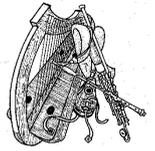




the Shenanigans



July (Iúil) 2020 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc.

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1. In 1750, Kerry man Timothy Mahony recognised an opportunity and set off to Cork, where he established his first small woollen mill on the banks of the river Glashaboy in Glanmire. His grandson, Martin, opened a new and larger mill in nearby Blarney in 1823, close to the mediaeval Blarney castle. The mill was known as Martin Mahoney and Brothers. Over time it became simply the Blarney Woollen Mills. In 1869, the mill burned down leaving virtually nothing standing. The villagers and family set to work and the mill reopened. By 1900 over 800 people were employed, their tweed being particularly popular in London, Paris and N.Y. The mill at this time included 113 power looms and 13 000 spindles. In 1914, family descendants, Michael and Kathleen Kelleher brought son, Christy, into the world. At age 14, Christy began his working life as a mill boy. In 1940, Christy married Maureen O'Regan, the careful one in their relationship. Always full of ideas, Christy was an ideas man for the mill, Maureen having to be a steadying influence. Realising the mill needed a little more, Christy used a mobile thatched cottage to attract tourists, and so began the wonderful craft industry that we know today. (To be continued.)

2. Club Matters and Members' News and Stories:

▪ **Heard recently:**
A lawyer asked, "Paddy. Why is it that whenever you ask an Irishman a question, he answers with another question?"
"Who told you that?" asked Paddy.

ALL ACTIVITIES BELOW CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER VIRUS NOTICE.

- **The July Diary: Full Committee meeting:** Thursday 9th, 7.00pm; **Members' night – Friday 31st from 5.00 – 8.00pm give or take. Financial members qualify for one drinks voucher.**
- **Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes, Polkas etc. - AND songs – Traditional Irish Music sessions** at 7.00pm EVERY Tuesday in the Michael Collins Bar. On -lookers and supporters welcome. **Genuine traditional Irish tunes and songs** are played in the place where 'atmosphere is everything'.
- **June Committee Meeting:** **1)** some 15 members have ordered club name badges; **2)** all repair work for the hotel has come in under quote – around \$20 000 in all; **3)** possible GST registration for the Club now on hold due to the virus; **4)** likewise for the new lease which as of now, can't be activated (by legislation) until 31/12/20; **5)** long discussion re the lease; **6)** Bloomsday discussed – later postponed because of the weather; **7)** nomination forms for Committee membership to be promoted well before the AGM in August; **8)** Carnival of Flowers to go ahead? **9)** honour board brought up again. (A good attendance of Committee members allowed the monthly meeting to go ahead – distances were adhered to!)

- **Bloomsday 1** – postponed because of the beautiful rain. **Bloomsday 2**, a week later – attended by 20 people who enjoyed the reading at the seat by member Michael Murtagh, who read from his father’s copy of the book, and dressed for the occasion! Other Bloomsday activities cancelled because of restrictions.

This was our first Club activity since restrictions came into place....thanks to members who attended for your support and to Committee members who organised.

3. WWW Sites:

The museum at Hill St. Monaghan, is open free to the public, Monday – Friday. www.monaghan.ie

4. News from Ireland:

- The virus has closed most places and events in Ireland as with most places around the world.

5. Bits and Pieces:

- **An Irish Epitaph – County Clare:**

This stone was raised to Sarah Ford, not Sarah’s virtues to record – for they’re well known to all the town. No Lord – it was to keep her down! And of such is the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

- **Quote from James Joyce:** “My mouth is full of decayed teeth and my soul of decayed ambitions.”

- A bodhran is an instrument which is best played with an open pen knife.

- **Irish Heroines – lesser known: Mainie Jellett** (1897 – 1944). Her name may not be as well known or loved as those of Jack(?) B. Yeats or Paul Henry but Mainie Jellett remains one of the most significant Irish artists of the 20th century, credited with introducing modernism to Ireland.

6. ‘Tings ‘Oirish:

- **Who said this?** “Ireland is a peculiar society in the sense that it was a 19th century society up to about 1970 and then it almost bypassed the 20th century.”

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

- **This month’s Irish Blessing:**

Power of storm be yours.

Power of moon be yours.

Power of sun.

- **Irish wisdom:** Better an old hat than a borrowed one.

- **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly comment:** Children begin by loving their parents; after a time, they judge them; rarely, if ever, do they forgive them.

- **W. B. Yeats’ poem:** “What Then?”

Everything he wrote was read,

After certain years he won

Sufficient money for his need,

Friends that have been friends indeed;

‘What then? Sang Plato’s ghost. ‘What then?’

(Cont’d)

- **This Month’s Limerick:**

A frog behaved most alarming

Flashing smiles it believed were disarming.

For beneath every wart

It harboured the thought.

One kiss and hey presto, Prince Charming!

7. Irish History: The Gathering Storm:

In 1794, **Tone** was almost compromised by a French spy and was lucky to get away to America, whence he made his way to France. There he persuaded the French government to send a large invasion force to Ireland which, he assured them, was ripe for revolution. It sailed in December 1796 but was held up by contrary winds as it rode at anchor in Bantry Bay, Co. Cork. Unable to land, the French returned home; the British government and the Dublin Castle administration breathed again. It had however been a very close shave. (Cont’d.)

8. Words from President, Tomas:

Thank you to everybody who came out last members’ night. I appreciate it was slightly inconvenient and that I had to hustle you all out of there by 6.45. Hopefully next meeting will be easier and smoother with relaxed atmosphere. If you haven’t liked our facebook page, I would invite you to do so as there is a lot more multimedia content there including the updates from the James Joyce afternoon.

Tomas

(Answer: John McGahern – Irish novelist 1934-2006.)