



STAFF PHOTOS BY CARMINE GALASSO

Tara and Gene Callaghan at their Ridgewood store, which features all things Irish.

# Irish Eyes

By EUNNIE PARK  
STAFF WRITER

There's a lot more to Irish imports than shamrock pins and cable-knit sweaters. And while Tara and Gene Callaghan won't deny the charm of these classically Irish items, they also want you to see Irish Eyes' wide range of products that are far more subtle and contemporary.

"You don't have to be Italian to wear an Italian suit, and you don't have to be French to drink French wine," Tara says. "But somehow, there is this stigma attached to Irish products that you have to be Irish to appreciate it."



**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, to 8 p.m. Thursday.

**WHERE:** 1 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, 201-445-8585, celticpride.com.

Irish Eyes is a 2,000-square-foot shop in downtown Ridgewood that specializes in all things Irish — fashion, art, jewelry, pottery etc. The Callaghans bought the store in February 2007, after the previous owner of 18 years retired. Since taking over, the young couple have been introducing styles and artists that are more representative of modern Ireland.

The store's collection of contemporary items includes:

- Toggle coat sweater with removable hood by Fisherman Out of Ireland (\$200).
  - Newbridge Silverware luggage tag (\$20) and napkin rings (\$49).
  - Large mohair throw (\$170).
- But, of course, an Irish shop would not be very Irish without the traditional fare. The Callaghans admit that their classic items are still their bread and butter. Highlights include:
- Irish knit sweater: handmade (\$275 to \$300), machine-made (\$140).
  - Claddagh ring in silver (\$50) or diamond-studded (\$500 to \$700).
  - Celtic cross necklace in 10K gold (\$360).

Irish Eyes also has a corner devoted to treats from Ireland, such as Cadbury Crunchie chocolate bars (\$1.75) and the flavorful Bar-



Irish knit sweaters ranging from about \$140 to \$300 are for sale at the store, which the Callaghans took over last year.

ry's Tea (\$4 for 40 bags). There is also a wide range of items ideal for Celtic weddings, especially as groomsmen and bridesmaid gifts, as well as collectibles by Irish artists such as Philip Gray and pottery makers such as Belleek.

On Nov. 21 from 3 to 6 p.m., Irish Eyes will host a special Belleek signing. Maeve Cleary, a Belleek representative from Ireland, will be available to personalize your family name on the bottom of any Belleek piece purchased, including the limited edition Kilkenny Castle Vase (\$45). Call or visit the store to pre-order.

E-mail: parke@northjersey.com