practice on a regular basis."

Practicing what he preaches, the third-generation Canadian - who counts Swedish, Ukrainian, Norwegian and Scottish in his background - still plays at least two or three times each week at home, as well as once or twice weekly at band practice.

"I definitely practice more during the summer months. Like anything, if you want to be good at something, you need to put in the hours. However, if you love what you do, then it isn't really work at all."

"I love the music - I always have - and I find that it continues to evolve in a number of interesting ways."



Lidgren enjoys being part of the community of pipers and drummers, the opportunities for travel all over the world and the satisfaction that comes when the music is outstanding.

"When you play on your own or with a band and the sound is really good, really in tune, and the playing is as good as possible, that is a wonderful experience."

Perhaps typically Canadian, he is modest about his accomplishments.

"I have never had amazing success as a soloist, but I did fairly well and played at a good standard. I have also had some luck as an amateur player, and I did receive a few prizes in the professional ranks in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and California."

He is particularly proud of his tenure with the Alberta Caledonia Pipe Band from 2000 to 2013.

"A couple of those highlights include two first-place finishes at the North Berwick Highland Games in grade one, a second-place at Bridge of Allan, a first-place in the grade one qualifier at the World Championships, and a 13th place finish overall in grade one at the World Championships in 2006."

The band also qualified for the grade one final in 2007.

"I also played one season with the St. Thomas Alumni Pipe Band out of Houston, Texas, in 2013 and we achieved a fifth-place finish in grade two at the World Championships."

A member of the Rocky Mountain Pipe Band since 2014, he points out they have been the grade two Alberta champions each year from 2015 to 2018. The band also took first place at the North American Championships in Maxville, Ontario, in 2017.

"We are planning a trip to compete at the World Championships in 2019, and my top priority is to make sure we are as good as we can be."

As a mostly-traditional piper, Lidgren says that he loves to listen to - and learn from - other competitors from across Canada and around the world.

He points to British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia as areas where the Scottish musical spirit is strong, but suggests that Canada may be moving away from its Celtic roots.

"It has been many generations since we had a large number of Scottish immigrants come to Canada, so it seems there is less interest in a general sense."

At the same time, he is inspired by a renewal of interest in piping and drumming in Scotland in recent years, and wonders if there is a lesson there for Canadians.

"That resurgence has come because the Scottish government is actively promoting piping and drumming in the schools. As a result, the piping and drumming standard in Scotland has risen dramatically over the years, and I would love to see promotion of that sort in Canada."

www.albertapiper.com

LOOKING FOR YOUR ANCESTORS

Family History Research all over Ireland
All areas North & South, especially Cork City & County

Special Interests Local History & Social History

For a **FREE** evaluation, quote "Celtic Life"

Email genealogyinireland@gmail.com
Or write to Rosaleen Underwood MAGI
at 15 Whitechurch Drive, Ballyboden, Dublin 16, Ireland

Member of Accredited Genealogists Ireland
the accrediting body for genealogists in Ireland



Own the Shiny One!

Solid Sterling
Heirloom Quality
Pins, Pendants, Bolos

www.CrestBadges.com
Custom Orders Welcomed

**Authentic
Ginger
Clothing
Company**

**BE AUTHENTIC.
BE GINGER.
BE PROUD.**

AUTHENTICGINGERCLOTHING.COM

Moncrieff Leathers

Hand Made † Heirloom Quality † Historically Inspired

"I Individually Hand Craft Each Piece."
~ Kerry Moncrieff



www.moncrieffleathers.com

For a 10% Discount on your next order,
Use Promo Code: Burns19



Preferred Merchandiser of North American Venues – Midwest Region.

Great Celtic Gifts
& Merchandise!



3 Celts & Company

Kilts and Essentials
Music, Books, T-shirts



www.3Celts.com

Kierah

BC-based fiddler Kierah began her musical career busking at Vancouver's busy Granville Island market

With four albums to her name already, along with an array of awards and a book of 66 original tunes, young Canadian fiddler Kierah has been in fast-forward mode since the age of four.

And while she still considers herself a traditional player, her *modus operandi* since early on has been to fuse older tunes with her own, original compositions.

"Of course, I love all the vintage jigs, strathspeys, reels, marches and airs," she shares via email. "However, I like to believe that I am taking these pieces to new places musically, and crafting my own unique voice, sound and style along the way."

Her most recent full-length recording, *Strong Bow*, showcases a strong *mélange* of classic and contemporary melodies.

"My producer Adrian Dolan and I took a modern approach to traditional tunes in an effort to create something fresh and unique. It was quite exciting to hear the music evolve in the studio right before our very ears."

Strong Bow struck a strong chord with both listeners and industry types; the 12-track collection was nominated by both the Australian Celtic Music Awards for International Artist of the Year, and the Toronto Independent Music Awards for best out-of-province album.

Kierah also incorporates other, more alternative musical influences into her playing.

"On *Strong Bow* I drew inspiration from (alt-rockers) Death Cab for Cutie. There is a subtle nod to Michael Jackson's *Billie Jean* on one track, and a pretty clear reference to Nirvana's *Smells Like Teen Spirit* on another."

Bringing together the best of both musical worlds is both challenging and rewarding at once.

"I am actively creative and busy writing tunes and then I go blank for a while and like to give it a break so that I can come back to writing with new experiences and emotions to bring to the process. Usually I sit, or even lie down, close my eyes and just start playing notes until something catches.

"I like tunes that have me doing acrobatics on the instrument, whether it is going beyond first position into second or third, or adding artificial harmonics, or simply jumping across the strings in big leaps."

Kierah cites her mother's insistence on studying classical violin as a child for her technical mastery - skills she later employed in Celtic music.

"I learned Swallowtail Jig and the Devil's Dream and I was hooked. I asked my mother if I could switch to just learning Celtic music instead of classical, as I thought it was easier and much more fun, but she said I would greatly benefit from receiving the training and disci-



pline classical studies bring. As with most things, she was right."

Alongside her classical training, the youngster listened to - and learned - traditional Irish and Scottish songs.

"My mother's side is 100 per cent Irish, with her grandfather coming from County Galway and her grandmother's roots in County Offaly. They immigrated to Canada in 1906 on a huge ship called the *Empress of Ireland* and had 12 children, with my grandfather being the youngest."

When Kierah recorded her second album - at age 14 - she included one of her own compositions called *The Empress of Ireland*. The tune was later licensed for an Ottawa exhibit about the majestic, though ill-fated ship which is often referred to as "Canada's Titanic."

Along with her mother, her greatest influence has been Irish fiddler Martin Hayes, whose album *Live in Seattle* she absorbed all day, every day. Interestingly, Hayes was also one of her instructors at a two-week scholarship program at the University of Limerick's school of music.

"Every other instructor mostly just taught us the tunes...just the notes. Martin showed us how to play those notes with feeling, with emphasis, and with creativity."

She particularly admires how her musical mentor often played a jig slow like a waltz or made a reel swoon like a love song before blasting off into a rollicking version of the same.

Hayes' inspired more than music, however; over the past seven years Kierah has presented a program introducing young students to Celtic music in 270 elementary schools across British Columbia and Alberta.

"It is very important that we give back to the community. Celtic music and culture must be preserved and promoted, whether that be in the schools, in concert, on a recording, online, or simply by busking in a local market."

www.irishmadness.com

34TH ANNUAL **ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**
WEARIN' OF THE GREEN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, USA
10AM * SATURDAY
MARCH 16, 2019

JOIN US! FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
wearinofthegreen.com

SHAMROCK RUN 2019
WEARIN' OF THE GREEN

5K ON THE PARADE ROUTE

3.16.19 8AM
wearinofthegreen.com/run

CELTIC FOLK ROCK

SYR
www.syrmusic.com

UK EXPO INTERNATIONAL

All Genders Highland Wear Variety Available.
 Friendly and Flexible services. • Affordable Prices. • On Time Delivery.
www.ukexpointl.com • info@ukexpointl.com








★ **THE 33rd ANNUAL** ★

TEXAS
SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES

May 10-12, 2019
 Wise County Fairgrounds, Decatur, TX
 For more information visit our website:
www.TexasScottishFestival.com



Maureen Berry brings the basics back to Irish dance

With a mother from Donegal and a father from Longford, becoming an Irish dancer was most likely in the cards for Maureen Berry.

"Instead of studying ballet like many other young, 'normal' American children, I took up Irish dance," says Berry, 43, who now co-owns both a school of dance and a performance company in Baltimore, Maryland. "Back then, the genre was not nearly as popular as it is today."

Berry began dancing at age nine, long before the Irish super-spectacle Riverdance sparked renewed interest in Irish dancing around the world. Along with her sister Kathleen she operates the Teelin School of Irish Dance. Another sister, Eileen, coordinates events for the school and its performance company.

"When I was 16 I made a bet with a friend that she couldn't do my style of dance, and she bet that I couldn't do her style, which was ballet, tap, jazz and contemporary," she recalls. "Because of that bet, I ended up getting accepted into a performing arts high school in my junior year."

"Although I wasn't really that knowledgeable about other styles of dance, Sheila Buttermore (the director of performing arts at the Bridgewater, New Jersey, high school) took a chance on me based on what she saw as potential and passion and took me into the program."

As children, and later as teenagers, Berry and her sisters attended the Peter Smith School of Irish Dance in New Jersey, and she credits him with being a great influence.

"And if it wasn't for Allison and Jennifer Nagle from that school giving a select few of us secret private lessons, I would not have qualified for the Irish Dance World Championships so many times in the years afterwards."

Berry feels that her experience with Irish and other forms of dance - including clogging, African boot dancing and body percussion - has given her a well-rounded education in the art of dance.

"Over time, I have mastered many styles. My personal style is athletic, yet graceful. I am known for lift and speed. You can tell that I absolutely love dance by my performance quality alone."

Berry opened her school in 1997 after graduating in dance performance from Towson University.

"I started touring that year with Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble, and because I needed to support myself I taught dance and waited tables at various restaurants. In time, I ended up being just as passionate about teaching as I am about performing."

Tickets are already sold out for her company's Celtic Storm show this coming March.

"It is a high energy show which blends tradition and innovation."

Berry credits "an amazing team" at the Teelin Irish Dance Company with allowing her to perform, while also choreographing most of the numbers and directing the show. She has been staging such shows for 14 years and has been recognized by the Maryland State Arts Council for her choreography.

While she is delighted with the rise in popularity of Irish dance, Berry admits that she is concerned about another trend.

"I feel the costumes and the wigs have made Irish dance unaffordable. I would love to go back to a style of dress that does not cost thousands of dollars and for the dancers to wear their hair naturally."

Last fall, Berry and her sister Kathleen organized the Teelin No Fancy Stuff Feis, inviting dancers to come in simple dress, leaving their bows and baubles at home. The goal was to focus exclusively on dancing.

"When it comes down to it, dancers dance because they love the dancing."

"When a dancer's passion shines bright on stage, it shines so much brighter than any fancy, blinged-out costume ever could. At the Teelin Feis we ask dancers to dress in simple outfits - not dance costumes - and to let their hearts and smiles dominate the stage."

The energy of Irish dance, she adds, is infectious.

"One of our favourite parts of any performance is what we see after the event; all the little kids in the audience tapping their feet and jumping up and down."

www.teelin.com

Raymond Fraser;

1941 – 2018



Though we knew one another quite well, I only met Ray Fraser once; in 2009, at Westminister Bookstore in Fredericton, New Brunswick - Ray's home town - while on a speaking tour to promote my debut literary effort, Atlantic Canada's 100 Greatest Books.

After I had finished reading and answering a few questions from inquisitive readers, Ray sidled up to me in his brown leather jacket and old fisherman's cap, sunglasses shielding his eyes from the overhead lighting. With an extra-large coffee in hand, he looked at me with a wide smile and said simply, "Howdy partner..."

He was exactly as I imagined him to be; physically slight, lanky, even a little disheveled in places. Intellectually, he was on his game and for the next several hours we mused over the merits of the region's writers, many of whose works appeared in my aforementioned anthology.

Five of Ray's books made that list, and he was deservedly in the company of some of the finest scribes that Atlantic Canada, and the country; has produced: Alistair MacLeod, Lucy Maud Montgomery, Wayne Johnson, Donna Morrissey, Lesley Choyce, and our mutual friend David Adams Richards.

That first impression made a lasting impression upon me, and over the next nine years I anxiously awaited each new book to better know the man.

While Ray did dabble in non-fiction - essays, memoirs, biographies, anthologies, etc - my favourite of his works were "fictional autobiographies" - including *The Black Horse Tavern*, *Rum River*, *In Another Life*, *Bliss*, and his final work, *Through Sunlight and Shadows*.

This past September, I had just received a signed copy of the latter - the touching story of a young boy coming of age in a tiny New Brunswick town - when Ray emailed me with difficult news;

"Hi Stephen, it appears time is running out, as it does with lung cancer, so no need for me to keep quiet about it. The timing was good though. I was just able to finish another novel while I still felt strong.

"You have been very good to me, so I just wanted to say adieu. Within the next couple of weeks I will enter palliative care - the gateway to the next life. I consider myself blessed to have made it to 77."

Accompanying the note was a short video of him playing the guitar and singing a country-western ditty.

I smiled - Ray can't sing worth a damn - and then I cried, and then I reached for his new book and read until the wee hours. The next morning I collected myself and replied to his email;

"Amigo...I am shocked by this news - utterly crushed, in fact. Talk to me..."

Over the coming days and weeks we emailed each other a few words here and there, speaking by phone once; his voice was weak, and his spirit waning with the words "I am ready..."

Ray died on October 22. I received notice of his passing via Facebook, where family, friends and fans shared their thoughts and feelings on the man and his work.

A true literary lion, he left behind a legacy of words; 14 works of fiction, eight books of poetry, two biographies and a fantastic, moving memoir called *When the Earth Was Flat*. In 2012 he was made a member of the Order of New Brunswick, and in 2016 he received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from his alma mater, St Thomas University. The following year, he received the Canadian Senate Sesquicentennial Medal in recognition of valuable service to the nation.

Born in Chatham, New Brunswick, Ray studied at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, where his love of both sports and literature were born and nurtured. It was there that he worked on the student literary magazine, later honing his craft as a freelance writer and editor. Moving to Montreal in 1966, he continued to ply his trade with a number of outlets, paving the way for other emerging authors and creative types.

His battle with the bottle nearly did him in on numerous occasions during that period ("Well, it was the 60s..." he would say with a smile), but he would later "put the plug in the jug" and return to his native New Brunswick to hunker down at his desk each morning with coffee and cigarettes, determined to "get it down, and then get it right."

Ray often got it right; like the author himself, his work is warm, witty and wise. A master storyteller, he understood the power of things left unsaid, leaving just enough space between the words to invite audiences in. Many who read his books noted that, though they had never met the man, they knew him intimately.

His last email to me, written just days before his death, was both encouraging and prescient;

"You are a fine writer my friend...perhaps you can write something nice about me when I am gone."

~Stephen Patrick Clare

2019 Summer/Fall European Cruises - Save \$200 Per Person! Last chance to book!



Ultimate Baltic Capitals
From London To Stockholm
17 Days - August 1



Iceland, Norway & Ireland
London Round-trip
16 Days - Aug. 31 & Sept. 26



Ultimate Baltic Capitals
From Stockholm To London
17 Days - August 16



British Isles & Ireland
London Round-trip
14 Days - September 14

Includes A FREE Unlimited Beverage Package With Service Charges & Prepaid Shipboard Gratuities!

Best Of South Africa, Botswana & Victoria Falls

Join our 22-day first class land tour adventure to South Africa, with a collage of experiences. Travel the Garden Route with spectacular scenery of forests, lagoons and cliffs. Visit the city of Cape Town beneath flat-topped Table Mountain, Winelands and the Cape of Good Hope. It includes a 2-night stay in Victoria Falls and exciting safaris in a 5-star game lodge in Kruger Park and a 2-night stay in Chobe, Botswana.
October 16, 2019 & February 23, 2020



Australia & New Zealand Cruise Tour With Princess Cruises

Join our 27-day grand land tour of Australia and cruise around New Zealand. You will visit Melbourne, Ayers Rock, Alice Springs, the Great Barrier Reef and Sydney. It is followed by a 14-day cruise aboard Princess Cruises visiting many ports of call in beautiful New Zealand.
February 8 to March 5, 2020



2020 Winter/Spring Exotic Cruise Tours - Save \$200 Per Person!



Arabian Odyssey
Rome to Dubai
28 Days - February 7, 2020



Indian Ocean Expedition
Dubai to Cape Town
21 Days - March 2, 2020



Africa to Asia Crossing
Cape Town to Singapore
25 Days - March 22, 2020



Ultimate Asia Adventure
Singapore to Tokyo
22 Days - April 12, 2020

NORWEGIAN'S FREE STYLE CHOICE

Book now and pick any 2 perks: 1 - **FREE** Unlimited Beverage Package. 2 - **FREE** Shore Excursion Credits. 3 - **FREE** Specialty Dining. 4 - **FREE** Wi-Fi.

Please Note: Service charges do apply to the Beverage and Dining packages if selected. **Book your cruise before fare increase!**



EXPO CRUISES & TOURS

Tel. (416) 439-6311 ♦ Toll Free 1-888-819-7447

2 Gloucester Street, Suite 204, Toronto, ON M4Y 1L5

www.Expo-Cruises.com ♦ e-mail: **Info@Expo-Cruises.com**

Reserve Now & Save \$200 Per Person!

TICO #50012993



THOSE THREE LITTLE WORDS

Glendalough, County Wicklow

Jump into 
Ireland

It's easy – all you have to do is say, “I’m coming home!”
Home to the festivals. To the traditional music. To the pubs.
To the majestic landscapes.

You know the ones you’ve dreamed of all this time. The castles silhouetted against fiery sunsets, the staggering beauty of the Cliffs of Moher, the tumbling, basalt columns of the Giant’s Causeway. And all surrounded by those legendary 100,000 welcomes. From the friends you haven’t seen in years, to the ones who’ve been counting down the days.

Sound good? Then give in to temptation and start planning your trip home today...

Find out more at
Ireland.com