

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.

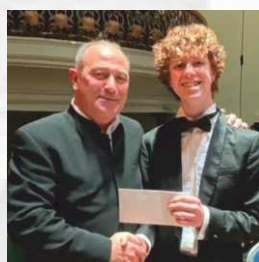
The Flax Trust Arts Music Bursary Awards 2024 Bridging the Divide



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, has been a member of the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra for the past 3 years. He is also an accomplished pianist and has shown not only his maturing as an excellent musician but developing as a strong and sensitive leader.



Harrison Kirk, lead Trumpet Player CBYO with Conductor Paul McBride

Queen's University Belfast Awards



Maria Meagher – Soprano



Emma Blacoe - Flute

Flax Trust Camerata Ireland Award

Rachel has a bachelor in music education from Trinity College Dublin; was awarded a gold medal. She is now studying for a masters in flute performance.

Rachel, pictured with Sr Mary Turley

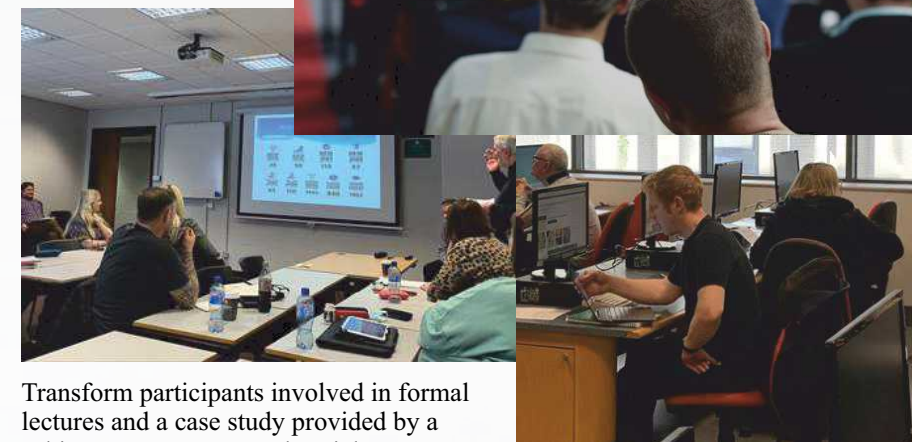


North Belfast Cross Community Youth Programme



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 Annual
FLAX TRUST WASHINGTON DC EVENT

Guests of Honor

Danny Coleman

'Coleman's Irish Restaurant & Pub'
Celebrating its 91st Anniversary

Kevin J. Sullivan

Executive Director, Ad Hoc Committee
to Protect the GFA, co-founder

Ed O'Keefe

CBS News Senior White House
and Political Correspondent

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Chairman and CEO, Boland
Chairman Flax Trust / America

Michael D. McCurry

Former White House Press Secretary
& Director Flax Trust / America

Tuesday, November 26th, 2024

Hay Adams, The Rooftop Terrace

Across from The White House

Champagne Reception/Breakfast: 8:00a.m. - 9:30a.m.
Business Attire



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Enrichment Through Respect for Difference

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

Danny Coleman

*'Coleman's Irish Restaurant & Pub'
Celebrating its 91st Anniversary*



Danny Coleman was born December 12, 1938, the 5th of the six children of Peter and Josephine Coleman. His father opened an Irish Pub on Tipperary Hill in Syracuse four days after the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, "Coleman's Irish Restaurant and Pub", which is celebrating its 91st anniversary this year. Danny started working at his father's bar at an early age and started tending the bar at 18.

Danny received a B.S. in Political Science from Le Moyne College in 1961. He then served three years in the U.S. Army Intelligence Corp and moved to Washington DC in January 1965.

Coleman managed several successful Washington night spots before he opened the Dubliner on March 8, 1974. Ten years later, he bought out his landlord, The Commodore Hotel, renovated the property and renamed it The Phoenix Park Hotel.

Over the years, The Dubliner was blessed with an enormous amount of musical and management talent. Among the great musicians who played at the Dubliner were Paddy Rielly, Jim McCann, Danny Doyle, The O'Flaherty Brothers, Liam McGuire, Celtic Thunder, Fergus Kennedy, Steve Morris, Brian Gaffney, John McGrath, Pat Garvey and many, many more.

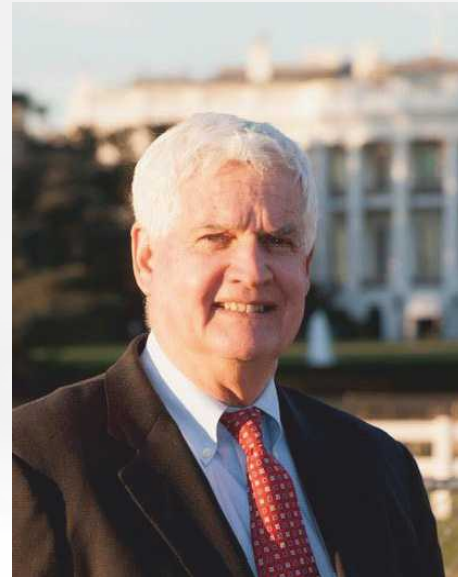
Danny was married to the love of his life Valerie for over 50 years with whom he had six children, all of whom spent some time working at the Dubliner, and 17 grandchildren.

Gavin, the second youngest, now runs The Dubliner and is assisted by his cousin, "Young" Danny Coleman.

Coleman is particularly proud of the long list of Dubliner employees who went on to open their own pubs and restaurants. These include Christy Hughes, Hugh Kelly, Jimmy Fagan, Michael Doherty, Colm Dillon, Michael and Fenton Galway, Tom and Gary Stack, John Roche, David Hoyne, Michael McMahan, and many more.

Kevin J. Sullivan

*Executive Director, Ad Hoc Committee
to Protect the GFA, co-founder*



Kevin J. Sullivan is the Executive Director for the Ad Hoc Committee to Protect the Good Friday Agreement. Kevin co-founded the bipartisan committee in February of 2019 along with former House Members James Walsh (NY- R) and Bruce Morrison (Conn-D). The Committee was one of the first groups to raise concerns about a hard border across Ireland as a result of Brexit in a letter to the U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May and Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar. Over the years, the Ad Hoc Committee would go on to join other legal and human rights groups in opposing the current U.K legacy legislation.

Kevin co-founded www.Voting Rights.ie in 2016 with former Irish Senator for the Diaspora Billy Lawless and Noreen Bowden to secure voting rights for all Irish citizens living outside the State. Ireland has no absentee ballot process except for diplomats and members of the armed forces. As a result, all Irish citizens and passport holders living in Northern Ireland, Great Britain, the E.U., Australia and the United States are denied the right to vote in any Irish election, well over one million voters.

Kevin served for nine years as the Chair of the Washington Ireland Program (WIP) and during his tenure gained the support of both the Irish government and the Northern Ireland Executive. Founded by Carol Wheeler in 1995 over 900 future leaders of Ireland and Northern Ireland have graduated from the WIP program including former Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, current deputy First Minister Emma Pengelly, MLA and current leader of the Northern Ireland Assembly Opposition Matt O'Toole, MLA.

Kevin was instrumental in creating Civic Link, a joint USA/Irish cross community/ cross border education initiative for secondary students which was announced by President Clinton in 1998 in Armagh, Northern Ireland. Close to 300 schools and 12,000 students participated in the program. At the time Civic Link was actively supported by the U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley, the Irish Minister of Education Mícheál Martin and the Northern Ireland Minister for Education Martin McGuinness. Given its success the Civic Link model was exported to the Balkans in 2008.

Most recently Kevin was the co-author of a paper entitled, "Growing the Next Generation of Irish Americans Leaders."

Kevin spent fourteen years working on Capitol Hill in both the House and Senate and is best known for drafting the historic Keynote Address by Cong. Barbara Jordan at the 1976 Democratic Convention. A veteran of numerous political campaigns Kevin served as the National Field Director for the Presidential campaign of U.S. Senator Gary Hart in 1984.

Kevin served as a senior advisor and speechwriter to U. S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley in the Clinton Administration. Kevin was a member of President Clinton's delegation that returned to Ireland for the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement in 2023.

Kevin's mother emigrated to New York City from Six Mile Cross in County Tyrone. His father's family hails from Passage West, Cork. Kevin is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. He is married to the former economics editor of the Wall Street Journal Nell Henderson who currently serves as a Vice President at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Together they have three children Caitlin, Keara and Riley Rose Sullivan.

Ed O'Keefe

*CBS News
Senior White House & Political Correspondent*



Ed O'Keefe is CBS News senior White House and political correspondent reporting for all CBS News platforms.

O'Keefe's beat takes him from the White House to the campaign trail, or, as he likes to say, he covers the president and anyone else who dreams of having the job one day. He covered President Biden's trips to European summits in the wake of the Ukraine War and his historic visit to Ireland in 2023.

Over the 2020 campaign cycle, O'Keefe served as lead correspondent for the Biden-Harris campaign and presidential transition, covered the Democratic contest from the early primary states, and interviewed top contenders. He also helped anchor CBS News' hour-long coverage of the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the United States Capitol.

Since joining CBS News in April 2018, O'Keefe has contributed to coverage of the 2018 midterm elections; the contentious confirmation hearing for Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh; the funerals of former president George H.W. Bush, former Arizona Senator John McCain and former Georgia Rep. John Lewis; the record-long 2019 federal government shutdown; and the blackface and sexual misconduct scandals that rocked Virginia state government that same year.

He previously spent more than a dozen years with The Washington Post covering Congress, federal agencies, and presidential elections.

Members of Ed's Irish side hail from counties Wicklow and Wexford and immigrated to Canada in the early 1800s, while others came to the U.S. from county Cork during the potato famine. His mother's side hails from Guatemala and he is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

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The 33rd Flax Trust America New York Banquet

(Wednesday, October 11th 2023)



Honourees Colin Davidson, Contemporary Artist & Chancellor Ulster University, Tania Tetlow President Fordham University and John Greed Chairman, President & CEO Mutual of America with Flax Trust Directors John Kelly, Tom O'Brien, Sr Mary Turley, President Jim Quinn and Andrew Elliott, Director/Counsellor, NI Bureau, Helena Nolan Consul General of Ireland and Paul Bartholomew Vice Chancellor and President Ulster University

The 33rd Flax Trust America Washington DC Banquet Breakfast

(Tuesday, November 21st 2023)



Jim Boland, Chair Flax Trust/America. Mike O'Neill, Director Flax Trust/America. Jim Quinn, President Emeritus Tiffany & Co., President FlaxTrust/America. Honorees - Timothy Driscoll President International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers. Megan O'Sullivan, Director Belfer Centre for Science & International Affairs, Harvard University's Kennedy School. Kirsten Welker, 'Moderator, NBC News' 'Meet the Press'. Andrew Elliott, Director/Counsellor NI Bureau. John Hanley, AFLCIO – HIT, Director Flax Trust/America. Hon. Geraldine Byrne Nason, Ambassador of Ireland to the United States. Mike McCurry, former White House Press Secretary, Director Flax Trust/America. Sr Mary Turley, Trustee/Director Flax Trust.