

THE CROPPY BOY

DECEMBER 2024



THE FATHER JOHN MURPHY DIVISION SIGNALS THE END OF A GREAT SUMMER

See inside for all the events and goings ons
from the Plymouth division of The Ancient
Order of Hibernians



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2024 DIVISION 9 OFFICERS

Michael Schilling
President

Michael Faut
Vice President

Thomas McTigue
Financial Secretary

Brendan Burke
Treasurer

John Sullivan
Recording Secretary

James O'Sullivan
Marshall

John Travers
Sentinel

Stephen Cohan
Standing Committee Chairman

NEW MEMBERSHIP

If any current members are aware of fellow Irish Catholics interested in joining the cause of the Ancient Order of Hibernians please invite them to a monthly meeting. New Membership Applications are readily available.

There is strength in numbers and increasing membership is the first step in maximizing our charitable efforts and performing our call to action!

FROM THE OFFICERS' DESK

ELECTIONS

Dear Brothers, it is that time of year again. Nominations for officer positions will be taken at the November meeting with elections to occur at the December meeting.

Becoming an officer is a great way to get more involved with the division and see how our organization works as a whole.



SOCIAL

On Monday, November 18th members will be gathering at Dillon's Local to support friend of the division Stephen Lindsay and his bandmates on his second night of return. We will also be presenting owner Colin Dillon with a token of our appreciation for their establishment. We invite any members who can to attend. Details are in the schedule of events.

calendar of events



5

General Meeting

7:00pm, Cordage Commerce Center
Monthly meeting of the Father John
Murphy Division

15

Father John Murphy Division Christmas Party

1pm - 4pm
Annual Christmas Party at East Bay Grille

25

Merry Christmas

The Father John Murphy Division wishes
it's members and their families a
blessed Christmas!

musical calendar

Dates, locations and times where you can find Hibernians or Friends of the Division playing in the Plymouth County area.

BROTHER STEVE KERR

Traditional Sessions

The Snug Pub - Hingham, MA, Mondays 5:30pm

The ICC Pub - Canton, MA, Fridays 7:00pm

Malachy's Saloon - Quincy, MA, Wednesdays 6:00pm

BROTHER DENIS O'GORMAN

nothing local schedules for
September

WEEKLY TRADITIONAL SESSIONS

THE SNUG PUB

116 North St., Hingham, MA

Mondays, Starting at 5:30pm

Dillon's Local

21 S. Park Ave., Plymouth, MA

Third Monday of the Month, 5pm - 8pm

MARTINI'S BAR & GRILL (FEATURING STEVE LINDSEY)

50 Court St., Plymouth, MA

First Monday of the Month, 5pm - 8pm

THE TINKER'S SON

707 Main St., Norwell, MA

Wednesdays, 6pm - 9pm

THE COTTAGE BAR

26 Union St., Weymouth, MA

Thursdays, Starting at 6:30pm & Sunday afternoons

THE AULD TRIANGLE - WEEKLY IRISH MUSIC

42 Main St., Hyannis, MA

Saturdays, 7pm - 10m

CJ'S BAR & GRILL @ JOHN CARVER INN

225 Summer St., Plymouth, MA

Saturdays, 6pm - 9pm



2024 Father John Murphy Division Christmas Party

the 2024 Christmas Party
will take place at East Bay Grille
on Sunday December 15th from 1pm - 4pm.

Cocktail hour starting at 1pm
with dinner served at 2pm

Cost is \$45/ seat
CASH BAR

Menu includes:

- Garden Salad
- Vegetable
- Chicken Marsala

- Rice Pilaf
- Baked Schrod
- Steak Tips

Dessert

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT PAYMENT MUST BE
MADE BY THE DECEMBER MEETING EITHER IN
PERSON OR MAILED TO BRENDAN BURKE AT
30 MOUNTAIN ASH DRIVE
KINGSTON, MA 02364

brig st. john commemorative pin

Dear Brothers, below are the photos of the commemorative pin that has been created in conjunction with Connemara Marble. They were delivered last week and sales have officially begun. We have sent emails out to anyone who had registered for the event to let them know they are available for purchase. We will have them available at this week's meeting for any brothers who wish to purchase one. The sale price is \$35/each and all proceeds are going to the cost of running this year's event. Please share this with anyone you know who is interested in this limited edition piece of history. If we can sell (2) orders of pins it will cover all costs.

If you are not able to attend the meeting you can contact President Mike Schilling by replying to the division email or call/text him at 781-706-6209.



national irish famine way walk 2024!

The Father John Murphy Division is putting together a fundraising event for our Hibernian Hunger project of 2025. A group of division members, friends of the division, and family members will walk the *National Famine Way* at the end of May 2025. The National Famine Way is a 100 mile walk that starts in Roscommon and ends in Dublin. The walk will be over the course of 6 days. The National Famine Way represents the walk that was undertaken by 1490 men, women and children who were evicted from their homes in Strokestown in 1849 and walked to Dublin to then be put on immigration ships to England with their eventual landing spot in Canada.

We will be raising money through donations via GoFundMe that will be disbursed to charities who deal with hunger and food insecurity. This is to remember one of the darkest times in our history of the Irish people. As a group that commemorates the shipwreck of the brig St. John annually this is very fitting.

Any brothers who are interested please contact President Mike Schilling via email at michael.k.schilling@gmail.com or call/text at 781-706-6209. After we determine how many individuals are interested, we will coordinate an informational meeting to go over schedule and logistics.





Political Education

Irish General Election 2024: Counting complete, all Dáil seats filled

By Kerry O'Shea

irishcentral.com, December 2nd , 2024

The counting for the Irish General Election 2024 concluded on Monday evening, December 2, more than 72 hours after polls opened across Ireland on Friday, November 29.

The top three parties are unchanged since Ireland's last General Election, which was held in February 2020. Fianna Fáil has won 48 Dáil seats this time around, while Sinn Féin won 39 and Fine Gael won 38.

Each of the top three parties also saw gains on 2020 - Fianna Fáil is up 10 seats, Sinn Féin is up two, and Fine Gael is up three.

However, the number of seats in the Dáil Éireann has also increased since 2020, from 160 to 174. The number of constituencies also increased from 39 to 43.

With 174 seats up for grabs in this year's election, one party would have needed to win at least 88 seats to win the majority and thus control of the Dáil

However, no one party fielded enough candidates in the Irish General Election 2024 to win the majority outright.

As such, Ireland is likely heading for another coalition government, where parties come together as a bloc to reach the majority.

The results of the Irish General Election 2020 also gave way to a three-way coalition between Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, and The Green Party. Micheál Martin (Fianna Fáil), Leo Varadkar (Fine Gael), and Simon Harris (Fine Gael) all served as Taoiseach at different points during the outgoing Dáil.

With a combined 86 seats, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael will likely be a part of Ireland's new coalition government. While on the campaign trail, the leaders of both parties vowed not to go into coalition with Sinn Féin.

Meanwhile, Sinn Féin said earlier on Monday before counting was finalized that it

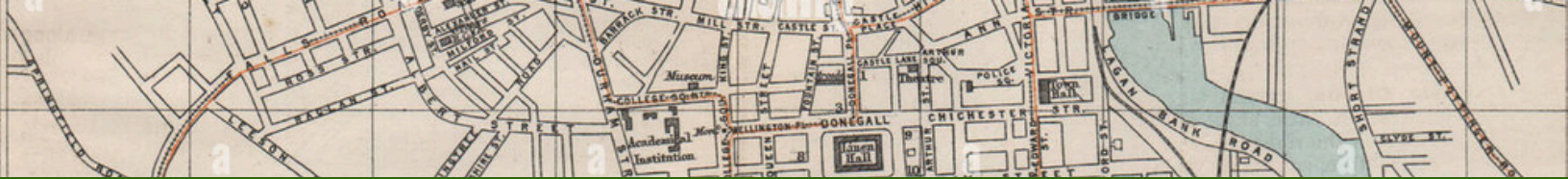
was contacting the leaders of the Social Democrats, Labour, and "other progressive TDs and groupings this week."

With a combined 61 seats, a Sinn Féin - Social Democrats - Labour coalition would need lots of support from other 'progressives' to reach a majority.

As parties begin to contact each other in hopes of forming a majority-winning coalition, discussions will now turn to a timeline of when Ireland's next Government will be formed.

TD Jack Chambers, Ireland's Minister for Finance, told RTÉ on Monday: "I don't expect a government to be formed in mid-December, when the Dáil is due to meet on the 18th of December, probably a Ceann Comhairle (speaker) can be elected, and there'll have to be time and space taken to make sure we can form a coherent, stable government."

"I don't think it should take five



months like it did the last time – Covid obviously complicated that.

"But I think all political parties need to take the time to see what's possible and try and form a stable government for the Irish people."

Meanwhile, RTÉ News reports that Fianna Fáil won 21.9% of the first preference votes, followed by Fine Gael with 20.8%, and Sinn Féin with 19%.

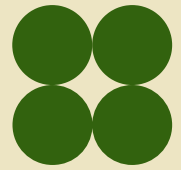
Voter turnout in the Irish General Election 2024 sunk to 59.7% from 62.9% in 2020. This year's election saw the lowest turnout since 1923, the last time the number was below 60%.



FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND

IRISH AMERICA WANTS A UNITED IRELAND. AND IT'S READY TO FUND IT.

By Suzanne Lynch
www.politico.eu



The money for violence may have stopped flowing, but the fundraising for the cause of Irish nationalism has continued.

Inside McKeon's, one of several Irish pubs that line the main street of Yonkers, the quiet hum of early evening has settled in. Baseball beams down from silent TV screens as locals nurse pints of Guinness.

Soon, talk turns to politics — not New York politics or United States politics, but Irish politics.

In an election scheduled for Nov. 29, Ireland's traditional parties are facing off against Sinn Féin, a political party once affiliated with the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the militant group that carried campaigns of murder and bombing in Ireland and the United Kingdom well into the 1990s.

There's little doubt where the sympathies lie among McKeon's regulars. After all, it was in Irish-American enclaves like Yonkers that the community once raised funds to send guns and bombs to the IRA, whose stated goal was to kick the British out of Northern Ireland and reunify the island within a single Irish Republic.

Karl, whose great-grandfather came from County Cork, says he would like to see a united Ireland, but admits he doesn't follow the intricacies of Irish domestic politics.

"It should be one island. It shouldn't have been split up by the Brits," he says, referring to the 1921 partition of Ireland, which granted independence to the Republic of Ireland and left Northern Ireland as a part of the U.K.

Gerry, who moved from Ireland to the United States 40 years ago, thinks it's time for a

change. "I talk to my family back home, and they're worried about Sinn Féin," he says. "But I think their time has come. Why not give them a chance?"

The money for violence may have stopped flowing, but the fundraising for the cause of Irish nationalism has continued.

Department of Justice filings show that Friends of Sinn Féin, the party's fundraising arm in the U.S., has been busy since the U.S.-brokered 1998 Good Friday Agreement brought peace to Ireland.

The group, which is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of Sinn Féin, has raised \$2 million over the past five years. Most of the money comes from fundraising events, such as its annual gala dinner in New York, as well as individual donations and merchandise sales.

While rules around political funding in Ireland prohibit money raised abroad from being sent to the Republic, Friends of Sinn Féin can legally send money to Northern Ireland. The group's most recent filings show it sent \$51,000 (€47,700) to its Belfast branch in the six months from November to April — just ahead of this summer's election in Northern Ireland, in which Sinn Féin once again emerged as the most popular party in the region.

The money raised by Friends of Sinn Féin is used primarily to advocate for Irish nationalism in the U.S. — including splashy full-page advertisements in publications like the New York Times and the Washington Post, typically around St. Patrick's Day in March.

Ciarán Quinn, Sinn Féin's representative to the U.S. and Canada, says the group's American supporters — more than 34 million people in the country claim Irish heritage — have long relinquished any talk of violence. Their focus now, he says, is “the next stage” — the reunification of Ireland.

“The dream of Irish unity, that grá [the Irish word for “love”] for Irish unity, Irish independence and sovereignty, has gone through generations,” Quinn says. “And this current

generation now sees the potential of getting it across the line.”

‘Wearing the Green’

The ties between the U.S. Irish diaspora and Irish republicanism run deep.

When the Irish Republic was being founded around a century ago, nationalist hero Éamon de Valera, fresh from his audacious escape from Lincoln Prison in England, was hailed by crowds from Philadelphia to San Francisco as he embarked on an 18-month fundraising tour.

The founding document of Irish nationhood, the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, composed by the nationalist leaders of the Easter Rebellion of 1916, specifically references Ireland's “exiled children in America.”

Irish-American culture is replete with shadowy memories of boxes being quietly passed around Irish bars from Boston to Chicago looking for money for the “cause.”

Gerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Féin from 2011 to 2018, was banned from traveling to the United States as violence raged in Northern Ireland. And yet, during “the Troubles” — the 30-year conflict between Northern Ireland's Catholics and

Protestants — Noraid, an Irish-American organization, smuggled cash for weapons to Republican terrorists waging what they saw as Ireland's fight for freedom.

After the Good Friday Agreement, the guns largely fell silent in Belfast. Sinn Féin slowly moved into the political mainstream, reinventing itself as a parliamentary party both in the Republic of Ireland and north of the border.

Irish-America also followed suit. Noraid was wound down; Adams was granted a visa and became a regular fixture at the annual White House St. Patrick's Day reception.

Even today, Sinn Féin enjoys a sprinkle of stardust in the U.S. that it doesn't have back home. The party's luminaries are frequent visitors, enjoying name recognition that serving members of the government in Dublin can only dream of.

In 2019, Adams was given a hero's welcome by then-Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi as she presented him with a lifetime achievement award from Irish-American Democrats, even as then-Irish Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe looked on, unnoticed, from the crowd.



Sinn Féin's current leader Mary Lou McDonald also regularly travels to the U.S., where she's greeted in some circles as a celebrity. In May, just weeks before European and local elections in Ireland, she found time to squeeze in a trip to a small Irish-American club in Massachusetts.

Irish nationalists have also been able to rely on the support of U.S. politicians. Former U.S. President Bill Clinton played a vital role in bringing about the Good Friday Agreement, and key players in the U.S. Congress helped bring the warring factions to the table and ultimately persuaded the IRA to decommission its arms.

As the U.K. was leaving the European Union, of which the Republic of Ireland is a member, Pelosi intervened in the negotiations between the two sides. She told the Conservative

government in London that it could forget about a trade deal with Washington if it allowed a hard border to be erected on the island of Ireland.

After months of political chaos, the U.K. agreed instead to hold controversial checks between Northern Ireland and the British mainland.

In recent weeks, Mary Lou McDonald also wrote to Irish citizens abroad ahead of this month's election, urging them to ask their family and friends in Ireland to vote Sinn Féin. "As an Irish Citizen living abroad, you should have the opportunity to return and live, raise a family, and prosper in Ireland," she said, the latest effort by the party to engage the diaspora in an election happening thousands of kilometers away.

k'A Nation Once Again'

For Ireland's traditional political forces, the popularity of Sinn Féin in the U.S. can sometimes be a source of dismay.

"The unification project does not and should not belong to any one political party," Leo Varadkar, a former Irish taoiseach, or prime minister, told POLITICO. "It belongs to all parties, civic organizations and individuals that believe in it."

He contends that many Irish-Americans believe that Sinn Féin "has stronger support at home than it does" — a reference to the fact that the party has been losing ground in the Republic of Ireland in the run-up to this month's election. Having brought Sinn Féin within touching distance of government, its leader

McDonald has seen support slip away as the party has dealt with a number of personnel scandals and struggled to articulate a policy on immigration, a key issue for the Irish electorate in November's election.

Varadkar, a member of the centrist Fine Gael party who often clashed with McDonald before he stepped down as taoiseach in March, has taken up the banner of reunification since his resignation. In a speech in Northern Ireland in September, Varadkar said that unification should be an "objective" and not just an "aspiration" for whoever is in power after the election.

His intervention is the latest indication that the unification question has moved into the political mainstream, regardless of how Sinn Féin performs in this election. The U.K.'s exit from the EU has also pushed the issue to the forefront, even among the Protestant communities that historically have wanted to remain part of Britain.

Under the Good Friday Agreement, it's up to London to decide whether and when to call a referendum on whether Northern Ireland should leave the U.K. and rejoin Ireland. In reality, it's a decision that would be taken in conjunction with Dublin — with input from Washington.

Richard Neal, a member of the U.S. Congress who co-chairs the Friends of Ireland caucus on Capitol Hill, says that the U.S. has long had an interest in what's happening in Ireland. "The Good Friday Agreement is one of the most-significant American foreign policy achievements in recent memory."

He's bullish that the next chapter in Irish nationhood — unity — is not far away. "That is where this is heading," Neal says. "The nationalist question, which has been debated for centuries, is going to be resolved."

"The nationalists have to win it, but they have to also prepare for it," he adds. As they do, they're sure to be able to count on their supporters across the Atlantic.

The Irish-American network can be relied upon to play a key role in any referendum on the status of Northern Ireland, says Dan Mulhall, who served as Ireland's ambassador in Washington between 2017 and 2022.

"I think you can expect that funding will flow toward any campaign for Irish unity," Mulhall says. "The Irish in America have been a factor in movements toward Irish independence and debates about nationhood for 150 years. I don't see that changing."

Irish History

A visit to the heart of Ireland, the Hill of Uisneach



By Ciaran Tierney
irishcentral.com



Learn about Uisneach, the true center of Ireland and one of the most historic and sacred sanctuaries across the entire world.

The most amazing thing about the Hill of Uisneach, located on a quiet public road between Athlone and Mullingar, is how little most Irish people know about the place which has been known as the “heart chakra of Ireland” for generations.

Tribal people from North America, Australia, Tibet, and Egypt have made pilgrimages to this sacred site and yet Irish people have only become aware of its significance with the advent of guided tours over the past few years or so.

Located on a working farm that changed hands more than a dozen years ago, the hill was virtually forgotten about throughout most of the 20th century, and yet it arguably has a significance that surpasses [the 5,000-year-old Stone Age tomb at Newgrange](#).

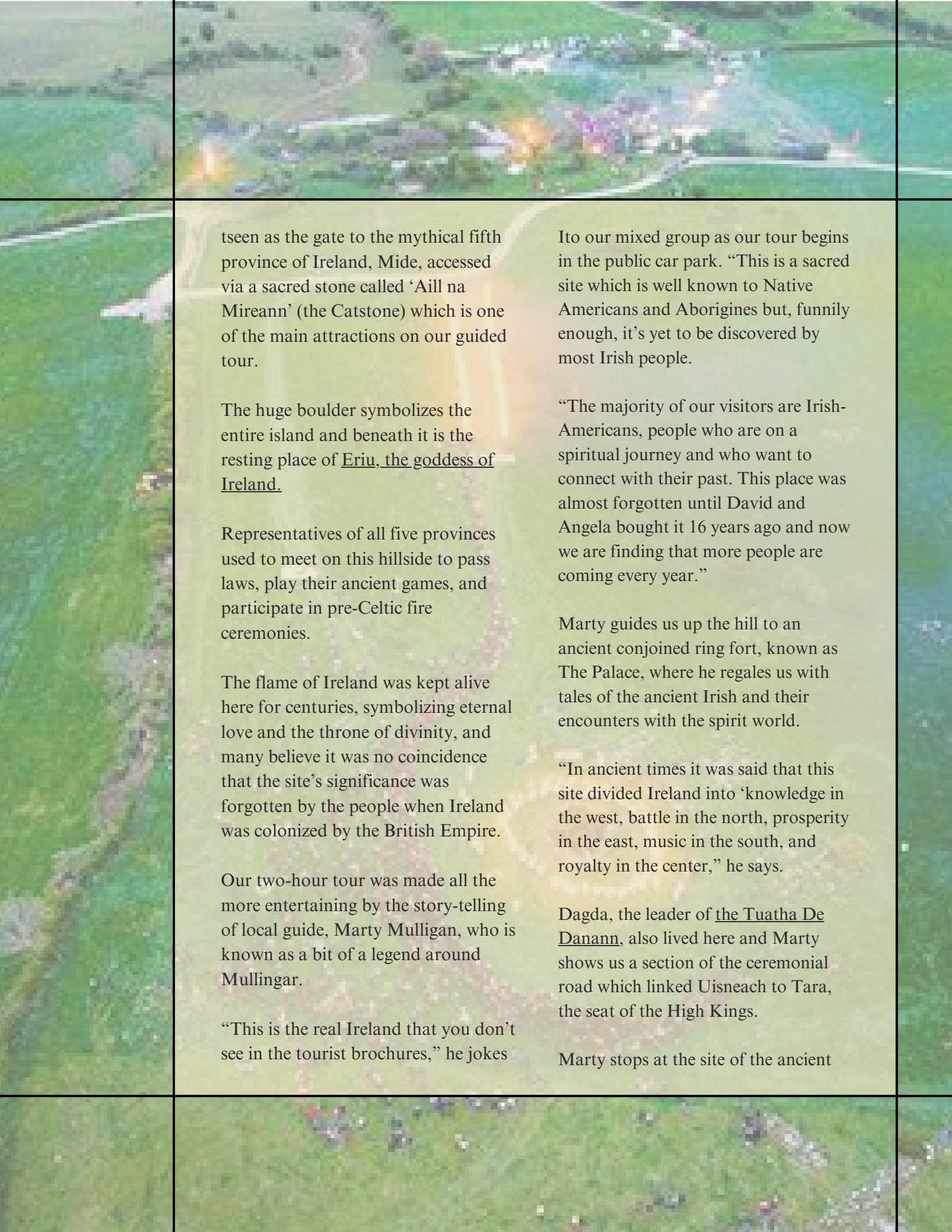
Known as the true center of Ireland, Uisneach is one of the most historic and sacred sanctuaries across the entire world.

The landowners, David and

Angela Clarke, and a small, committed team began to facilitate guided tours. I was lucky enough to experience the spectacular views and wonderful energy around this [County Westmeath](#) hilltop during a recent visit.

It’s an amazing place, and yet it remains an undiscovered gem for anyone looking for treasures off the beaten track during a tour of Ireland.

The roots of Uisneach go back beyond recorded history. It was



tseen as the gate to the mythical fifth province of Ireland, Mide, accessed via a sacred stone called ‘Aill na Mireann’ (the Catstone) which is one of the main attractions on our guided tour.

The huge boulder symbolizes the entire island and beneath it is the resting place of Eriu, the goddess of Ireland.

Representatives of all five provinces used to meet on this hillside to pass laws, play their ancient games, and participate in pre-Celtic fire ceremonies.

The flame of Ireland was kept alive here for centuries, symbolizing eternal love and the throne of divinity, and many believe it was no coincidence that the site’s significance was forgotten by the people when Ireland was colonized by the British Empire.

Our two-hour tour was made all the more entertaining by the story-telling of local guide, Marty Mulligan, who is known as a bit of a legend around Mullingar.

“This is the real Ireland that you don’t see in the tourist brochures,” he jokes

Ito our mixed group as our tour begins in the public car park. “This is a sacred site which is well known to Native Americans and Aborigines but, funnily enough, it’s yet to be discovered by most Irish people.

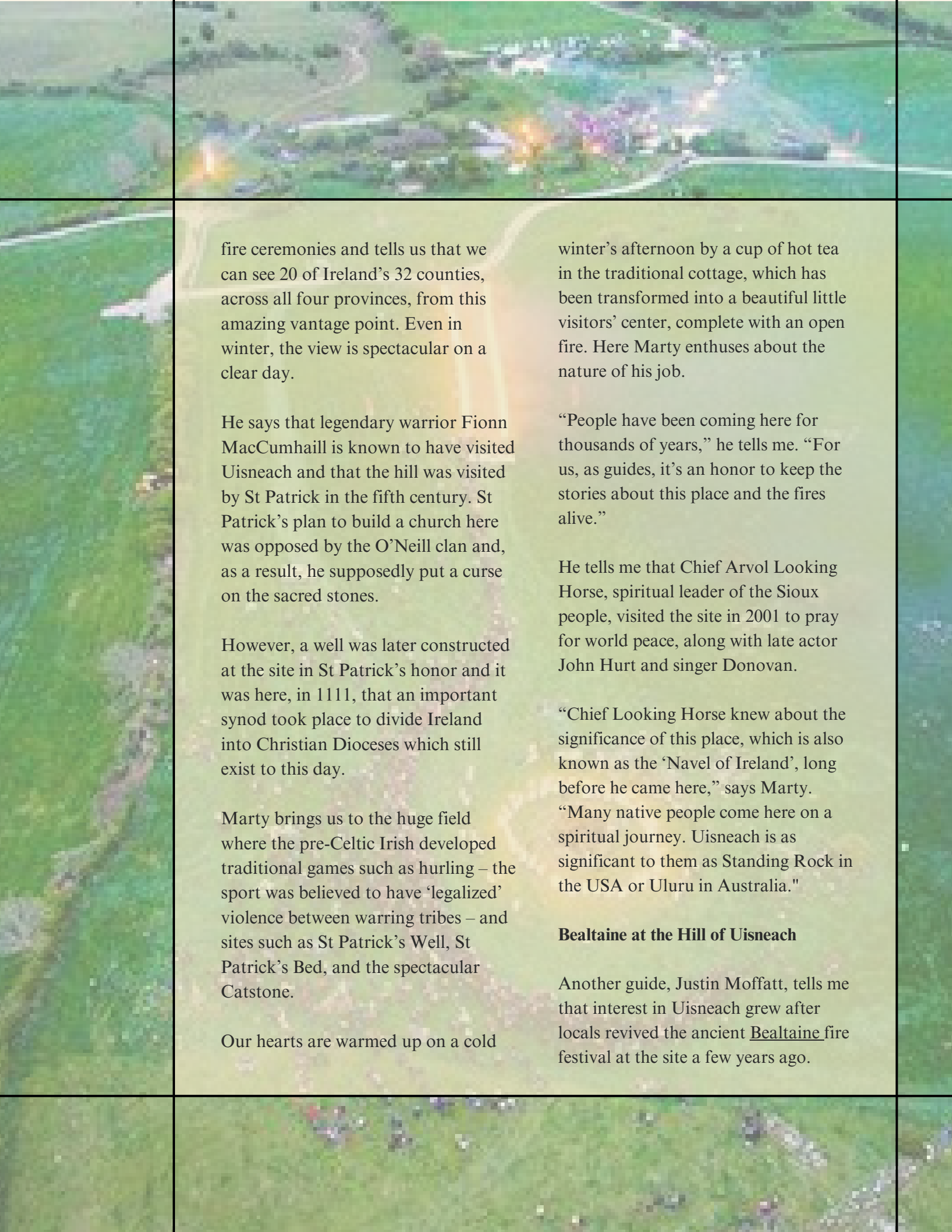
“The majority of our visitors are Irish-Americans, people who are on a spiritual journey and who want to connect with their past. This place was almost forgotten until David and Angela bought it 16 years ago and now we are finding that more people are coming every year.”

Marty guides us up the hill to an ancient conjoined ring fort, known as The Palace, where he regales us with tales of the ancient Irish and their encounters with the spirit world.

“In ancient times it was said that this site divided Ireland into ‘knowledge in the west, battle in the north, prosperity in the east, music in the south, and royalty in the center,’” he says.

Dagda, the leader of the Tuatha De Danann, also lived here and Marty shows us a section of the ceremonial road which linked Uisneach to Tara, the seat of the High Kings.

Marty stops at the site of the ancient



fire ceremonies and tells us that we can see 20 of Ireland's 32 counties, across all four provinces, from this amazing vantage point. Even in winter, the view is spectacular on a clear day.

He says that legendary warrior Fionn MacCumhaill is known to have visited Uisneach and that the hill was visited by St Patrick in the fifth century. St Patrick's plan to build a church here was opposed by the O'Neill clan and, as a result, he supposedly put a curse on the sacred stones.

However, a well was later constructed at the site in St Patrick's honor and it was here, in 1111, that an important synod took place to divide Ireland into Christian Dioceses which still exist to this day.

Marty brings us to the huge field where the pre-Celtic Irish developed traditional games such as hurling – the sport was believed to have 'legalized' violence between warring tribes – and sites such as St Patrick's Well, St Patrick's Bed, and the spectacular Catstone.

Our hearts are warmed up on a cold

winter's afternoon by a cup of hot tea in the traditional cottage, which has been transformed into a beautiful little visitors' center, complete with an open fire. Here Marty enthuses about the nature of his job.

"People have been coming here for thousands of years," he tells me. "For us, as guides, it's an honor to keep the stories about this place and the fires alive."

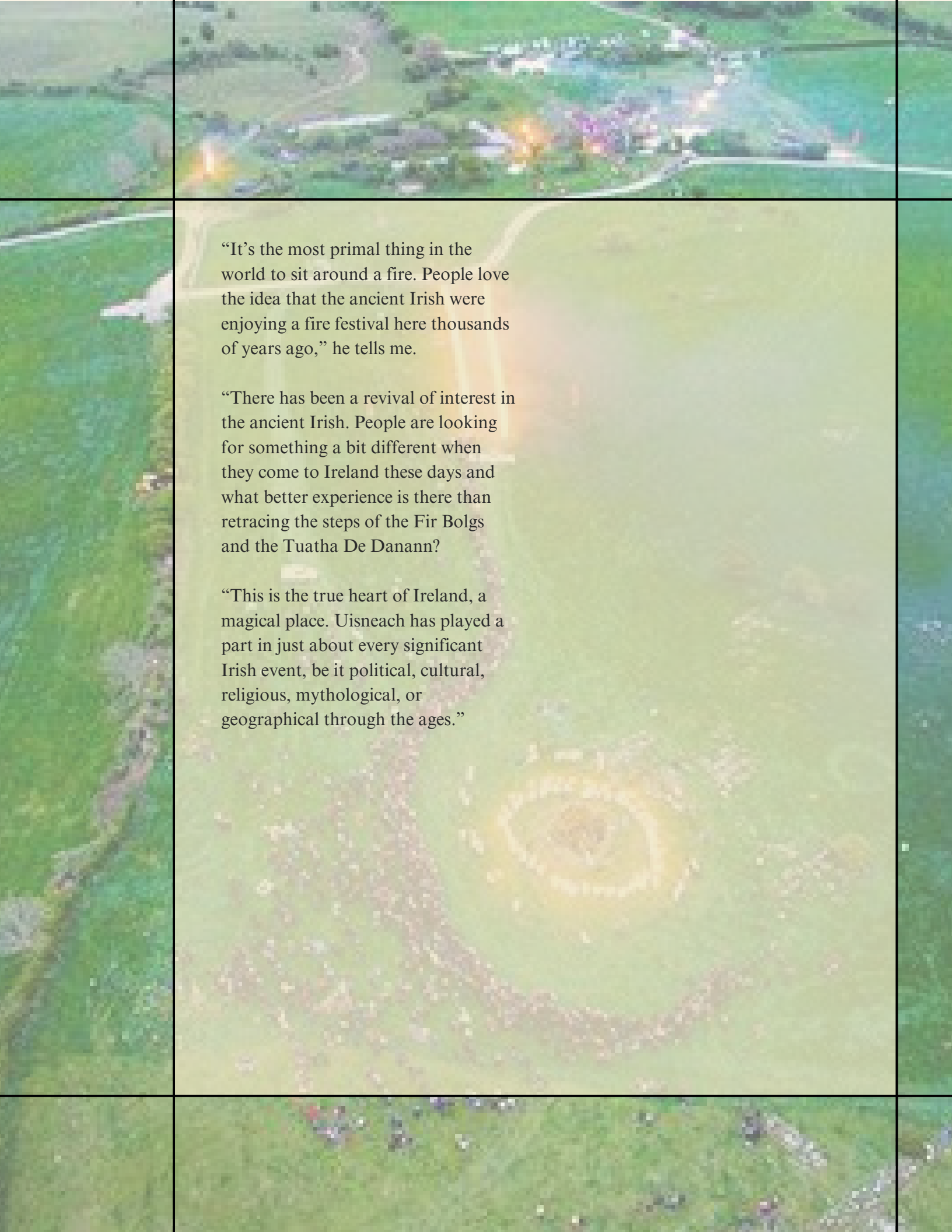
He tells me that Chief Arvol Looking Horse, spiritual leader of the Sioux people, visited the site in 2001 to pray for world peace, along with late actor John Hurt and singer Donovan.

"Chief Looking Horse knew about the significance of this place, which is also known as the 'Navel of Ireland', long before he came here," says Marty.

"Many native people come here on a spiritual journey. Uisneach is as significant to them as Standing Rock in the USA or Uluru in Australia."

Bealtaine at the Hill of Uisneach

Another guide, Justin Moffatt, tells me that interest in Uisneach grew after locals revived the ancient Bealtaine fire festival at the site a few years ago.

An aerial photograph of a lush green landscape. A winding path or road cuts through the fields. In the upper right, there is a small cluster of buildings, possibly a farm or a small village. The overall scene is peaceful and rural.

“It’s the most primal thing in the world to sit around a fire. People love the idea that the ancient Irish were enjoying a fire festival here thousands of years ago,” he tells me.

“There has been a revival of interest in the ancient Irish. People are looking for something a bit different when they come to Ireland these days and what better experience is there than retracing the steps of the Fir Bolgs and the Tuatha De Danann?

“This is the true heart of Ireland, a magical place. Uisneach has played a part in just about every significant Irish event, be it political, cultural, religious, mythological, or geographical through the ages.”

Good & Welfare

Division 9 Scrapbook

From all the items that have turned up in the moving of the hall we have decided to create a division scrapbook. We are looking for a volunteer to put this together. Anyone interested please let Mike Schilling know at the next meeting.

PRAVERS FOR.....

Kathy Cohan

Please email any other requests for prayers to AOHPlymouth@gmail.com or at the next General Meeting



Gaeltacht CORNER

Initial

English - Excuse me?

Irish - Gabh Mo Leithscéal?

'Go muh lesh-kale'

Reply

English - Kiss my arse!

Irish - Póg mo thóin!

'Pogue mahone'

"boolavogue"

At Boolavogue as the sun was setting o'er the bright May meadows of
Shelmalier

A rebel band set the heather blazing and brought the neighbors from far and
near

Then Father Murphy from old Kilcormac spurred up the rock with a warning
cry

"Arm, arm," he cried, "For I've come to lead you, for Ireland's freedom we'll
fight or die."

He led us on against the coming soldiers and the cowardly yeomen we put to
flight

'Twas at the Harrow the boys of Wexford showed Bookey's regiment how
men could fight

Look out for hirelings, King George of England, search every kingdom where
breathes a slave

For Father Murphy of County Wexford sweeps o'er the land like a mighty
wave.

We took Camolin and Enniscorthy and Wexford storming drove out our foes

'Twas at Slieve Coilte our pikes were reeking with the crimson blood of the
beaten yeos

At Tubberneery and Ballyellis full many a Hessian lay in his gore

Oh, Father Murphy, had aid come over, the Green Flag floated from shore to
shore.

At Vinegar Hill o'er the River Slaney our heroes vainly stood back to back
And the yeos of Tullow took Father Murphy and burned his body upon the
rack

God grant you glory brave Father Murphy and open heaven to all your men
The cause that called you may call tomorrow in another fight for the Green
again.

Father John Murphy was the parish priest in Boolavogue, a small town in County Wexford in Ireland, who led his parishioners in battle during the 1798 uprising. For his participation, Father Murphy was tortured, flogged, decapitated, burned, and ultimately, had his head put on a stake to warn his countrymen against further rebellion. The song "Boolavogue" was written in his honor in 1898 by Patrick Joseph McCall, who set the lyrics to an ancient Irish air called "Eochail."

