

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

KATE BROWNING
County Legislator, 3rd District
Public Safety Committee, Chair



COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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The Gerry Tobin Irish Language School Celebrates 25 Years



(Pictured left to right: Jack Corr, Gearóid Ó Ceallaigh (Jerry Kelly), Lugh De Paor (Luke Powers), Legislator Kate Browning, Peigín Breathnach Murano (Peggy Walsh Murano), and Séamas Ó Neachtain (Jim Norton).

Babylon, NY – The Gerry Tobin Irish Language School celebrated its 25th anniversary on June 8, 2013. The school is a free, volunteer based, non-denominational school committed to furthering Irish as a living language. The school welcomes anyone with an interest in developing or improving their knowledge of Irish. Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley), who was born and raised in Belfast, Ireland, issued a proclamation to the school for its many years of dedication to preserving Irish heritage amongst Irish Americans on Long Island.

The School is named after Gerry Tobin, who came to this country from Limerick as a young man in the 1940s. Gerry had a tremendous love for the Irish language and Gaelic culture. He began teaching Irish in homes and halls in the Bay Shore and Babylon area in the early 1970s. In 1986, he brought his class to the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division Two's hall in Babylon, where he continued until his death in 1987. His dedication and joy in teaching the Irish language inspired his friends to carry on his work. They founded Scoil Gaeilge Ghearóid Tóibín in his memory in 1988, and several are active as teachers and organizers today.

“This is an amazing school committed to protecting Irish culture here in Suffolk County,” stated Legislator Browning. “Twenty-five years later they continue to keep alive the dream that Gerry Tobin made a reality. I wish the school many more years of success.”

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