



The Irish Connection

Irish American Society of Tidewater News

September 2019

The Irish American Society of Tidewater, Virginia, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1980 to promote and preserve Irish culture and all things distinctly Irish.

Membership is open to persons of Irish birth or ancestry, as well as those persons who have an interest in Irish history and culture.

OUR NEXT MEETING
THURSDAY:
SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at the

Church of the Ascension
Community Center
4853 Princess Anne Rd
Virginia Beach, VA.

Doors open at
6:30 p.m.,
the meeting usually
gets underway at
7:00 p.m.,
ending at 9:00 p.m.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

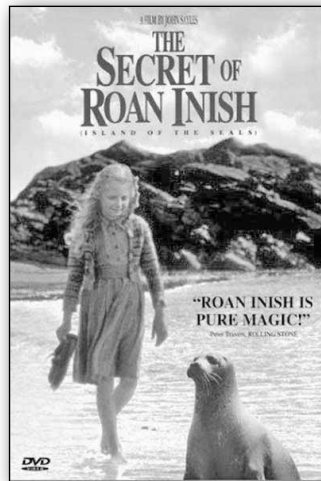
Dear Fellow Irish American Society members,

I don't know about you, but I am so enjoying the cooler temps! I hope they stay like this. Let's have a look at the fun events we have coming up in September!

Thurs. September 5th IAS Meeting 7 pm, Church of the Ascension Community Center SELKIE SEPTEMBER program

As our area enjoys the final weeks of summer, we will be doing a variety of activities at our September meeting in honor of these *Irish mermaids*! Doors open at 6:30 for set up; meeting officially starts at 7 pm. Bring friends – the more the merrier!

- We encourage everyone to dress in mermaid/merman clothing, maritime accessories, or at least ocean colors – a First Place Prize will be given for **Best Thematic Costume!**
- We hope to have a brief presentation on Celtic water creatures by our 2019 Jr. Princess **Eilidh Crouch** to kick the meeting off.
- We will show the family-friendly (rated PG) 1994 classic **THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH**. This movie has been one of my favorites for over twenty years, and I know you will love it, too! It appeals to all ages. Set on a fishing island off the coast of Donegal, the story's main character, a 10-year-old girl named Fiona, learns the local legend that her family has a selkie ancestor. Is her wee lost brother Jamie off with the seals? Watch and find out! (1 hr 43 min long)



- Two of our member vendors (**Gilmour Grrrrl Goods & Thorny Seahorse**) are bringing some AWESOME selkie/mermaid items for purchase. Shop from **Debra Taylor-Kelly** and **Lynette Gilmour Crouch** before, during, and after the movie! (see page 7)
- Don't forget to bring cash, because we will also have some thematic raffles and our donation bar of adult beverages! Some of our members are hitting up **The Mermaid Winery** and **The**

Mermaid Factory for appropriate raffles; fingers crossed they will become new community partners for the IAS! We will definitely have some SIREN SELTZERS for the adult beverage donation bar!

- For a COOK OFF, we encourage folks to bring **HOMEMADE** selkie-design, seafood-based, or beach-themed food items to share. You must bring a copy of your recipe in order to be considered for the First Place Prize!

~~~~~  
**CELTIC COUSINS COOK OUT**  
**Sat. September 28<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> annual**  
**Church of the Ascension Picnic Area**  
**12:00-1:00 pm Set up**  
**1:00-4:00 pm Event**  
**4:00-5:00 Clean up**

Don't miss this popular annual event w/ our friends in the **Scottish Society of Tidewater!** The societies will supply the 'burgs, 'dogs, buns, and fixin's.

It is our turn this year, so WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO "MAN" THE GRILL!!! Many thanks to **Erik Garibay**, hubby of our Youth Outreach Chair **Meagan Garibay**, for being the first to volunteer! We need at least a couple more folks to help out with this duty, so please let us know ASAP if you will.

We would also appreciate anyone who can come early to help set up from 12-1 pm OR who can stay late to help clean up from 4-5 pm. THANK YOU!!! Many hands make light work.

As always, members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Soda and water will be provided. Otherwise, BYOB. You can also bring cash for items from the "adult cooler" (suggested donation, \$3 per bottle/can or 2 for \$5). We also expect to have a raffle, children's activities, etc. Well-socialized dogs on non-retractable leashes welcome. (Set up 12-1 pm, Event 1-4 pm, Clean up 4-5 pm)

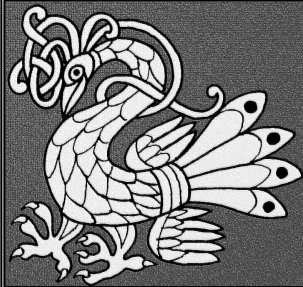
We're STILL holding over an Irish Abroad feature until next month with lots of pix of IAS members' travels over the summer. Enjoy the Labor Day weekend everyone, and best wishes to all our students and educators returning to school!

Slán go fóill! (Bye for now!)

*Lynnette Fitch Brash*

# The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614  
Virginia Beach, VA  
23450



## OFFICERS President

Lynnette Fitch Brash

## Sr. Vice President

Debra Taylor-Kelly

## Jr. Vice President

Maureen Cahill

## Treasurer

Katie McCrory

## Recording Secretary

Mary Ann Brady

## Financial Secretary

Michael Lawler

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Betsy Kennedy

## Phone Tree

Teresa Buckley Diaz  
757-642-0099

## Sergeant-at-Arms

Jim Hagerty

## Hospitality

Lynette Gilmour Crouch

## Youth Outreach Chair

Meagan Garibay

## Newsletter

Lori Shea, editor

lorishea@aol.com

## Sunshine Bulletin

email the editor

## WEBMASTER

Michael Lawler

## WEB SITE

IRLUSA.org

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Look for us on  
Facebook & Instagram

Email us at:

IAS.Tidewater@Gmail.com

## THE PARTING GLASS

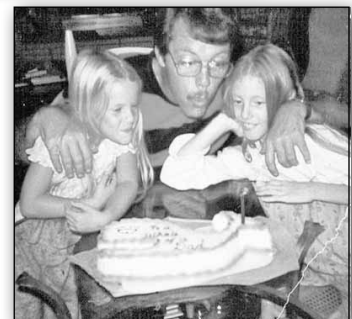


*I ask you to remember me;  
And when you sit and stories tell,  
I'll be with you and help recall;  
So fill to me the parting glass,  
God bless, and joy be with you all.*

Please keep our IAS Adult Princess 2002 **Lisa Hunt Burgess**, her mother **Vicki Savage Hunt**, her sister **Margo Hunt Winans**, and their entire family in your thoughts and prayers regarding the unexpected and devastating loss of their beloved dad, husband, and Papa **James Hunt** in late July. Jim and Vicki were college sweethearts, and Jim doted on their two daughters and all of their grandkids. Jim passed peacefully at home of natural causes, which is a blessing, but his loss is deeply felt by the entire family.

Mr. Hunt supported his wife and daughters in everything, even traveling to Ireland twice when Lisa qualified to compete in the World Championships of Irish Dance. He was a loving family man through and through. There was a beautiful Celebration of Life at the Hunt residence and a family memorial aboard a boat which motored his loved ones out to scatter his ashes on the Chesapeake Bay. Local Celtic musicians Edward Brash, Tom Crouch, and Colin McGlynn provided the requested vocals, pipe tunes, and laments dockside at Long Bay Pointe to help send Mr. Hunt off in the manner he had wanted.

Mr. Hunt's lovely obituary is at this link. <https://www.hollomon-brown.com/obituaries/James-Carter-Hunt-II?obId=5607823&fbclid=IwAR1uebETTPeXaJmuD75tPv7xVXmujJnvYJTUwvvrer6O4TVjLZ8gh32ci8U>



## IRISH & IRISH-AMERICAN TRIVIA



Submitted by **Maureen Cahill**

*Each month, you will be asked to test your knowledge at three levels:  
easy, middling, and most difficult..*

## September 2019 Trivia Questions

- ♣ 1. How many local Irish dance schools are there?
- ♣ 2. Name 3 counties in Ireland that begin with K.
- ♣ 3. Name the local Irish Dance Schools.

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## TALES OF IRELAND



### QUIET MAN RAILWAY STATION OPENS TO SHOWCASE RESTORATION WORK

*Location marks opening scene of 1952 John Ford film shot at Ballyglunin station, Galway*

by Áine Kenny

*"Well now, I'll begin at the beginning. A fine soft day in the spring it was, when the train pulled into Castletown, three hours late as usual, and himself got off."*

Thus intones the narrator as **John Wayne** alights in a fog of steam for the opening scene of **John Ford's** classic 1952 film *The Quiet Man*, which was filmed at the train station at **Ballyglunin, Co Galway**.

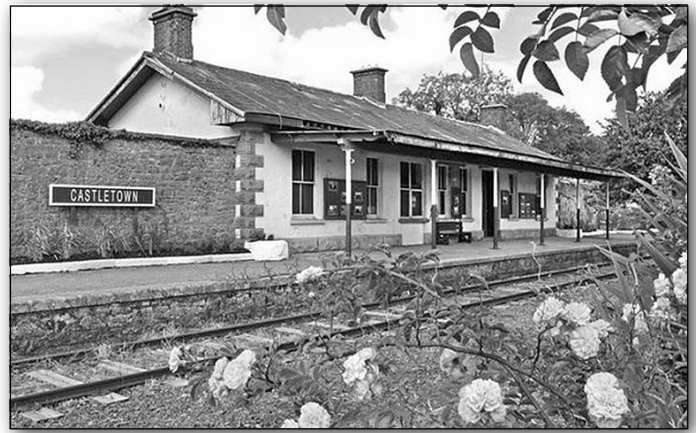
The train line was shut by Córas Iompair Éireann in 1976 and the station fell into disrepair, abandoned and ignored until 2004, when a group of locals got together and began what became the **Ballyglunin Railway Restoration Project**. The project has a 10-year lease on the station, which is still owned by CIE.

The group's mission is to bring it back to its former glory and turn it into a community hub, where locals can gather, put on plays and host community events. Ideally, it hopes to hire someone full time to look after the station, to act as a tour guide, and help it contribute to the local economy.

Tomorrow [Sunday] the group will hold an open day to showcase the restorative work it has carried out over the last 15 years.

Project treasurer **Mark Gibson** says while it may not look like much on the outside, a lot of work has been completed.

"In 2006, the storehouse and the signal cabin were restored. Last year, the station got a completely new roof. We also restored the windows, gutters and painted some of the inside walls. This is a protected structure so everything has to be overseen by a conservation architect."



Gibson originally joined the group in 2009. "There was the threat of the building falling into ruin, and I felt that this is an important part of Ireland's film history and the fabric of rural Ireland," he says.

"I find it hard to sit idly by and watch something fall into decay, when it has so much potential, not just as a community centre but also as a hub for the region. Galway attracts 2.6 million visitors every year, but the vast majority of those people visit the 'big attractions' like Galway city and Connemara."

He notes that **Fáilte Ireland** recently said the tourist industry needs to diversify. "If we want to achieve that, we have to put in resources to enable communities to contribute," he says, while acknowledging the donations from both Quiet Man fans and local people.

The project has garnered international attention. An American tourist who visited Ballyglunin station later shipped €200,000 worth of timber from his yard in Tennessee to Ireland for the project.

Wayne's co-star in *The Quiet Man*, **Maureen O'Hara**, endorsed the project before her death in 2015 while **Liam Neeson** has voiced support for its fundraising efforts.

In 2013 Chicago playwright **Frank Mahon** allowed his theatre adaptation of *The Quiet Man* to be performed by local drama group Abbey Acts in the station storehouse.

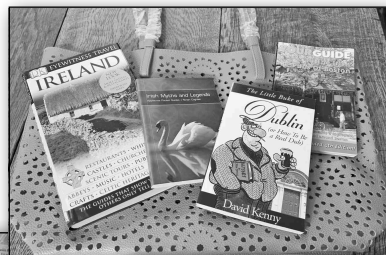
But the station's fate is uncertain due to two competing demands. Some locals want the railway line to be reopened, providing a vital transport link for the rural community, while others want to turn the old line into a greenway, thereby boosting tourism.



May 4, 2019 from

**THE IRISH TIMES**





IAS AUGUST MEETING  
SOCIAL & SILENT  
AUCTION FUNDRAISER!  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 1ST  
AT MURPHY'S IRISH PUB



### IAS AUGUST MEETING SOCIAL & SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER!

We raised nearly \$700 towards kilt uniforms for our new **Irish American Honor Guard** recruits — and had a blast doing it!

Many thanks to **Chip & Lindsay** at Murphy's for reserving and setting up the space for us, thanks to owners **Ann & Tom Mooney** for the wonderful support, and thanks to the awesome Murphy's staff, as always!

A HUGE thank you to **Joe & Mary Ann Brady** and **Olivia Brash** for all the help with getting the Silent Auction laid out beforehand, to **Maureen Cahill & Lori Shea** for saving the day with PENS, to **Maureen & Debra Taylor-Kelly** for help with starting bids and optimizing item arrangement, to **Tom Crouch** for piping and doing the awesome promo from the stage, to **Katie Morse McCrory** and **Mike Lawler** for graciously doing a fast & accurate accounting session when the winning bids were paid, to Joe for delivering winning bid items, and to **Edward Brash** for helping so much with breakdown and clean up at the end of the event!

We appreciate everyone who showed up to support the cause last night — it was fun!!! We even had some **BRAND NEW** members join last night — we loved meeting them, and really appreciate Joe getting them all set up with membership forms!

But most of all, thanks to everyone who donated all the great auction items and/or who bid on the items! **YOU** folks made it great! You can't have a successful auction without cool items and generous bidders, so **THANK YOU ALL!!!**







IAS Honor Guard Bagpiper Tom Crouch hands IAS Treasurer Katie Morse McCrory a check for \$250 from the Police Unity Tour. Tom very generously requested that this honorarium for his piping services be donated to the IAS Honor Guard kilt uniform fund to kit out the new recruits. Thank you so much, Tom!!!



Tyler Klausmeier Lynnette Fitch Brash, Joe Brady.& Tom Crouch  
Tyler is the grandson Al & Kay Klausmeier, a beloved former President, a surprise new member and very welcome indeed.





## BARTENDER'S CHOICE



*Submitted by Carrie "CJ" Johnson Wong*

*(eldest child of our dearly departed Vice President John "JJ" Johnson)*

Our peach window is pretty short up here in Wisconsin, so I try to take advantage and get creative! I used to bartend for years and love playing around!

### HONEY-THYME SYRUP

1 cup water

¾ cup honey

5 fresh thyme sprigs

Bring all ingredients to a boil; simmer 5 minutes & cool. Refrigerate after straining thyme out.

### THE WISCO PEACH COCKTAIL

1/2 grilled peach (wash peaches, slice in half, remove pit, & drizzle in honey before grilling)

2 oz favorite gin

Honey-Thyme Syrup

Ice cubes

Fresh thyme to garnish

Sparkling water

Muddle peaches in glass. Add gin & Honey-Thyme Syrup (to taste). Gently stir. Add ice. Top with sparkling water & a sprig of thyme to garnish. Enjoy!



## IRISH DANCING UPDATE

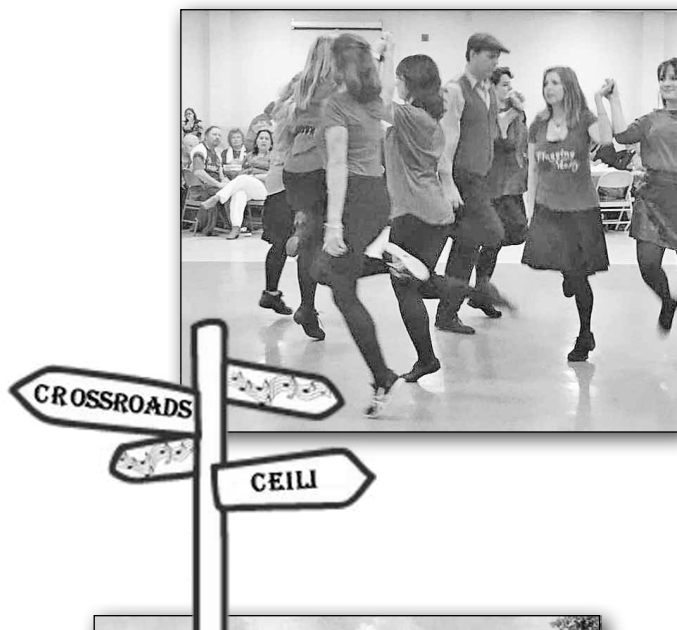


### CROSSROADS CEILI!

- ♣ Are you an Irish step dancer trying to learn all the ceilis for your TCRG or TMRF exam?
- ♣ Or are you a *former* Irish step dancer who wants to keep involved in Irish dance even though your competition days are over?
- ♣ Or are you a dance parent who wants to learn to do the basics of Irish dance on a social rather than competitive level?
- ♣ Or are you trying to work on your fitness and you'd rather JIG than JOG for your cardio?
- ♣ Or maybe you have no dance experience whatsoever but love Irish music and culture and want to learn Irish social (ceili – pronounced "kay-lee") dancing just for the fun of it?

**GREAT NEWS:** The **CROSSROADS CEILI** Tuesday night ceili class starts back up in September!!! Don't miss out on the fun! No matter what your motivation, students of all backgrounds and ability levels are welcome. No excuses – come on out and dance! The class meets from 7:45-8:45 pm on Tuesdays at the Golden Slipper dance studio at the Woods Corner Shopping Center. The studio is at the corner of the shopping center on Kempsville Road in Virginia Beach next to the intersection with Centerville Turnpike, near Farmhouse; Indian River Road East is the closest interstate exit.

Tuition is \$25 a month. Contact Crossroads Ceili Director **Mary Fien** at 757/285-9125 or [mpfien@outlook.com](mailto:mpfien@outlook.com) with any questions. Mary is our IAS Adult Princess 1998 and a former Adult Prizewinner dancer with **An Cor Rud**.

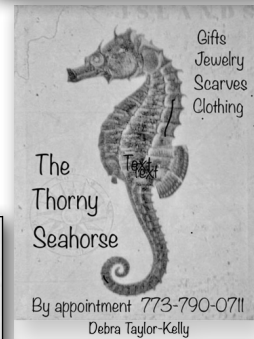






THURS. SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> IAS MEETING  
SELKIE SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

*In Celtic mythology, mermaids and mermen are seals who can shed their seal skins to come on land in human form. If you hide their sealskin from them, they cannot return to the sea and will marry a human. If they ever discover their sealskin, however, they will leave spouse and children behind and return to their seal colony in the sea.*



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Samples from the Thorny Seahorse are below.



Come to the meeting and sample this!



- a. Cumascaigh School of Irish Dance <http://cumascaighdance.com/>
- b. Rhodes Academy of Irish Dance <https://www.rhodesirishdance.com/>
- c. Rhythm of Ireland <https://roirdance.com/>
- d. Walker School of Irish Dance <https://www.facebook.com/WalkerAcademyIrishDance/>

1. 4 ♣️
2. Kerry, Kildare, and Kilkenny. ♣️
3. ♣️

September 2019 Trivia Answers



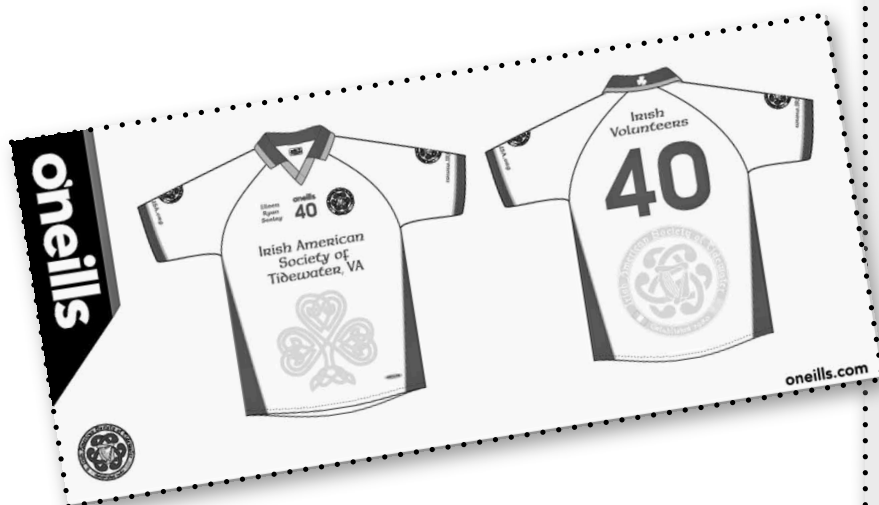
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**Place your Order -**

The September meeting will probably be the **LAST CHANCE** to get in on the **ONE-TIME-ONLY** special \$50 each price for the **White IAS Jerseys!!!** Once we place this group order, the IAS jerseys will only be available online at the O'Neill's website for about \$75 per jersey with shipping and personalization

**CELEBRATE THE IRISH SOCIETY**  
**IAS WHITE JERSEYS**

**Other IAS events coming up this fall:**

- ◆ **Thurs. October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Our 2019 HARVEST HOOLEY meeting!** We are hoping to have someone volunteer to be a VERY special guest presenter for this!!! Is there anyone interested in giving a brief presentation on BARLEY as a harvest ingredient for alcohol????!! In past Harvest Hooleys, we have done programs with tastings of alcohol made with honey, apples, pumpkins, oats, and nuts. The Cook Off will also be recipes with BARLEY as an ingredient.
- ◆ **Sat. October 26<sup>th</sup> & Sun. October 27<sup>th</sup> – Richmond Highland Games (& Celtic Festival)** – We hope to set up our annual **IAS Fáilte Table** here again right next to our sister organization, the Richmond Irish American Society, at the top of Clan Row! More details in our next issue...
- ◆ **Thurs. November 7<sup>th</sup> – IAS Meeting w/ Program TBD**
- ◆ **Sat. November 16<sup>th</sup> – SAVE THE DATE for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual IAS "Fighting Irish" Veteran Appreciation Pub Crawl!!!** Last year was so much fun that we are planning to do it again! This year it will benefit our IAS Irish American Honor Guard uniform fund. More details coming soon...