



## The Richmond Claddagh

AUGUST 2012

<http://richmondias.org/>

The Richmond Irish American Society

[Click for the Calendar of Events](#)

### It's August and in Gaelic that would be Lúnasa

#### **From The President –**

I would like to thank Sonya for her service to the RIAS. I would also like to thank the Board for hanging in there and realizing the RIAS has a lot to offer to the community.

I'm also very happy that Martin McGinnis and Queen Elizabeth met in Belfast to take another step forward in the Peace Process for Northern Ireland.

We also welcome Mike Kane to the IAS Board. Mike has graciously volunteered to accept one of the open positions on our IAS Board. Many thanks Mike!

All the Best. Dan.

(We still have room for YOU on the Board!)



#### **AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup> IAS EVENT**

#### **Meet at 6:00 at the Diamond -**

Dan Begley has arranged, what has become our annual, IAS night at the Diamond. This year, it's the Richmond Squirrels vs. the Bowie Baysox – and there are fireworks afterward!

Tickets are \$10 (if we can get 25 people – \$11 if it's under 25). We have great Box Seats on the 1<sup>st</sup> level – great to watch the game and awesome for the fireworks! Dan will order the tickets based on your phone call or email reservations and will collect the \$\$ from you at the Ballpark

So come by yourself, bring the kids, bring the Grandkids, Bring a neighbor, bring a date, or bring a friend! JUST COME.

The game starts at **6:30** so please plan to meet Dan at the "Will Call" in **front of the stadium by 6:00** to pickup and pay for your tickets. Call at **804-740-5631** or email [begley55@hotmail.com](mailto:begley55@hotmail.com) to order your tickets and so that he can place the order and will also know **to wait for you at Will Call.**

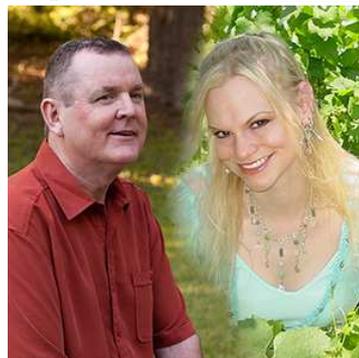
You know – if we are going as an IAS group – maybe we could all wear Green??? Maybe Dan could get them to announce the IAS in attendance. Free publicity never hurt any group looking for new members. ☺

#### **IAS Pub Supper Scheduled!**

#### **Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup> at O'Tooles. Starts at 5 pm**

Mary Smith – our IAS Pubmaster is delighted to incorporate an IAS Pub Supper with a free concert consisting of Patrick O'Flaherty and Beth Patterson. The Pub supper coincides with the launch of their new CD.

The concert is from 5:00 to 7:00 pm – but get there early. Beth and Patrick will entertain with songs from the bogs of Connemara to the bayous of Louisiana. This will be a session of some Irish music with a Cajun kick, or is that Cajun music with an Irish lilt? Whatever...it will be great fun and you can even pick up your own copy of their new CD "Caelic"!



These two former members of The Poor Clares have performed together many times over the years. Patrick O'Flaherty, a talented multi-instrumentalist, began playing the harmonica as a young boy in Connemara. Raised in Galway's Gaeltacht on the Rugged West Coast of Ireland, Patrick is part of a select group of people whose native language is Gaelic. He grew up in Ardmore, Co. Galway, and spent much of his boyhood on Inis Mor, the largest of the Aran Islands off the coast of Galway.

Be sure to call O'Tooles at 804-233-1781 to reserve your table near the band! No Cover Charge – but any and all contributions to the musicians will be greatly appreciated.☺

**This event is open to the public, so call early to reserve a table - and friends are welcome. (Get them to join the IAS too! ☺**

This sounds like great fun!! (Nancy)

**PS –** We had a super guest speaker and a great meeting on Gaelic sports... I'm out of time and space, but will have more on that in the next issue!

### IAS Members – Are Invited

You are cordially invited to a cookout to mark the **St. Andrew's Legions' 11th Anniversary & William Wallace Day Cookout on 25 August 2012 at 3:00 PM**

We shall have a wonderful evening of fellowship and fine gathering in Highland fashion, with traditional Piping & Drumming.

**The Picnic Plan - Main Course** - Grilled barbecued chicken breast, potato salad, and baked beans

**Guests are Asked** - to RSVP and bring your own drinks. Please RSVP to [PipesofArgyll@aol.com](mailto:PipesofArgyll@aol.com) if you plan on attending

**Location:** 3809 North Light Dr, Chester VA 23831 - Parking is along adjacent streets around address, providing no driveways are blocked.

Thank you,  
Tim Batten MacLeod -  
President of St. Andrew's Legion & IAS Member



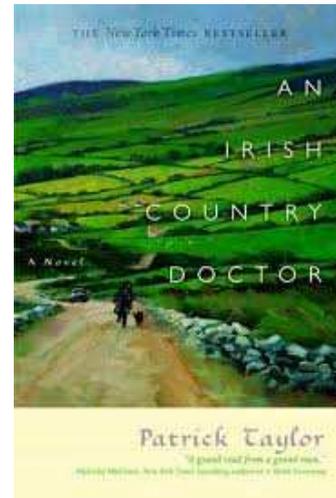
You know that your Editor is an equal opportunity Football Fan – meaning – I spread the love between the Chicago Bears and Notre Dame. Well.... Notre Dame will play Navy in Dublin on Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup> (on CBS). Notre Dame players will play in style when they debut their new cleats – designed in the colors of and in honor of the Irish flag. How cool is that!!

Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. local Dublin time & will be broadcast on CBS 9 am EST.



(Thank you; thank you very much - for your patience with me regarding the Bears and Notre Dame)

Here is a note from fellow IAS Member, Linda Gallagher, who shares suggestions for “Irish Reading Fun”.



Hi Nancy, I have been reading some delightful novels by Patrick Taylor, MD, who, according to a brief bio on the cover, was "born and raised in Bangor, County Down, in Northern Ireland. Dr. Taylor is a distinguished medical researcher, offshore sailor, model-boat builder, and father of two grown children. He divides his time between Canada and Ireland."

I have read An Irish Country Doctor, An Irish Country Christmas, and An Irish Country Girl. Each book features Maureen "Kinky" Kincaid, the cook and housekeeper; along with Dr. O'Reilly; and Dr. Laverty.

An Irish Country Girl really shows that Kinky has great knowledge of Irish mythology and has "the sight." This novel traces her life from the time she is a "wee" girl in County Cork to her adult years as cook and housekeeper. Also, there is a wonderful glossary of terms and expressions used in the book.

Ray has read two of the above books and really enjoyed them too. I hope that some of our other members will enjoy these selections too. - Linda

**From Nancy** – Many thanks to Linda for letting us know about these books - Please – to all of our IAS members - if you have favorite Irish Book - Fact or Fiction - send me a note and I'll pass it along to all the members. It's fun to hear from all of you and also it's so nice to share your positive reading experiences with our fellow IAS members.

I found a great website “**Books & Movies**” and they feature an interesting list of Irish Book titles under “Reviews” – check it out for great titles to “try” <http://booksandmovies.colvilleblogger.com/reading-challenges-im-hosting/2012-ireland-challenge/>

## Meet Your IAS Board Members –

### Denis Maguire – Membership Chairman

(With one of his Irish Dancers – Daughter Sharon )



I first became interested in Ireland when, at the ripe old age of 4, it was brought to my attention that the rain and deathly winds that surrounded me for all of my outdoor moments was, in fact, the chilling realization that God, represented by the Holy See, had not only saved me from hellfire and brimstone but had placed me in a tiny country in the wild west of Europe called Ireland...and so began my plan to escape...

Growing up in Ireland meant that I was, by default, laden with enough Catholic guilt that, if transferable, could have saved a small pagan nation from the clutches of eternal damnation. My youth had all the standards. 3 miles bare-foot to school, uphill both ways in the rain, except for the 2 days a year the sun came out and the photographers attacked the rare opportunities to take attractive photos for travel brochures. In any event it was all great craic.

The National school principal reported to the parish priest and the Canon's VW could be heard from a great distance as he approached the school. He never exceeded 2<sup>nd</sup> gear regardless of speed or distance, and the ensuing demonic noise was to become our youthful salvation and a harbinger of his arrival at the school.

Moving from National school into Secondary took me back to the holy sisters, blue-habited Marists. Fortunately the Christian brothers had just left the town the year before and the boys and girls schools were merged, creating many moral concerns for the church yet great prospects for those of us who could get past the guilt...

Christy Moore came to my hometown Carrick-on-Shannon every year, usually playing in the County Hotel while consuming massive quantities of the dark nectar of the Gods. I'd probably have opted for that career if I could sing. I am a huge fan of Christy and his soulful ballads.

As Secondary school progressed and I was granted a little length of body, the pub called and I responded. And so in Ging's bar at around 15 or 16 I got acquainted with Arthur's product and this was the beginning of a fantastic relationship. Over the years, regardless of disputes with colleagues, friends or family, Guinness has always been there for me, through secondary school, college, Japan and several states on this side of the pond. I can't say that I'm unknown in many of Richmond's finest watering holes.

After school I studied at Trinity College in Dublin for four years where I was to become a "gentleman and a scholar" although many might dispute the accuracy of such claims. As a new graduate in a dull Dublin economy I opted to go overseas in the late 80's, so off to Tokyo I headed to get a job. Five years, a wife, daughter and a Tokyo Bewley's Restaurant later I got my hands on a Green Card and flew stateside. I spend my first year in PA, ten in NY and the most recent eight in Chesterfield.

I joined Richmond IAS soon after moving to Chesterfield when I took my girls down to (Irish) dance at the Williamsburg Celtic Festival and met Nancy and Jim at the IAS tent. In addition to my daily duties at Altria, membership chair of the IAS and annual trips home to the Emerald Isle, I invest much time in domestic and international travel following two of my three daughters, both of whom have been Irish Dancing competitively for over ten years...but that's a tale for another day...  
Denis

### Quotable Irish

From Mark Twain - -the Pen Name of Samuel Clemens whose Scotch-Irish family hailed from County Antrim (Thanks to Joe McMenamin for the reference that got me to check out Mark Twain!)

- "Kindness is the language, which the deaf can hear and the blind can see
- "If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."
- "Let us live so that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry."
- "To be good is noble; but to show others how to be good is nobler and no trouble."

**The Blasket Islands** (*Na Blascaodaít*) - are a group of islands off the west coast of Ireland, forming part of County Kerry. The name may come from the Norse word "brasker", meaning "a dangerous place. Until 1953 they were inhabited by a completely Irish-speaking population. The inhabitants were evacuated to the mainland on 17 November 1953. Many of their descendants and some former residents still live on the [Dingle Peninsula](#), within sight of their former home.

The islanders were the subject of much anthropological and linguistic study around the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries particularly from writers and linguists such as [Robin Flower](#), [George Derwent Thomson](#) and [Kenneth H. Jackson](#). Thanks to their encouragement and that of others, islanders that record much of the islands' traditions and way of life wrote a number of books.

These include "[An tOileánach](#)" ([The Islandman](#)) by Tomás Ó Criomhthain whose books are considered classics of Irish-language literature containing portrayals of a unique way of life, now extinct, of great human, literary, linguistic, and anthropological interest. His writing is vivid, absorbing and delightful, full of incident and balance, fine observation and good sense, elegance and restraint,

Another is "[Peig](#)" by Peig Sayers an Irish author and Seanacháí born in Dunquin (Dún Chaoin), County Kerry, Ireland and often described as "one of the greatest woman storytellers of recent times".

And [Fiche Bliain ag Fás](#) ([Twenty Years A-Growing](#)) by Muiris Ó Súilleabháin. [Fiche Bliain ag Fás](#) was published in Irish and English in 1933. As one of the last areas of Ireland in which the old Irish language and culture had continued unchanged, the Great Blasket Island was a place of enormous interest to those seeking traditional Irish narratives

The Blasket Islands have been called *Next Parish America*, a term popular in the United States and recalled in the book "[The Blasket Islands - Next Parish America](#): by Joan and Ray Stagles.

The six principal islands of the Blaskets are:

- [Great Blasket Island](#) (*An Blascaod Mór*)
- [Beginish](#) (*Beiginis*)
- [Inishnabro](#) (*Inis na Bró*)
- [Inishvickillane](#) (*Inis Mhic Uileáin*)
- [Inishtooskert](#) (*Inis Tuaisceart*)
- [Tearaght Island](#) (*An Tiaracht*)

**Inishtooskert** -(below) is the northernmost of the [Blasket Islands](#), [County Kerry](#), [Ireland](#).



The name means "northern island", but is also known as **An Fear Marbh** - The Dead Man or the Sleeping Giant due to its appearance when seen from the east (as in the photograph—how cool is that!?). Inishtooskert holds important seabird colonies, as well as extensive ruins of ancient stone buildings.



These are ruins of the house where Muiris Ó'Súilleabháin grew up on the [Great Blasket Island](#).

### The Dingle Peninsula...



This should be on any Ireland travel Itinerary  
– So beautiful –

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** – Click on links in calendar and you can hear song selections from the artists  
And ALWAYS click the links below to get the latest updates on upcoming events

<http://richmondias.org/events.php> or for a full month calendar of current events click here. [IAS Calendar](#)

<p><b>August 3<sup>rd</sup></b> <b>Lilt Concert</b> <b>Ashland Coffee &amp; Tea</b></p>	<p>8:00 pm - Irish Duo from Washington DC presenting traditional Irish music. Ashland Coffee is at 100 North Railroad Avenue. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door and Phone 804-798-1702 or order tickets on line at <a href="http://ashlandcoffeeandtea.com/">http://ashlandcoffeeandtea.com/</a></p>
<p><b>August 4</b> <b>Irish Music Jam (Saturday)</b> <b>Ashland VA</b></p>	<p>The Ashland Old Time Jam &amp; Irish Session will meet from 10 AM to 1 PM on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. Celebrate the music of Appalachia, Ireland, and beyond... beginners and listeners are most welcome! Ashland Coffee &amp; Tea, 100 N. Railroad Avenue Ashland, VA 23005, Phone: (804) 798-1702</p>
<p><b>August 11 – Sat</b> <b>BASEBALL AT THE DIAMOND!</b> <b>Meet at 6 – Game at 6:30</b> <b>IAS Event.</b></p>	<p><b>IAS at the Diamond. Sat, Aug 11</b> at 6:35 PM Home Team: Richmond Flying Squirrels Opponent: Bowie Baysox at <a href="#">The Diamond Richmond</a> - Fireworks after the game. Tickets are <b>\$10 if we get 25 people</b> -\$11 if we get less than that. Kids/Friends/Neighbors are welcome! The IAS will be in box seats on the 1st level! The game starts at 6:35 so meet Dan around 6 or so in front of Will Call station. Call at <b>804-740-5631</b> or email <a href="mailto:begley55@hotmail.com">begley55@hotmail.com</a> to order your tickets and so that he can place the order and will also know <b>to wait for you at Will Call.</b></p>
<p><b>August 18th (Saturday)</b> <b>Irish Music Jam</b> <b>Ashland, VA</b></p>	<p>The Ashland Old Time Jam &amp; Irish Session will meet from 10 AM to 1 PM on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. Celebrate the music of Appalachia, Ireland, and beyond... beginners and listeners are most welcome! Ashland Coffee &amp; Tea, 100 N. Railroad Avenue Ashland, VA 23005, Phone: (804) 798-1702</p>
<p><b>August 19<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Irish Music Concert at O'Tooles</b> <b>New CD Launch</b></p>	<p>Patrick O'Flaherty and Beth Patterson's CD Launch in Richmond! Bring your friends out to <b>O'Toole's Pub</b> on <b>Sunday August 19th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for some Irish music with a Cajun kick, or is that Cajun music with an Irish lilt?</b> Whatever...it will be great fun and you can pick up your own copy of their new CD "Caelic". O'Toole's serves great food and will have a large selection of ice-cold beers! Beth and Patrick will entertain you with songs from the bogs of Connemara to the bayous of Louisiana - "Let the good times roll" Call O'Toole's at 804-233-1781 to reserve your table near the band! No Cover Charge.</p>
<p><b>August 25<sup>th</sup> - IAS Invited to a Cookout with the St. Andrew's Society.</b></p>	<p>The members of the IAS are cordially invited to a cookout to mark the St. Andrew's Legions' 11th Anniversary &amp; William Wallace Day Cookout on 25 August 2012 at 3:00 PM. <b>The Picnic Plan - Main Course</b> - Grilled barbecued chicken breast, potato salad, and baked beans. <b>Guests are Asked - to RSVP</b> and bring your own drinks. <b>Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:PipesofArgyll@aol.com">PipesofArgyll@aol.com</a></b> if you plan on attending <b>Location:</b> 3809 North Light Dr, Chester VA 23831 - Parking is along adjacent streets around address – Please DO Not Block Driveways.</p>
<p><b>Sept 1 &amp; 15</b> <b>Irish Music Jam (Saturdays)</b> <b>Ashland, VA</b></p>	<p>The Ashland Old Time Jam &amp; Irish Session will meet from 10 AM to 1 PM on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. Celebrate the music of Appalachia, Ireland, and beyond... beginners and listeners are most welcome! Ashland Coffee &amp; Tea, 100 N. Railroad Avenue Ashland, VA 23005, Phone: (804) 798-1702</p>
<p><b>Sun Sept 9<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Gaelic Storm</b> <b>The Birchmere</b> <b>Alexandria VA</b></p>	<p><b>GAELIC STORM</b> – the band from the movie “Titanic” will be at The Birchmere Music Hall located at <a href="#">3701 Mount Vernon Avenue Alexandria, VA 22305 (Click to get directions)</a> Call 703-549-7500 The concert starts at 7:30 pm and tickets are \$35 Websites to visit - <a href="http://www.birchmere.com/">http://www.birchmere.com/</a> <a href="http://www.gaelicstorm.com/">http://www.gaelicstorm.com/</a></p>
<p><b>Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 8 PM</b> <b>IRISH MUSIC</b> <b>Richmond Folk Music</b></p>	<p>Beth Patterson and Patrick O'Flaherty Gaelic/Cajun Fusion! O'Flaherty provides the trad Irish music -The combination of the instruments, the words and the tune create an image of Ireland (lush, rolling green hills, a tranquil wind blowing as the crashing of the ocean waves pulsate the illustrious Irish sea cliffs.." "Beth Patterson has a voice that is simultaneously sharp, pure enough to cut glass, and inviting and sensuous as fire.-Tickets \$12/advance/\$15/at door</p>

<b>Oct 20 &amp; 21</b> Central VA Highland Games & Celtic Festival	<b>GREAT NEWS!!</b> The 2012 <a href="#">Central Virginia Highland Games and Celtic Festival</a> will make its return to the Richmond International Raceway on October 20-21. "Two full days of traditional dance, live music, Highland games competition, clan tents and vendors," according to its <a href="#">webpage</a> . Tickets prices will range between \$10-\$30 and will go on sale to the public in July.
<b>Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – Sat.</b> IAS Christmas Party & 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party New Location!	<b>HOORAY!</b> The IAS will have a Double Celebration – the 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IAS and the 2012 IAS Christmas Party at the Shenandoah Community Center (off Arch Road) Remember to mark your December calendar now! There will be tons of surprises, the World (our IAS world that is) Famous Silent Auction of Irish themed items. So start your search for your donations for the Silent Auction. It is our only major fundraiser to meet IAS expenses. So get ready to help us out!

### IAS OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

President			
Interim President & Programs Chair	Dan Begley	804-740-5631	begley55@hotmail.com
Secretary & Sunshine	Ann McGehee	540-894-7284	Anniev67@juno.com
Treasurer	Kathryn O'Meara	804-745-1903	Mungojerrie23@aol.com
Board Member, Membership	Denis Maguire	804-739-0429	maguired@comcast.net
Board Member, Special Events	Karon Bell	804-982-7835	irishmom1958@gmail.com
Board, Email & Newsletter	Nancy Emig	804-323-6415	bearfan46@verizon.net
Board Member -Pub Master	Mary Smith	804-746-8173	maryrrf@yahoo.com
Board Member	Frank Hardy	804-883-6230	fenway7@msn.com
Board Member/Webmaster	Jim Bandelean	804-347-0924	jbandelean@gmail.com
Board Member	Mike Kane	804-270-2828	MikeKane@KW.com
Board Member	OPEN		
Webmaster - Volunteer	Doug Elder	804-365-7948	elderclann@yahoo.com

### Festival - The Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games October 20 & 21, 2012

The Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland games visit the Richmond Raceway Complex October 20-21, featuring traditional dance, live music, Highland games competitions, gathering of clans and vendors. The two-day festival, which will be fun for the whole family to enjoy, benefits three non-profits: the Cullather Brain Tumor & Quality of Life Center, Children's Hospital Foundation and Richmond International Raceway Cares. Dogs are permitted with a donation and ticketed adult. <http://vacelticfestival.com/>



Order your tickets in advance – Use this link.

<https://secure.racetickets.com/RichmondRaceway/ft/TicketSales/index.cfm?event=tixList&TixEventID=3336&HeadlineStoryID=19432&EstablishmentType=T&EstablishmentKey=10&showCart=no>

We'll need volunteers for the IAS Tent --- PLAN AHEAD – We need you!