9/11/13

Discussion focused around some current events, and how these can provide context for understanding contemporary Irish society & culture.

e.g. a store about a recent death of a Lithuanian man led to discussion about:

* Lithuania (Baltic)
  + Eastern Europe
  + Estonia (Baltic)
  + Latvia (Baltic)
  + Poland
  + Russia
  + Belarus
  + Baltic Sea
* County of Meath
  + Historically fifth province
  + Meath and West Meath

More discussion about immigration and cultural changes over time included comments on

* St. Patrick came around 432AD and started to convert Pagans
  + Clover signifies the Trinity
* Ireland was Christian and later Catholic
* Vikings before 1100 AD
  + Speaking Gaelic and Norwegian
* Anglo-Irish coming in around 1100
  + England
  + Normans (Normandy in northern France)
* Poland began to break free of Soviet Union in 1980s

An article on stolen rhino horns led to a discussion of:

* Ireland travelers group
  + Gypsy-like
* Garda/Gardai – Irish Republic Police
* PSNI – Northern Ireland Police

Other articles mentioned

* Old Bailey – center courthouse for England and Wales
* Junior Certification
* Irish Diaspora – people that leave the country
  + Prior to and during Potato Famine
    - US, Australia, Canada, New Zealand,  Dutch