

Letters



DEAR EDITOR,

I am a longtime reader. I thoroughly enjoyed your November/December 2008 issue, most especially your article on Derry. I met my husband Keith there in September 2004, at Peadar O'Donnell's, the best pub in Derry City – one of the best pubs you mentioned. Derry is a beautiful city, the people are extremely friendly, and I was thrilled to see it profiled in your publication. Our wedding photo is enclosed (see above).
Sláinte!

Christine Fielding, New York, USA

DEAR EDITOR,

In what must be an inadvertent omission in your May/June 2009 issue, the article *Write On* neglected to mention the name and talent of Benedict Kiely, who died in Dublin in February, 2007. Born in County Tyrone, he lived all of his professional life in Dublin, and in novels, short stories, countless reviews, a biography of William Carleton, and two volumes of memoirs (*Drink to the Bird* and *The Waves Behind Us*), Ben left a rich heritage of writing. Every September in Omagh, where he grew up and went to school, there is the Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend, which celebrates his life and work. As Seamus Heaney said at his funeral, Kiely "looked with a warmer eye on our human and natural world." May I suggest some research and hopefully an article on this great and gentle man?

Michael McCone, San Francisco, USA

DEAR EDITOR,

I am a student and amateur photographer from Rapid City, South Dakota (home of Mount Rushmore). My family went on holiday and to research our genealogy in Ireland in June 2008. We had a wonderful time.

The country was beautiful, green, full of flowers and horses. What an incredible country.

The people are fantastic, the locals took time to explain the sport of hurling to us. Mr. Tom Murphy of New Ross, County Wexford, showed us his Gypsy

Vanner horses (right), which are rare in the United States. We also went to Ballyellen Equestrian Center and had our first English riding lesson. We can't wait to come back, thanks for the wonderful memories, Ireland.

Tina Schuler, South Dakota, USA



DEAR EDITOR,

With due respects to her, but Maureen O'Hara was not Ireland's first Hollywood star. She may not have the *élan* of O'Hara, but Maureen O'Sullivan made her first Tarzan movie with Johnny Weissmuller in 1932, about seven years before O'Hara went to Hollywood.

Michael J. Riordan, M.D., Ireland

DEAR EDITOR,

Really nice to see the story on Maureen O'Hara. I worked with John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, and she sent me her signed picture. You can see Maureen O'Hara and John Wayne with me on my personal website.

www.bartonmacleod.com.

Barton B. MacLeod, USA

DEAR EDITOR,

As a follow-up to your feature on Dan Donnelly in the May/June issue, readers may be interested to know that Dan's mummified arm is on display as part of The Fighting Irishmen Exhibition running at the Ulster American Folk

Park in Castletown, Omagh, County Tyrone, until 29th November. Other exhibits include a coat that belonged to John L. Sullivan, and Gene Tunney's punchbag. Information can be obtained from www.folkpark.com. A TV documentary on Dan Donnelly by Andrew Gallimore will be shown on TG4 (RTÉ's Irish language channel) in September, coinciding with the publication of my book, *Dan Donnelly 1788-1820*,

Pugilist, Publican, Playboy.

Patrick Myler, Dublin Ireland

DEAR EDITOR,

Imagine my surprise to read about my nephew John Stack and the article about his book, *Ship of Rome*, in the March/April 2009 issue of your magazine. His dad is my brother Gerard Stack and I had received a signed copy of John's book in January. I enjoyed reading the book immensely and just felt I had to write to you and let you know what a thrill it was for me to see the article in *Ireland of the Welcomes*. I enjoy your magazine very much and I pass it along to my friends.

Eileen Stack Tomidy, New York, USA. 🍀

OVER TO YOU

We love to hear from you, please send your letters to: Letters, *Ireland of the Welcomes*, Harmonia, Rosemount House, Dundrum Road, Dublin 14, Ireland, or email: letters@irelandofthewelcomes.com