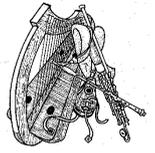




The Shenanigans



June (Meitheamh) 2020 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc.

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1 James Joyce was born in Rathgar, Dublin, to a middle-class Catholic family. He was a bright student at school, and a literary geek at university. He actually began studies in medicine, but the literary call was too strong.

On June 16 1904, he met Nora Barnacle, a runaway Galway girl with a troubled background, and promptly fell in love.

After various run-ins with publishers, he abandoned Dublin, eloping with Nora, to return to the city of his birth only four times. On one occasion in 1909, he tried to launch Dublin's first cinema.

They spent the next ten years in Trieste, Italy. They had two children, George and Lucia.

With the onset of WW1, they moved to Zurich where he began work on his famous work, "Ulysses", which he had enormous trouble publishing. With the assistance of an American living in Paris, Sylvia Beach, it was finally published in 1922.

He died in Zurich on January 13th, 1941, aged just 58, largely from problems associated with a mis-spent youth. He is buried with Nora and George in Fluntern Cemetery in Zurich, watched over by a statue of himself.

2. Club Matters and Members' News and Stories:

Please note that, apart from the Bloomsday gathering, other activities are on "VIRUS" hold until further notice. (See below.)

▪ **Heard at a members' gathering:**

Sean phoned the maternity ward at the hospital.

"Quick!" he said. "Send an ambulance, my wife is goin' to have a baby!"

"Tell me. Is this her first baby?"

"No. This is her husband, Sean, speakin'."

▪ **The June Diary: Full Committee meeting:** Thursday 11th, 7.00pm; **Members' night** – Friday 26th from 5 – 8 pm give or take. Financial members qualify for one drinks voucher. (NO)

▪ **Traditional Irish Music sessions** at 7.00pm **EACH** Tuesday in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome. **(NO)**

▪ **May Committee Meeting: 1)** quotes for floor repairs and water leaks approved..a little over \$11 000; **2)** membership – 134 – no fee increase when we get GST approval; **3)** Bloomsday – see below; **4)** Craig has orders for 14 members' badges – ordering at beginning of June so place your orders; **5)** Carnival of Flowers officers pleased with our Float design should the Carnival go ahead.

▪ **DON'T forget our Annual Celebration of Bloomsday – the day on which we gather in Federation Park to listen to a short reading from "Ulysses", Sunday 16th at noon - READING AT THE FEDERATION PARK SEAT WILL GO AHEAD AS PLANNED – no lunch at the hotel to follow however.**

jamesjoyce.ie

3. WWW Sites: *The Monaghan War of Independence files* are statements that were collected to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Irish Free State. Monaghan.ie/museum/monaghan-war-of-independence-files/

4. News from Ireland:

- Belleek Pottery have introduced a new 'hands on' experience at their Visitor Centre in Belleek, Co. Fermanagh for 2020.
- There is a huge aircraft leasing business based in Ireland, employing more than 5 000 people, attracted by helpful finance and tax incentives.

5. Bits and Pieces:

An Irish Epitaph – (Waterford)

Here lies the body of Anthony Reynolds, who, although a miller, was an honest man.

- **Quote from James Joyce:** "Nations have their ego, just like individuals."

- What do you call a bodhran player with a pager? A. An optimist!

- **Irish heroines – lesser known: Agnes Clerke** (1842 – 1907): Born in Skibbereen, Agnes fell in love with the stars when she first saw them as a child through her father's telescope. Her book, *A Popular history of Astronomy during the Nineteenth Century*, is still regarded as one of the seminal texts. She won many awards, and in 1981, NASA named a crater on the moon, close to where the Apollo 12 landed in her honour.

- **Grace after meals:**

If the soup had been as warm as the claret..
If the claret had been as old as the chicken...
If the chicken had been as fat as the host..
It would have been a grand meal.

6. 'Tings 'Oirish':

- **Who said this?** "The Irish don't know what they want, and are prepared to fight to the death to get it."

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

- **This month's Irish Blessing:**

Power of raven be yours.
Power of eagle be yours.
Power of the *Fianna*.

- **Irish wisdom:** Borrowed time brings no interest.

- **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly comment:** Deceiving others. That is what the world calls a romance.

- **W. B. Yeats' poem:** "What Then?"

His chosen comrades thought at school
He must grow a famous man;
He thought the same and lived by rule,
All his twenties crammed with toil;
'What then?' sang Plato's ghost. 'What then?'
(Cont'd.)

- **This Month's Limerick:**

A bull who had love in his eye
Put his head on the fence with a sigh.
For a cow in the throng
He burst into song.
"No udder love have I."

7. Irish History: The Gathering Storm:

Tone is the father of Irish Republicanism. He, more than anyone, turned the United Irishmen from a radical pressure group into a full - blown republican conspiracy. He was an out-and-out separatist who sought, as he wrote "to substitute the common name of Irishman in place of the denominations of Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter. "A strange mixture of optimist, opportunist, idealist and innocent, **Wolfe Tone** is one of the most attractive characters in Irish history. (Cont'd.)

8. Words from President, Tomas.

Hello All,

As society returns to normal, we will be able to start our club activities again. Still no sign of sanctioned club meetings but no doubt I will see some of you at the hotel in the near future. The keen observers amongst you will notice the new bar tops in the Michael Collins bar and we have replaced a lot of flooring and bearers in the down time; nearly \$30,000 worth. The old building, The Governor Blackall, needs a lot of tender loving care.

Tomas

(Answer: Eng. Lawyer 1895-1967.)

