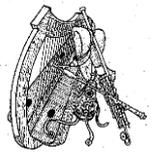




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February 20-13 Newsletter of the

The Darling Downs Irish Club Inc

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1. Anyone who has visited Ireland's oldest licensed establishment in Dublin's Bridge Street, will have experienced something of the extraordinary atmosphere of this place. **The Brazen Head** may in fact, be not only Ireland's but Europe's oldest pub.

It is sometimes said, "Sure, they were serving drinks in here long before a license was needed to do so," such requirement not coming into place until 1635.

One interesting but unreliable story about the name of the pub goes that it was named after a red headed girl who, while trying to get a better view of the siege of Limerick, lost her head to a Williamite army's cannon.

2. Club Matters & Members' News & Stories.

- Heard at the January members' night: A bloke walks into a bar in Dublin with a large package under his arm. The barman says, "What have you got there?" The Irishman replies, "6 pounds of Semtex." "Thanks be to God," says the barman, "I thought it was a bodhran." (Apologies to all bodhran playing members!!)

- **The February diary: Full Committee – Thurs. 14th, 7.00pm; Members' night Friday 22nd – remember that a free drink voucher be**

given to all financial members – we gather between 5 and 8 pm. Music sessions at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 5th and 19th at 7 p.m. in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers welcome.

- A grand time was had by one and all who attended the St. Brigid's Day luncheon held at the beginning of the month. There was a communication breakdown with our guest speaker resulting in her non-attendance. However with a bit of improvisation & a toast to St Brigid all was well.
- **The planning committee** met twice last month, much discussion around the quotes for the repair of the floor in the Michael Collins bar. Other matters discussed were the completion of the roofing project (a possible false roof to cover the one remaining leaking area), and repairs to the kitchen floor.
 - **January Committee Meeting** 1) An application for national membership received from Brian Doyle was approved – we look forward to seeing Brian at any of our Club functions; 2) Max is getting membership lists up to date; 3) Much discussion centred around work proposed for the Michael Collins Bar floor. In the interests of expediency, approval was given for the planning sub-committee to accept a tender when it next meets, which was to be before the next full Committee meeting; 4) Final work to completely waterproof the building's roof was discussed; 5) Arrangements for the St. Brigid's day luncheon and St. Patrick's Day parade were also discussed.

3. WWW Sites:

Travelling to Ireland? Check the site www.hotelscomparison.com for availability and comparative prices.

4. News from Ireland:

The year 2013 will be a spectacular, year - long celebration of Ireland and all things Irish. Throughout 2013, the Irish will open their arms, inviting friends and family from around the world to visit for what promises to be an incredible year. The reason? Everyone is joining together to assist in extracting the country from the lengthy recession.

5. Know your rule:

Item 18 – Meetings of the Management Committee: 16) If, at the time of the adjourned meeting in subsection (15), a quorum is not present within thirty (30) minutes after the time fixed for the meeting, the meeting lapses.

6. 'Tings 'Oirish.

• **Who said this?** “History is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake.” (The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

▪ **This month's Irish Blessing:**

May your grass always be green;
May your skies always be blue;
May God bless the Irish;
And may God bless you.

▪ **Irish wisdom:**

St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time – a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic.

(Written for a northern hemisphere audience, no doubt – ed.)

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

Greek dress was in its essence ainartistic. Nothing should reveal the body but the body..

▪ Another **W. B. Yeats' poem:** “Beautiful Lofty Things.” – an extract:

Standish O'Grady supporting himself between the tables

Speaking to a drunken audience high nonsensical words;

Augusta Gregory seated at her great ormolu table,
Her eighteenth winter approaching: “Yesterday he threatened my life.

I told him that nightly from six to seven I sat at this table,

The blinds drawn up”; Maud Gonne at Howth station waiting a train,

Pallas Athene in that straight back and arrogant head:

All the Olympians; a thing never known again.

▪ **This Month's Limerick:**

A young lassie from sweet Ballybunion
Whose kisses were sweeter than honey.

The Irishmen galore

Would line up at her door

All willing to pay her some money.

7. A bit of Irish History (Geraldine Ireland)

– continued:

The Great Earl was ruthless in his determination to ensure the undiluted supremacy of the house of Kildare and in this he was completely successful. Even the return of the Lancastrians in 1485 (the battle of Bosworth field – ed) in the shape of Henry Tudor (VII), failed to shake the Great Earl's position. The king did manage to dismiss Kildare briefly in the 1490's, replacing him with an Englishman, Sir Edward Poynings, the author of the celebrated 'Poyning's Law of 1494' which made acts of the Irish Parliament subject to English approval – a provision which was less important at the time than it was to become later.

8. Words from President Derm:

Thanks to those members who attended our last member's evening, what a great roll up! It was good to see so many members having a good time.

Our St Brigid's Lunch was reasonably well attended and all of us there seemed to enjoy themselves.

Work is starting on replacing the bar flooring in the next couple of weeks, after work is completed we'll start on the kitchen floor! The new roof kept the recent heavy rain at bay, which was really good news.

Diarmuid Guerin (President)

