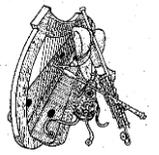




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December 20-12 Newsletter of the

The Darling Downs Irish Club Inc

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1. Christmas greetings from all members of your Committee.

Nollaig shonasach agus athbhliain ahuaimhneach

(Wishing you peace and happiness for Christmas and the New Year.)

May we all have a happy and restful time with family gathered around, and may we all gather again safely at our club members' night in January.

2. Club Matters & Members' News & Stories.

- Heard at the November members' night:

Gallagher opened the morning paper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend, Finney. "Did you see the paper?" asked Gallagher. "They say I died!" "Yes, I saw it," replied Finney. "And where would you be callin' from?"

- **The December diary: Full Committee –Thurs. 13th, 7.00pm; Members' night – NO MEMBERS" NIGHT THIS MONTH. The next gathering of members will be on Friday 25th January 2013: Music sessions at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 4th and 18th at 7 p.m. in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers welcome.**

Members please reserve Sunday 9th December for the Club's Annual Christmas Party. The craic begins at 4 pm, with music, food and fun. Children 12 years and under will receive a gift from Santa.

Please forward names, ages and the gender of children attending to Club Secretary, Ian via the phone number or e-mail address at the top of this newsletter.

For catering purposes please hand in numbers of adults attending as well.

- The planning committee has been reformed and had a meeting on 29th of last month. A lot of discussion went on re the repairs to the floor in the Michael Collins Bar. A recommendation was to go to the full Committee. Some initial discussion also around the members' area being considered at the hotel.
 - News from the September Committee Meeting) Young Apexian of the year, Sarah-Jane McDonald will be our guest speaker at the St. Brigid's Day luncheon on Sunday 3rd February next year – mark it on your diary – always an enjoyable time; 2) Ray Henry and Phil Haxen were accepted as National Members – Ray is keen to teach the Gaelic language to anyone interested, whilst Phil is a member of the Tuesday night's music group;

3) details of the Christmas Party were finalised – multiple ham raffle should be a real winner. Hope you have sent in those children's names with adult members attending – look forward to seeing as many as possible there. In addition we may well be surprised by a real live Irish Santa this year! Live music too.

4) We are looking for an entrant in the Rose of Tralee competition for 2013. Any suggestions?? Please contact secretary, Ian, as per the top of the newsletter: 5) the 2013 calendar was presented for final approval: 6) the Committee approved a move to call for quotes for the repair of the floor in the Michael Collins Bar. There was some on-going discussion about the possibility of developing a members' space at the hotel.

3. WWW Sites:

www.militaryarchives.ie lists valuable witness statements, rare photographs, as well as voice recordings covering the years 1913 – 1921.

4. News from Ireland:

The village of Abbeyshrule Co. Longford has been announced as the winner of the SuperValue Tidy Towns Award for 2012. Abbeyshrule also claimed the award for Ireland's Tidiest Village. Clonakilty, Co. Cork, was awarded Ireland's Tidiest Small Town. Westport, Co. Mayo, received the award of Ireland's Tidiest Large Town, and Ennis, Co. Clare, was named Ireland's Tidiest Large Urban Centre.

5. Know your rule:

Item 18 – Meetings of the Management Committee: 15) If a quorum is not present within thirty (30) minutes after the time fixed for a Management Committee meeting called other than on the request of committee members, the meeting is to be adjourned to – (a) the same day, time and place in the next week; or (b) a day, time and place decided by the committee.

6. 'Tings 'Oirish.

- Who said this? "It was a bold man who first swallowed an oyster. ." (The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

- This month's Irish Blessing:

May the luck of the Irish possess you.
May the devil fly off with all your worries.
And may God bless you forever and ever.

- Irish wisdom:

A Christmas candle is a lovely thing;
It makes no noise at all.
But softly gives itself away,
While quite unselfish, it grows small.

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

Time is a waste of money.

- Another W. B. Yeats' poem: "Beautiful Lofty Things."
– an extract:

Beautiful lofty things: O'Leary's lofty head;
My father upon the Abbey stage, before him a
raging crowd:
'This Land of Saints,' and then the applause died
out,
'Of plaster Saints'; his beautiful mischievous
head thrown back.

- This Month's Limerick:

I once took our vicar to tea;
It was just as I thought it would be;
His rumblings abdominal
Were simply phenomenal
And everyone thought it was me.

7. A bit of Irish History (Geraldine Ireland) – continued:

The FitzGerald of Kildare were enormously rich and well connected, related by birth and by marriage to a huge network of Anglo-Norman and Gaelic families alike. The rule of Gearoid Mor – the Great Earl – was a high-water mark of Anglo-Norman magnate power in Ireland. The central administration, far away over the water in London, had not the resources or the military means or the will to enforce direct rule. What was unusual about the Great Earl was not his position but the all-embracing extent of his power.

8. Words from President Derm:

Another year nearly gone; I look forward to catching up with you all next Sunday at our Christmas party! Please ensure you have let us know the names, gender & age of children you are bringing so Santa has the correct presents, it's no fun seeing children disappointed!
When you own a building over 100 years old there is always something to spend money on. Now it's the floors in the kitchen and bar areas where parts are starting to rot. Our architect is getting quotes from contractors for necessary repairs.

Our publicans Cameron & Janita have redecorated the old girl during the year and she really looks good; well done!

Thanks to the Committees (old & new) for their work during the year.

Merry Christmas to you & your family from Lyn & I.

Diarmuid Guerin



(Answer – Jonathan Swift.)