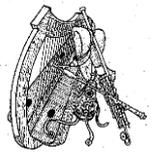




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July 20-12 Newsletter of the

The Darling Downs Irish Club Inc

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**1. A New Club Event** will take place this month on **Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup>**. This will take the form of a buy-your-own lunch, followed by the showing of one of the more famous films depicting some important Historical events in life of the Irish people. This may be followed by a more light hearted viewing, depending upon availability. Your Committee urges you to come along and attend this new event in the life of our club – it promises to be a most thought/ discussion provoking occasion. See flyer for full details.

### 2. Club Matters & Members' News & Stories.

▪ Heard at the June members' gathering: Mick lay dying in his bed. While suffering the agonies of impending death, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favourite scones wafting up the stairs. Gathering his remaining strength, he lifted himself from the bed, slowly made his way out of the bedroom, down the stairs and into the kitchen where he saw a mountain of scones. "God bless Mary," he thought." What a wonderful wife to cook these for me in my last hours."

As his aged, withered and trembling hand reached out for one last culinary delight, it was whacked by a wooden spoon. "Bugger off," Mary said. "They're for the funeral."

▪ **The July diary: Full Committee** – Thurs. 12<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm; **Film Day** – **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> around noon**; **Members' night** – **Friday 27<sup>th</sup>**

**between 5 & 8 pm** – remember that **drinks vouchers** will be handed out on the night to financial members; **Music sessions** at 7 p.m. on Tuesday **3rd** and 17th at 7 p.m. in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers welcome.

*For your diary - the Club's Annual Dinner - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August. Come along and make a grand night of it.*

▪ **The planning committee:** Celtic art work in the Celtic Bar continues – waiting on Cameron to organise the painter - no change as at time of writing. (This sub-committee still in hibernation until funds build up for the next project – probably toilets upgrade.)

▪ News from the **June Committee Meeting:** **1)**New club shirts – a few still available - \$45 – looking **very** smart and quite popular; **2)** repairs to the flooring in the Michael Collins Bar to be investigated; **3)** renewal forms need changes only entered on them before returning; **4)** Celtic Bar art work came up for some discussion; **5)** Bloomsday celebrations were fine - tuned; **6)** the History sub-committee would like any information to extend what has already been achieved – Tomas is co-ordinating this; **7)** Next month's film activity was discussed – see flyer for more information.

▪ Last month, once again our Club's Bloomsday celebration with readings, luncheon, and talk, drew a devoted crowd who celebrated the greatest novel of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in grand style – in fact the biggest crowd ever since we began these celebrations some years ago. Special thanks to Aileen for providing an excellent overview of "Ulysses", this most daunting of novels, and to Fran who continues to organise these functions for us all.

This is truly one of the little gems of our Club's activities for the year.

### 3. WWW Sites:

The Dublin fire Brigade, founded in 1862, celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. It is the only one in Ireland where all members are fully trained paramedics – [www.dublinfirebrigade150.ie](http://www.dublinfirebrigade150.ie)

4. News from Ireland: A new austerity tax, the household tax of a flat rate \$133 per household, was intended as a forerunner to a comprehensive property tax to be implemented next year.

An estimated 1.6 million homeowners failed to pay the tax by the March 31 deadline. (Do I detect the spirit of Peter Lawler somewhere here?? – ed.)

There have been 5 austerity budgets in 4 years to help overcome the economic problems and it would seem the Irish have had just about enough! Not sure how many will end up in court.

5. Know your rule: Item 18 – Meetings of the Management Committee: 10) The secretary must give each Management Committee member at least 14 day's notice of a special meeting of the Committee.

### 6. 'Tings 'Oirish.

• Who said this? "Whatever you say, say nothing." (The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

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

Here's to the wings of love,  
May they never molt a feather,  
Till your little shoes and my big boots are under the bed together.

#### ▪ **Irish wisdom:**

Always remember to forget the troubles that passed away. But never forget the blessings that come each day.

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

Women are never disarmed by compliments. Men always are. That is the difference between the sexes.

#### ▪ **Another W. B. Yeats' poem:** "The Circus Animals' Desertion."

I sought a theme and sought for it in vain,  
I sought it daily for six weeks or so.  
Maybe at last being but a broken man  
I must be satisfied with my heart, although  
Winter and summer till old age began  
My circus animals were all on show,  
Those stilted boys, that burnished chariot,  
Lion and woman and the Lord knows what.

#### ▪ **This Month's Limerick:**

There was once an old man from Glanmire,  
Who was seized with a carnal desire.

And the primary cause

Was an auld woman's drawers,

Hung up to dry by the fire.

#### ▪ **What it means to grow up Irish (cont'd):- the penultimate comment!!**

You experience an unexplained bout of nausea whenever someone on television talks about the British royal family.

### 7. A bit of Irish History (Mediaeval Ireland)

– continued:

The Gaels had two great advantages (against the Normans): first, force of numbers, for the colonists were thin on the ground; second, their laws of succession which decreed that a king could be succeeded by any of his male relatives who share a common great-grandfather. This may have been responsible for many of the endemic quarrels in Gaelic society, but now it came to the rescue because of the wide range of people always available to succeed a fallen king. The Normans could defeat Gaelic kings; Gaelic kingdoms were a far more durable. In addition, the Gaels learned Norman ways as they had once learned Norse ones. They became more sophisticated in military matters and began importing mercenaries from Scotland.

### 8. Words from President Derm:

Half the year gone already! Our first function of the second half of 2012 will be the showing of a movie at the Irish Club Hotel after lunch on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July. We will use a DVD player and digital projector, should be OK for a smallish gathering.

Our Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00 pm, so get some friends together and come as a group.

If you would like to become more involved in your Club's activities our AGM will be held at 6.00pm Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August during a recess on our monthly Members' evening. All committee positions will be open for National members to nominate for.

*Diarmuid Guerin*



(Answer – Seamus Heaney – talking about 'the troubles')