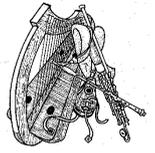




# he Shenanigans



## March (Márta) 2020 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc.

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Darling Downs Irish Club

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**1. The Irish Tricolour** – the French Revolution (1789) had just taken place when young Irelander, Thomas Francis Meagher visited Paris to get some revolutionary tips. He was inspired by the French red, white and blue tricolour. Upon his return, he unfurled what was to become the Irish national flag – vertical green, white and orange - **green** for Catholics, **orange** representing Protestants, and **white** the Peace between them.

Meagher's father had been born a 'newfy' (Newfoundlander) whose flag was green, white and pink. Thanks be to Jaysus, pink wasn't Thomas' favourite colour!

### **La Feile Padraig Shona Dhuit.** **(Happy St. Patrick's Day.)**

St Patrick was a gentleman  
Who through strategy and stealth  
Drove all the snakes from Ireland.  
Here's a toasting to his health;  
But not too many toasting  
Lest you lose yourself and then  
Forget the good St Patrick  
And see all those snakes again.

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

#### ▪ **Heard at the February members' gathering:**

Irish lass customer: "Could I be trying on that dress in the window?"

Shopkeeper: "I'd prefer that you use the dressing room."

▪ **The March Diary: Full Committee meeting:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm; **Members' night – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 8.00pm give or take.** **Financial members qualify for one drinks voucher:**

▪ **Traditional Irish Music sessions** at 7.00pm on EACH Tuesday in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome. **Genuine traditional Irish tunes are played in the place where 'atmosphere is everything'.**

▪ **And don't forget our St. Patrick's Day march on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> beginning from the hotel at 10.30. See flyer.**

▪ Committee members, Aileen, Mary and Margaret did another excellent job in organising the St Brigid's day luncheon. Accolades all round.

▪ **February Committee Meeting:** 1) the floor in the James Coburn Bar - a work in progress, almost completed; 2) 3 new national members approved – Michael Byrne, Terry Dunn and Sandra Simpson; 3) almost half the Club membership attended the January members' night – around 50 in all – well done; 4) the new logo should be appearing on the n'letter; 5) thanks to club member Jerry Hunt for his donation of a United Irishmen flag used in the rebellion of 1798; 6) Club members' survey to go out as widely as possible; 7) St Pat's Day Parade details and permits sorted; 7) an extraordinary meeting for the committee was called to discuss the new lease.

Quite a few Club members enjoyed Murphy's Pigs at the Empire last month.

### 3. [WWW Sites:](#)

*Books Ireland* is becoming fully digital in 2020. All new Irish-published titles and events will be featured.

[www.bookirelandmagazine.com](http://www.bookirelandmagazine.com)

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

- Brexit seems to remain a bit of a problem for Britain at the moment. One member suggested they should simply give the North back to the Republic! Problem solved!!!
- The VAT tax has increased in Ireland this year from 9% to 13.5%
- Looks like Sinn Fein (**We Ourselves**) will form a coalition government after the recent elections. (Election 08/02/2020)

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

#### ▪ **An Irish Epitaph:**

Here lies John Higley,

Whose mother and father were drowned in their passage from America. Had they both lived, they would have been buried here.

- **Quote from James Joyce:** “A nation is the same people living in the same place.”
- The Vikings founded Dublin, Ireland’s capital – for which Cork people will never forgive them!!
- **Irish Heroines – lesser known: Margaret Ann Bulkley**, alias James Barry (1789 – 1865). A Cork woman, who held the second highest medical office in the British army by pretending to be a man called Dr. James Barry. Bulkley became Barry at 20 as a way of being accepted by the medical school in Edinburgh University. Barry’s subsequent progress through the British army was impressive. She brought about improvements to public health, sanitation and nutrition everywhere she was posted. Barry’s secret was revealed after her death, when her instructions that the body be buried without inspection were ignored.

### 6. [Tings ‘Oirish’:](#)

- **Who said this?** “When I told the people of Northern Ireland that I was an atheist, a woman in the audience stood up and said, “Yes, but is it the Catholic God or Protestant God in whom you don’t believe?”

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

#### ▪ **This month’s Irish Blessing:**

Health and long life to you.

Land without rent to you.

A child every year to you.

And if you can’t go to heaven,

At least may you die in Ireland

#### ▪ **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly**

**comment:** The only thing to do with good advice is to pass it on. It is never of any use to oneself.

**W. B. Yeats’ poem:** “An acre of Grass.”

My temptation is quiet

Here at life’s end

Neither loose imagination,

Nor the mill of the mind

Consuming its tag and bone,

Can make the truth known.

(Cont’d.)

#### ▪ **This Month’s Limerick:**

The Limerick packs laughs anatomical  
Into space that is quite economical.

But the good ones I’ve seen

So seldom are clean

And the clean ones so seldom are comical.

### 7. [Irish History: The Gathering Storm:](#)

Ever since 1691, there had been a persistent undercurrent among the Catholic disposed which longed for a Stuart restoration. It was a constant feature of Irish-language poetry in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. That hope died in 1745, but the dream of foreign enemy of England which could deliver Irish Catholics from their bondage did not. In the 1790’s it focused anew on revolutionary France.

(Cont’d.)

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

Thank you to Giti House for her presentation at the St Brigids luncheon. The day was an absolute success. Your committee has been hard at work on our new club rooms and also preparing for the St Patricks Day parade which promises to be the safest ever as we have to buy 27 police man-hours of security. The whiskey night is on this Friday, so don’t forget to contact the hotel if you wish to sample some of Mr Jameson’s finest tipples.

*Tomas*

(Answer: Quentin Crisp – English writer 1908-1930.)



Saint Patrick