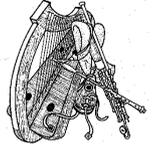




# the Shenanigans



## May (Bealtaine) 2020 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc.

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Darling Downs Irish Club

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**1. Sinn Féin** (We Ourselves), the political wing of the I.R.A., had changed fortunes in the general elections in the Republic back in February. A left - wing party, it won 24.5 % of the primary vote, more than any other party. Its success is largely put down to its commitment to address housing and health care costs. Former leader, Gerry Adams, was replaced two years ago by Mary Lou McDonald. Gerry had led the party for thirty-five years. McDonald is calling for a referendum on reunification within five years, a move probably opposed by Boris Johnson. However, with Brexit still in the melting pot, we need to 'watch this space'! Before the election, both major parties, Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil ruled out forming a coalition with Sinn Féin. (not sure what the current position is.)

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

▪ **Heard at the April members' gathering:** "I'm awarding your wife thirty shillings a week maintenance," says the judge to Paddy. "God bless you, your honour, an' I'll try to send her a few shillings myself," replied Paddy.

▪ **The May Diary: Full Committee meeting:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm; **Members' night – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **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. IT is a high PROBABILITY that all the above will be cancelled.**
- **April Committee Meeting – held on-line:** **1)** rent from the hotel, now on hold; **2)** Carnival of Flowers float from the Club progressed; **3)** term deposit \$'s placed into the on-line account; **4)** invoices passed for payment included \$2,043 to the QPS for their **protection** at the St Pat's day parade – this matter to be taken further!!; **5)** 134 members on the books – Michael Doburn RIP a past Club secretary; **6)** membership payments on-hold until the end of the year; **7)** lease renewal on-going. Club will probably have to register for GST; **8)** future events may all be cancelled – Bloomsday, Carnival of Flowers, Annual Dinner; **9)** 26 members have completed the survey – please do so if you haven't so far; **10)** contact to be made to members to see if all are OK.

**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 T.D.'s 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 U.K.’s decision on Brexit has caused the problem and the U.K. will have to solve it.”

### 5. Bits and Pieces:

▪ **An Irish Epitaph:** (Belfast)

Beneath this stone lies Katherine my wife.  
In death my comfort, my plague through life.  
Oh liberty! But soft I must not boast  
She’ll haunt me else, by jingo, with her ghost!

▪ **Quote from James Joyce:** “It is a symbol of Irish art. The cracked looking-glass of a servant.”

▪ 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:

▪ **Irish Heroines – lesser known: Dorothy Stopford Price** (1890 - 1954). The ‘rebel’ doctor who was responsible for introducing the BCG vaccination to Ireland. In the early 1920’s, she was a dispensary doctor in West Cork, where she offered first-aid classes to the IRA, and treated those hurt during the War of Independence and the Civil War. In the 1930’s as TB swept the country she, began importing and testing the BCG vaccine, campaigning for a nation - wide programme. This brought her into conflict with Catholic Primate who wanted healthcare to remain under control of the Catholic Church!! Appointed head of the national vaccination programme in 1949, she suffered a stroke in 1950.

### 7. ‘Tings ‘Oirish:

▪ **Who said this?** “Ireland, thou friend of my country, in my country’s most friendless days, much injured, much enduring land, accept this poor tribute from one who esteems thy worth, and mourns thy desolation.”

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

▪ **This month’s Irish Blessing:** May you live to be a hundred years, with one extra year to repent.

▪ **Irish wisdom:** What you don’t have, you can’t miss.

▪ **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly comment:** Conversation about the weather is the last refuge of the unimaginative. (Guilty of a lot of that myself!!)

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

A mind Michael Angelo knew

That can pierce the clouds,

Or inspired by frenzy

Shake the dead in their shrouds;

Forgotten else by mankind,

An old man’s eagle mind.

(Concl’d.)

▪ **This Month’s Limerick:**

A poet who wrote a great plot,

In society was given a slot.

But when told, “Terrific,

You’re really prolific.”

Said, “Oh no. I just write a lot.”

8. Irish History: In 1791, a group of dissenters founded the Society of United Irishmen in Belfast. A Dublin society was founded shortly after. It was a radical pressure group for parliamentary reform. Many of its original objectives – less religious discrimination and wider manhood suffrage – were conceded in the Catholic Relief Act of 1793, but by then, some of its leaders had been further radicalised by the continuing pressure of revolutionary events in France. These radicals sought to make Ireland a Republic and break connection with England. The most important person in this category was a young disaffected Protestant lawyer from Dublin: **Theobald Wolfe Tone.** (Cont’d.)

### 9. Words from President, Tomas.

Hello Folks,

No doubt you have seen my lengthy update that was sent out. I also posted a video on our Facebook group and we might have a go at live streaming our committee meeting for those of you who have a genuine interest or nothing better to do.

We are spending about \$20,000 on building repairs at the moment and then we will start on the club rooms hopefully this month.

**Tomas**

(Answer: George Washington 1732 - 1799)