

**Community Regeneration Projects, North Belfast**



Mike O Neil (Washington DC) examines plans for the second phase of the ABC development. Alison and Sean Boland (Jr.) (Washington DC) visit part of BCT NI Ltd training facility on the ground floor. John and Nancy Kelly (New York) check out the second phase of development. ABC is a 'shared' community education, health, leisure and arts centre. Flax Trust is working in collaboration with ABC Trust, Urban Villages, Dept for Communities, Dept of Infrastructure and Belfast City Council, developing this community regeneration project.



Fr Myles Kavanagh C.P. opened the new Eurospar supermarket on the site of the old Flax Centre. Pictured with Gavin Wall (The Wall Group) and Martin Conlon (Kerr Property Development).

Lisa Kardell and Chris Pilzer (Washington DC) visit the old mill now containing 22 town houses and 55 apartments



*The Flax Trust as a registered, charity, formed in Belfast in 1977, has as its mission the reduction and, if possible, the elimination of community tensions and religious prejudices by creative engagement in economic and social development, education and training with inter-community activities including culture, the Arts, sport, health, social programmes and personal development.*

**The Flax Trust Arts Music Bursary Awards 2024 Bridging the Divide**



The Flax Trust Arts in rehearsal for a performance showcasing the principal songs from the musical 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame', including 'The Bells of Notre Dame' and 'God Help the Outcasts'. The cast will be accompanied by a chamber ensemble.

**The Flax Trust Conductor's CBYO Award**

Harrison Kirk, aged 18, has been a member of the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra (CBYO) for the past 3 years and is currently the lead trumpet player. Harrison is also an accomplished pianist. He has shown not only his maturing as an excellent musician but developing as a strong and sensitive leader. A worthy winner of this prestigious bursary.



Harrison Kirk, lead Trumpet Player CBYO with Conductor Paul McBride

**Queen's University Belfast Awards**



Emma Blacoe - Flute



Maria Meagher – Soprano

**North Belfast Cross Community Youth Programme**



Flax Trust was a sponsor of North Belfast cross community youth group's visit to the United States earlier this year, visiting 3 organisations in New York and 2 in Washington DC. The main focus was on gang culture, homelessness, drugs and mental health. The group witnessed firsthand the positive impact, the energy and creativity of young people working towards positive change in their communities, through advocacy, education and community engagement. The trip included iconic locations. The invaluable connections and profound experiences were life changing for these young people.

The School for Social Enterprises in Ireland (SSEI) is a Flax Trust / Ulster University Alliance (2005) devoted exclusively to leadership, management and business development for the social economy sector.



Transform participants involved in formal lectures and a case study provided by a subject matter expert and social entrepreneur.

During the year SSEI with Flax Trust supported **On Purpose – Inspiring and Showcasing Social Enterprise** - partnering with Belfast City Council, Work West and Community Finance Ireland.



Over 100 stakeholders heard from local and national practitioners dealing with issues such as homeless solutions - Alice Thompson/Social Bite Café; digital charity revenue generation, Ronan O'Dalaigh/Thrifty; community childcare solutions, Pamela Hughes/Kids Together Belfast; social enterprise financing, Phelim Servin/Community Finance NI.

Welcome to the Thirty Fourth New York Event  
**FLAX TRUST LUNCHEON**

**Thursday, October 10th 2024**

**Guests of Honor**

**Robert J. Reilly**

Assistant Dean (retired), Fordham Law School

**Pauline Turley**

Vice Chair Irish Arts Centre

**Ambassador Fergal Mythen**

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

**The Links**

36 East 62<sup>nd</sup> Street

Reception / Music 12 noon. Luncheon 12:30pm – 2pm

Luncheon Chair

**Tom O'Brien**

Chairman, President & CEO

Sterling Bancorp

Vice President Flax Trust / America

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We are very grateful to Mutual of America for this invaluable facility.



## Luncheon Chair

### Tom O'Brien

Chairman, President & CEO Sterling Bancorp  
Vice President Flax Trust/America

### Honorary Luncheon Co-Chairs

Hannah Young <i>British Consul General</i>	Helena Nolan <i>Consul General of Ireland</i>
Richard Cushnie, <i>Director/Counsellor Northern Ireland Bureau</i>	John J. Kelly, <i>CPCM Managing Partner Hanover Stone Partners, LLC</i>
John R. Greed, <i>Chairman &amp; CEO Mutual of America</i>	Senator George J. Mitchell <i>DLA Piper</i>
Michael J. Dowling <i>CEO, Northwell Health</i>	James P. MacGilvray <i>CEO, J P Mac, LLC</i>
Loretta Brennan Glucksman <i>Philanthropist</i>	Gerald Crotty <i>President, Weichert Enterprise LLC</i>
Joe Browne, <i>President Joe Browne Agency</i>	Niall J. Murray, <i>Managing Principal &amp; CEO, Rockabill</i>
Patricia Harty <i>Editor/Co-Founder Irish American Magazine</i>	P. Douglas Benson <i>Management Consultant</i>
David O'Sullivan, <i>Exc Director The Ireland - U.S. Council</i>	Ed McDermott Jr. <i>President Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research</i>
Edward Kenny sr. <i>Brigid Kenny</i>	Shawn M. Griffin <i>Partner Harris Beach PLLC</i>
Cathy Toner	Dr. John & Patricia Brennan
John Feerick, <i>Norris Professor of Law Founder and Senior Counsel Center for Social Justice, Fordham University</i>	Patrick Grace <i>President &amp; CEO Grace Institute Foundation</i>
Michael J. Gibbons, <i>Chairman Ireland - U.S. Council Foundation</i>	Joseph Hummel, <i>Vice President External Affairs, Mutual of America</i>
Aidan McKenna, <i>Regional Director The Americas / Enterprise Ireland</i>	Alison Metcalfe <i>Exec. Vice President Head of North Americas, Australia/ NZ, Tourism Ireland</i>
Brian Conroy, <i>Executive Vice President Director North America IDA</i>	Andrea Haughian, <i>Exec Vice President Head of Americas Invest NI</i>
James Dale, <i>GM Hyatt Regency Jersey City</i>	Bebhinn Gallen, <i>DS Rainbow Room, Rockafella Centre</i>
Paul Gallon, <i>GM Pier Sixty LLC</i>	Anton Moore, <i>GM The Gansevoort Hotel</i>
Mary J. Grace <i>Restoration Design Consultant Vice Chair Flax Trust / America</i>	Mary Hart, <i>Vice President New York Commercial Bank (ret) Treasurer Flax Trust/America</i>
Fr Myles Kavanagh <i>C.P.</i>	Sr Mary Turley <i>pbvm</i>
Jim Quinn, <i>President Emeritus Tiffany &amp; Co., President Flax Trust / America</i>	

## Robert J. Reilly

Assistant Dean (retired) Fordham Law School



Robert J. Reilly began his legal career in 1975 as Associate General Counsel of Transamerica Interway Corporation, the world's largest leasing company of intermodal transportation equipment (cargo containers and piggyback trailers).

In 1982, he returned to Fordham University School of Law where he had studied law, and became an Assistant Dean and served as

Dean of Students, among other administrative responsibilities until his retirement in 2018.

He is also a former President of the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in the City of New York, and during his term in office the Society hosted two of the largest dinners in the Society's long (Founded 1784) history with over 2000 in attendance each year, and featured speakers Nobel Prize recipient John Hume (2004) and the late CBS News correspondent Charles Osgood (2005).

During his presidency, the Friendly Sons also sponsored two social events (the premier of a Hallmark movie on the Life of St. Patrick, and Carnegie Hall concert featuring Ronan Tynon) which welcomed women guests for the first time in over a century.

He is a recipient of the *Charles Carroll Award* (named for the only Catholic signatory of the Declaration of Independence) from the Archdiocese of NY Guild of Catholic Lawyers, the *George J. Mitchell Award* from the Feerick Center for Social Justice, several other academic and administrative awards from Fordham University, and was a contributing author to the *Encyclopaedia of the Irish in America*.

In addition to his longtime commitment to the work of the Flax Trust where he now serves on the US Advisory Board, he serves on the U.S. Advisory Board for Kylemore Abbey in Galway, he has been a speaker at the American Irish Historical Society, a 40-year member of the New York Irish History Roundtable, and has been a volunteer Tour Guide at the American Museum of Natural History for over 25 years.

He is married to Mary Jane (Conlon) Reilly and they have 3 college-age sons. He is involved in several civic / parish activities in Manhasset NY.

## Pauline Turley

Vice Chair Irish Arts Center, New York



Born in Co. Down, the fifth of seven children to Leo and Teresa Turley, Pauline graduated with a B.A. Honours degree in Drama and Theater Studies from Trinity College, Dublin.

Starting as an intern in 1997, Pauline was appointed Executive Director of the Irish Arts Center in New York in 1998, a position she held until April 2006 when she was appointed Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.

Founded in 1972, the Irish Arts Center is a multi-disciplinary organization dedicated to promoting a dynamic image of Ireland and Irish America of the 21st Century. In December 2021, Irish Arts Center opened a new \$60 million state-of-the-art home on Manhattan's Westside.

In 2024 Pauline was presented The Presidential Distinguished Service Award by Irish President Michael D. Higgins, along with her colleague Aidan Connolly. This award recognizes the service given to Ireland by members of the Irish diaspora who help build and expand Ireland's reputation across the globe.

Pauline was also selected as one of the Irish American Magazine's Top 100 Irish Americans, the Irish Echo Newspaper's Top 40 Under 40, and one of the Top 50 Most Influential Women in Irish America by the Irish Voice Newspaper.

In 2009 Pauline was one of the youngest ever recipients of the Michael Smurfit Leadership Award, presented by the Irish Chamber of Commerce USA (ICCUA), and was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2009 for her work in preserving and promoting Irish culture in the U.S. In 2016 Pauline was recognised as one of the Top 50 Power Women in Irish America by Irish America Magazine.

In 2020 Pauline was selected as the Aide At Large to the Grand Marshal of the 2020 St. Patricks Day in New York City. Pauline is married to Charles Garland and is the proud mother to Miss Lily Garland, born January 2022.

## Ambassador Fergal Mythen

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations



The Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, Fergal Mythen, presented his credentials to UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 26 August 2022.

Immediately upon taking up duty in New York, Ambassador Mythen represented Ireland on the Security Council for the final phase of its two-year term as an elected member, which concluded on 31 December 2022.

Throughout 2023, together with the Permanent Representative of Qatar, he co-facilitated the drafting of the High Level Political Declaration on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which was adopted by consensus by Heads of State and Government at the SDG Summit in September 2023.

He is currently co-chairing with the Permanent Representative of Palau the Steering Committee for Partnerships for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) for the period 2024-25.

Prior to his current appointment, Ambassador Mythen spent considerable periods of his career working for the Irish Government in support of the Northern Ireland peace process and implementation of the Good Friday Agreement – working for the International Fund for Ireland (1990-92), on Justice & Security issues (1999-2003 and 2005-07), and on Northern Ireland political affairs (2007-09).

Most recently, as Director-General of the *Ireland, UK and Americas Division* of the Department of Foreign Affairs from 2017 to 2022, he led the Departmental team working on Northern Ireland peace process issues, Irish-British relations (including the impact of Brexit), and Irish-US relations.

Between 2013 and 2017, he was Director-General of the Department's Corporate Services Division, with responsibility for its human resources, finance, ICT, property management, and corporate governance issues.

He has twice served in the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union in Brussels, covering two Irish EU Council Presidencies, firstly as Middle East / North Africa Director from 2003 to 2005, and as Coreper II Counsellor from 2009 to 2013.

Earlier in his career, he was seconded to the European Community Monitoring Mission in the former Yugoslavia, based in Sarajevo, BiH, in 1996-97.

He was Director of the Department's Human Rights Unit from 1997 to 1999.

He also served as Consular Officer in the Embassy of Ireland to Italy, Rome, from 1992 to 1996.

Born in 1968, Fergal studied History and English in Trinity College Dublin and Business Studies in University College Dublin.