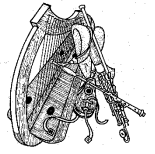




# he Shenanigans



## July (Iúil) 2019 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc.

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Darling Downs Irish Club

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**1. The great-grandfather** of famed ABC presenter, Kerry O'Brien, was born in Sixmilebridge in 1849 towards the end of the famine. The town had a population of 1 000 before the famine which dropped to 600 afterwards.

In a visit to Ireland, Kerry O'Brien saw a ditch across the road from the local cemetery where people had died, having crawled for miles in the hope that someone would bury them there instead of being left in a field somewhere.

An estimated 500 – 600 000 were evicted between 1846 and 1854, often illegally and accompanied by violence. Roofs were smashed or set on fire and doors knocked out to render the tenant houses inhabitable.

One Clare parish priest who was sent a brace of pheasants by a landlord as a gift sent them back with the message: "You got rid of your peasants to make room for your pheasants. I want none of your presents!"

### **2. Club Matters and Members' News and Stories:**

▪ **Heard at the June members' gathering:** Paddy, the electrician, got sacked from the U.S. prison service for not servicing the electric chair. He said that in his professional opinion, it was a death trap! (Apologies!!!)

▪ **The July Diary: Full Committee meeting:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm; **Members' night – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 8 pm give or take.** **Financial members qualify for one drinks voucher.**

▪ **Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes, Polkas etc. - AND songs – Traditional Irish Music sessions** at 7.00pm EVERY Tuesday in the Michael Collins Bar. On -lookers and supporters welcome. **Genuine traditional Irish tunes and songs** are played in the place where 'atmosphere is everything'.

▪ **June Committee Meeting 1)** new National Members approved: Nicole Fay, Rosin and Cormac Carey; **2)** Irish and Australian flags purchased for our tables at Club functions; **3)** our term deposit at Heritage has been increased and extended for another 6 months; **4)** renewal notices are due to go out – please pay then promptly; **5)** Bloomsday arrangements finalised; **6)** the August Ceilidh was discussed – a family occasion so keep the night free for the children – more details next month's newsletter; **7)** ideas to improve our members' nights – please bring ideas to the next Friday gathering; **8)** two requests – does any member have a connection to a cabinet maker who could help out with our honour board? – our proposed Rose entrant just didn't make the requirements, so we are looking for another possibility?

▪ **Last month's Bloomsday celebration**, was held on the balmy 16<sup>th</sup>. More than 50 James Joyce tragiics attended the reading at the James Joyce seat by Committee member Steve, and shared bits and pieces of this magnificent 20<sup>th</sup> century novel. This was followed by an entertaining luncheon at our hotel – more tables had to be set out!! Many thanks to Aileen for organising the questionnaire which was enjoyed by an enthusiastic group.

Thanks too to the Women in Harmony who sang songs which either appeared in the novel itself or had been sung by James Joyce himself – thank you Committee member, Marg, for setting this up. Member, Greg Lewis, provided an excellent address from which we all learned so much about this great work.

3. [WWW Sites:](#) The Kilkeconomics Festival in Kilkenny will run Nov. 7 – 10 this year. It brings together economic thinkers and comedians as a sarcastic take on the economic problems of 10 years ago. [www.kilkeconomics.com](http://www.kilkeconomics.com)

#### 4. [News from Ireland:](#)

- Electric car sales have risen by 542% since the start of the year. 1,129 registrations in Jan/Feb, up from 176 last year.

#### 5. [Bits and Pieces:](#)

##### ▪ **An Irish Epitaph:**

Here lies the body of Lady O’Looney  
Grand-niece to Edmund Burke.

Commonly called “the sublimo.”

She was bland, passionate and religious.

Also

She painted in water colours.

Also

She sent several articles to the Exhibition.

She was first cousin to Lady Jones.

And of such is the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

- **Quote from James Joyce:** “God spoke to you by so many voices but you would not hear.”

- A bodhran is an instrument which is best played with an open pen knife.

#### 6. [This month in Irish history.](#)

Bunaidh Conradh na Gaeilge I mí lúil 1893 agus d’fhás an eagrais go tapaídh, ag cur tús le hAthbheochan na Gaeilge. I mí lúil 1918 chuir Fear Ionad an Rí, an Tiarna French, cosc ar Chonradh na Gaeilge, Sinn Féin, Óglaigh na hÉireann agus Cumann na mBan.

*(The Gaelic League was established in the month of July 1893 and the organisation grew quickly and provided the beginning of the revival of the Irish language. In July 1918 the Lord Lieutenant – literally ‘the king’s first man or the viceroy’ – Lord French put a prohibition/restraint on the Gaelic League, Sinn Féin, the Irish Volunteers and the Women’s Council.)* Thanks to Neil Grayson for the translation.

#### 7. [‘Tings ‘Oirish:](#)

- **Who said this?** “The place that has really influenced my life most is Sligo.”

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

- **This month’s Irish Blessing:**

May you have food and raiment,

A soft pillow for your head.

May you be forty years in heaven

Before the devil knows you’re dead.

- **Irish wisdom:** I don’t like to think before I speak....I like to be just as surprised as everyone else about what I say.

- **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly comment:**

Every portrait that is painted with feeling is a portrait of the artist, not of the sitter.

- **W. B. Yeats’ poem:** “A woman Young and Old – A last Confession.”

What lively lad most pleased me

Of all that with me lay?

I answer that I gave my soul

And loved in misery,

But had great pleasure with the lad

That I loved bodily. (Cont’d)

- **This Month’s Limerick:**

There was a young lassie from Crosser,

Who in spiritual things was a messer.

When sent to the priest’

This lewd little beast,

Did her best to seduce her confessor.

#### 8. [Irish History: Colonists and Defenders.](#)

The second reason for peasant unrest was that a reforming minority emerged among the Ascendancy, influenced by the Liberal philosophies of the European Enlightenment. Thirdly, the British Government increasingly wished to see an end to the penal laws because it needed Irish recruits for the American War of independence, for India, and later for the French Revolutionary wars. (Continued.)

#### 9. [Words from President, Tomas.](#)

Thank you for those who attended the massive June members night and to those who contributed to the discussion on making the location and event more inclusive and successful. We do appreciate it and hopefully you’ll feel inclined to invite new people along to join our group.

*Tomas*

(Answer: W.B. Yeats..)