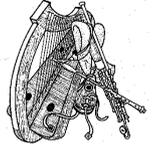




# the Shenanigans



## May (Bealtaine) 2019 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc.

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Darling Downs Irish Club

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**1. Warwick Orange Lodge**, Pioneer No. 11, was established early in 1874 and in July commemorated the 1690 Battle of the Boyne. By 1914, the Home Rule crisis in Ulster rendered public display of the green harp flag intolerable to the Orange Order. In June, their members on the Warwick Municipal Council moved to terminate the practice of flying ethnic flags on anniversary days. On the casting vote of the Mayor, and in the face of opposition from Irish Catholic representatives, the Council banned all flags from the Town Hall, apart from the Union Jack and the Australian flag. On Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, King George V gave assent to Home Rule. This prompted a counter-demonstration to the Council's ruling. On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, Catholic Schools suspended classes; students donned Irish colours and paraded through the streets. Some Hibernians refrained from work. A number, including blacksmith John McEniery, entered the Town Hall and hoisted a green harp flag from its tower, thus flouting the ban. A Council employee was instructed to remove the flag. Hibernians in the street below rushed into the Hall, and after a scuffle on the staircase, retrieved the flag and re-hoisted it. The mayor rang the police, but they declined to act. Hibernians guarded the tower steps until nightfall, when the flag was paraded through the streets to the stirring tune of "God Save Ireland". In December 1914, the Council rescinded the ban.

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

- **Heard at the April members' gathering:** Colleen dropped a Euro coin intending it to go into the blind man's hat on the footpath. However she missed the hat and as quick as a flash he scooped it up himself. "You're not blind, she said. "No I'm not," replied Paddy. "It's Murphy who's blind. I'm just filling in for him while he goes to the pictures."
- **The May Diary: Full Committee meeting:** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm; **Members' night – Friday 31st from 5 – 8 pm give or take. Financial members qualify for one drinks voucher:**
- **Traditional Irish Music sessions** at 7.00pm **EACH** Tuesday in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome.
- **Slow music** suspended for the time being.
- **For all those James Joyce fans out there, keep Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of NEXT month free for our annual Bloomsday Luncheon and discussion.**
- **April Committee Meeting:** **1)** a number of accounts passed for payment including public liability; **2)** bank balance steadily growing and in a healthy state; **3)** James Joyce caps/hats on sale at members' night and on Bloomsday; **4)** name badges for new Committee members purchased; **5)** our DDIC pamphlet to be sent out with welcome letter to new members; **6)** new national members for approval – Madeline and Ray Taylor, and Beth and Michael Ahearn; **7)** Book of Kells prints to be placed in Celtic Bar; **8)** honour board – on-going; **9)** new Club shirts can be ordered on members' night; **10)** guest speaker for Annual Dinner October 2019 approved; **11)** small flags for dinner/function tables to be purchased.

**3. WWW Sites:** Interested in an Atlantic trip on your next visit to Ireland? Off the west coast of Cork you can see basking sharks, mink whales and dolphins: [www.aquaventures.ie](http://www.aquaventures.ie)

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

- In August Pope Francis is going to visit Dublin for two days, the first Papal visit to Ireland in almost forty years.
- Debts raked up by TDs and Senators in unpaid tabs in the Dáil bar and restaurant will be automatically deducted from their salary from mid-June. (Wonder what our mob do?)
- European Council President, Donald Tusk, has warned there will be no withdrawal agreement and no transition deal unless the problem of the border between Ireland and the U.K. is solved. “The UK’s decision on Brexit has caused the problem and the UK will have to solve it.”

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

##### ▪ **An Irish Epitaph:**

O! cruel death, how could you be so unkind  
To take him before, and leave me behind;  
You should have taken both of us if either,  
Which would have been more pleasant to the  
survivor.

- **Quote from James Joyce:** “Think you’re escaping and run into yourself. Longest way round is the shortest way home.”
- How can you tell when a bodhran player is knocking on your door? A. The knocking gets faster and louder!
- Although Easter has been and gone, it is of interest to note that Handel’s *Messiah* was first performed at the Musick Hall in Dublin on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1742. Ladies were asked to attend ‘without hoops’, and men without ‘swords’ – to make more room in the hall! An extra couple of hundred fitted in.

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

Easter Rising executions: on 3<sup>rd</sup> – Thomas Clarke, Thomas MacDonagh, Padraig Pearse; on 4<sup>th</sup> – Joseph Plunkett, Michael O’Hanrahan, Willie Pearse, Edward Daly; on 5<sup>th</sup> – John MacBride; on 8<sup>th</sup> – Con Colbert, Michael Mallin, Sean Heuston, Eamonn Ceannt; on 9<sup>th</sup> – Thomas Kent (executed in Cork); 12<sup>th</sup> – Sean MacDiamada, James Connelly.

##### 7. [‘Tings ‘Oirish:](#)

- **Who said this?** “The wind is our confederate,  
The night has left her door ajar,  
We meet beyond earth’s barred gate,  
Where all the world’s wild rebels are.”  
(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)
- **This month’s Irish Blessing:**  
May you be the grandfather of an Archbishop.
  - **Irish wisdom:** It doesn’t matter how big your house is, how much money you have, or that you wear expensive clothes. Our graves will still be the same size! Stay humble.

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

**comment:** Man (sic) is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth.

- **W. B. Yeats’ poem:** “September 1913.”  
Was it for this the wild geese spread  
The grey wing upon every tide;  
For this that all that blood was shed,  
For this Edward Fitzgerald died,

And Robert Emmet and Wolf Tone,  
All that delirium of the brave?  
Romantic Ireland’s gone,  
It’s with O’Leary in the grave. (Cont’d.)

##### ▪ **This Month’s Limerick:**

A lassie from this side of Rathmore  
Was wed to one helluva bore.  
A dopey old farmer  
Too lazy to warm her.  
All he did every night was just snore.

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

The Castle was firmly in the hands of an Ascendancy group which was both conservative and inflexible. John Fitzgibbon, who was Lord Chancellor of Ireland from 1789 until his death in 1802, was probably its key figure. He was coldly intelligent, able and every inch a realist. He kept in mind, above all else, the numerical weakness of the Ascendancy and drew the conclusion that liberal concessions – especially to Catholics – could only lead to ruin. (Continued.)

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

Hello All,

I went down to Glen Innes, but alas at 9am it was bucketing down so I headed home for another event that evening, only to be informed the parade was delayed and went ahead later. It was, and we were, a success! So thank you to members Aileen, Michael, Margaret and Tricia (as I understand). We have the James Joyce lunch coming up and we have a great speaker. Our Committee has been busy promoting this to literary clubs in Toowoomba. No good to me as I gave up half way through the last brochure I tried, but it has my unconditional support with some caveats. Finally watch this space for club improvements to the front of the Celtic bar and Rose of Tralee updates.

*Tomas*

(Answer: Eva Gore Booth to her sister Constance Markievicz in an English prison.)