

AZIRISH WEEKLY

News From The Irish Cultural Center

November 18, 2003

www.azirish.com

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THIS WEEK AT THE ICC:

Tuesday 18th
5:30 Step Dancing Class
6:00 PM Welsh Language Class

Wednesday 19th
6:00 PM Ceili Lessons
6:00 PM Pipe Lessons

Thursday 20th
8:00 AM Board Meeting
5:00 PM Music Academy

Friday 21st
8:00 AM Erin Breakfast Meeting
5:00 PM Ceili featuring Afan

Saturday 22nd
7:00 AM Irish Language Class

Sunday 23rd
3:00 AZ Irish Festival Wrap Up Meeting

Monday 24th
5:00 Music Academy

all events are at ICC unless otherwise noted

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 21
ICC Monthly Ceili – featuring Afan

November 23
3:00PM Irish Festival Chair Wrap Up meeting

December 9
7:00 PM A Welsh Christmas

December 11
7:00 PM Don Mullan

December 21
4:30 PM Winter Solstice Party

Many thanks to Bridie Mullan for her generosity in lending her coal chute ribbings all these months. Be sure to let her know how much you enjoyed her display by contacting Irish to the Core @ 480-962-9190 or bridie@irishtothecore.com



"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

-- John F. Kennedy

RANDAL BAYS AND ROGER LANDES PLAYS TO A STRONG CROWD AT THE CULTURAL CENTER

By George O'Brien

The performance of the duo of Randal Bays and Rogers Landes was remarkable in many ways. First, they are two outstanding musicians and can really play. Second, they gave an entertaining show that kept the attention of the audience in spite of not doing any vocals. Third, there was a good turnout to hear some great musicians that are not that well known around here.

Roger Landes is a virtuoso on the Irish bouzouki and showed why he is considered one of the finest Irish bouzouki players in the world. Roger is best known to area musicians as the founder of Zoukfest in Taos, New Mexico. Formed in 1997, this program has gained a reputation of being one of the finest music school/camps in the country. Because of Roger, it has a very strong Celtic flavor and has attracted top Irish instructors such as Frankie Gavin of DeDanann along with many well known musicians. Roger also helped to produce the Round the House CD, "til the wee hours". See www.azirishmusic.com/Article_11062003.htm.

Randal Bays performed on both the fiddle and guitar. Randal is something of a fiddle player's fiddle player. He not only sounds great to the average listener, but he really impresses other fiddle players with his bowing and overall technique. It is little wonder that he is widely sought after to give fiddle workshops. But it was his guitar playing that most impressed me. He did Turlough O'Carolan pieces that are ordinarily done on the harp that sounded just great.

After the concert, Randal and Roger joined a number of people who went down to Rosie McCaffrey's to hear Seanachie play. During a break, Steve Colby of Seanachie convinced Randal and Roger to get up and play a tune. They were joined by Dale Dahl of Rabharta on the whistle and got a great response from the people at the pub. The names of Bays and Landes were not that well known locally, but they left a great impression on the people.

DON MULLEN TO SPEAK AT THE CULTURAL CENTER

Don Mullan is an eyewitness to the events of January 30, 1972, a day that will be always known as Bloody Sunday. Years have past, songs and movies have chronicled the dark events when British soldiers fired on civil rights demonstrators in Derry.

Mullen did not follow other young men into the Irish Republican Army. Mullen was instrumental in the launch of a second investigation in 1998. The book was also the inspiration for the new film Bloody Sunday, by filmmakers Mark Redhead and Paul Greengrass.

"I think it is very important that the tribunal is seen to, in some respects, restore faith in the British judicial system. The reality is that all sides have blood on their hands," Mullen says. "I think it is so important that we all acknowledge the hurt we have caused as part of finding the confidence to build a new future for all the people of Ireland."

The mission of the Irish Cultural Center is to provide a link between the people of Arizona and the people of Ireland and other Celtic cultures. Programs, classes, festivals, exhibits and special events include history, music, art, dance, literature, drama, crafts, language, travel, sports and traditional activities.

The goal of the Irish Cultural Center is to provide the public with the highest quality educational and cultural programming. The Center is owned by the City of Phoenix and is operated through public private partnership with the Irish Cultural and Learning Foundation.

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Article Submission:

Send Articles via Email to
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Deadline is Sunday for inclusion in
weekly issue, published Tuesday.
Articles will be edited and published
as space is available



“A WELSH CHRISTMAS” FEATURES AN ENCHANTED EVENING OF CELTIC MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD

Back by popular demand, the Welsh League of Arizona is proud to present an enchanting evening of Celtic entertainment especially for the holidays – the second annual “A Welsh Christmas” – at 7PM on Tuesday, December 9, at the Irish Cultural Center.

For hundreds of years, the Welsh have been combining harp music and spoken word. World-renowned harpist Robin Huw Bowen, joined by Welsh actress Eiry Palfrey and singer/guitarist Heather Jones, offers a taste of Welsh culture and music reminiscent of an evening’s entertainment in the days before television. The trio will share with the audience a love of both music and language from the perspective a small rural Celtic country where local traditions and language have survived.

Robin Huw Bowen’s influence on Welsh folk music has been far-reaching. Whether it is a fiery tune from the repertoire of the Welsh Gypsies, a long-forgotten hornpipe or a slow air showing off the intricacies of the rare triple harp, Huw Bowen is the foremost professional to master this unique instrument and its magical melodies.

As a professional actress since 1972, Eiry Palfrey is widely recognized in Wales as a performer of both serious and humorous Welsh poetry and stories. She has performed on television dramas, hosted children’s programs, narrated numerous documentaries and written three children’s books of Welsh fables to date.

Converts and TV appearances on BBC Wales lead to singer Heather Jones’ own series on Welsh television 1972, which led to a regular spot on a weekly BBC network show. From there she went on to work in musicals and with a well known puppet group.

Cost for this event is \$15 for adults and \$12 for children. This program is a fundraiser for the Welsh League of Arizona. The League, founded in 1999, promotes appreciation for the culture of Wales and provides people of Welsh origin and others a means to share their common heritage and interests. The Welsh League meets monthly and also offers weekly language classes at the Irish Cultural Center. To learn more about the Welsh League visit the web site or call (623) 939-0209.

WINTER SOLSTICE PARTY HOSTED BY THE CULTURAL CENTER

December 21 is the ancient Celtic Winter Solstice. The Cultural Center will host a celebration of the coming of winter.

The solstice is the time of the passing of the old sun and the birth of the new dark-half of the year. Like the passing of the sun through the megalithic passages of County Meath, our famine monument is set to frame the setting sun on this important day.

This year, in addition to the poetry reading, the bag piper and the ceremonious walk around the map, a party is planned for all the participants. The entrance fee is a \$5 donation. **Don’t forget to bring your non-perishable food gifts for the local food banks. The Center will be collecting food all through the month of December.**

For more information about the Irish and Celtic Community in Arizona, tune to the Arizona Irish Radio Show with Pat McCrossan on KNFX 1100 AM every Saturday from 4:30-6:00 PM. Log on to www.azirishmusic.com for information about the local Irish music scene, and subscribed to the Desert Shamrock newspaper: shamrockaz@cox.net or call (602) 795-8251.