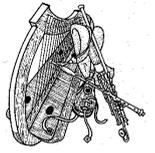




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March (Márta) 2022 Newsletter of the Darling Downs Irish Club Inc.

Sun (Dé Domhnaigh); Mon (Dé Luain); Tues (Dé Máirt); Wed (Dé Céadaoin); Thurs (Déardaoin); Fri (Dé hAoine); Sat (Dé Sathairn).

PO Box 7510, Toowoomba South 4350 Ph.: **07 46398926**

Web: <http://darlingdownsirishclub.org.au>



Darling Downs Irish Club

Editor: Peter Kenny normandpete@hotmail.com

President: Tomas Guerin 0418717777 tomas_guerin@yahoo.com.au

Secretary: Craig Maher: 9417737 113: craigchief@hotmail.com

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1. Beannacht Ai Naomh Pdraig Oraibh. (Banoktee Nave Pawrig urrev.)

The Blessings of St. Patrick be upon you.

We are the sons and daughters of Hibernia,
 Proud heirs of an ancient legacy.
 We've settled every corner of the globe
 Driven from our homeland by famine and
 oppression,
 Or simply the restless spirit that's our birthright.
 Wherever we go we bring with us a love of
 freedom,
 A melancholy humour, a biting wit and a golden
 tongue.
 But regardless of where destiny may take us,
 We're linked to the land of our ancestors
 By an ethereal thread that binds the heart
 And reminds us always that we are a unique
 people.

WE ARE THE IRISH!

2. Club Matters and Members' News and Stories:

▪ **Heard at the February members' gathering:** Finnigan's wife had been killed in an accident and the police were questioning him. "Did she say anything before she died?" asked the sergeant. "She spoke without interruption for about forty years," said Finnigan. (I know – sexist!!)

▪ **The March Diary: Full Committee meeting:** Thursday 10th, 7.00pm; **Members' night – Friday 25th from 5 – 8.00pm give or take.** **Financial members qualify for one drinks voucher:**

▪ **Traditional Irish Music sessions** at 7.00pm on EACH Tuesday in the Celtic/Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome.

▪ Phil Haxen is again holding "slow" instrumental sessions in the Celtic Bar; 5.30pm; 2nd & 4th Tuesdays; ph 0488 504 199.

▪ **And don't forget our St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday 13th beginning from the hotel at 10.30am See flyer.**

▪ **February Committee Meeting:** **1)** New website still in progress; **2)** 148 financial members – 42 of whom attended the January members' night; **3)** a raffle for Club members is to be introduced on members' night; **4)** looking at possibility of illuminating flagpoles; **5)** Parade items were discussed; **6)** Celtic Festival Event to be sponsored; **7)** Bloomsday funding application going in – mural designs ongoing; **8)** C'ttee vacancy to yet be filled; **9)** **St Bridgid's luncheon now to be on 15th May.**

3. WWW Sites: The winner of the 2021 Tidy Towns competition was **ENNIS, Co Clare**. Other section winners can be found at tidytowns.ie

4. News from Ireland:

A new uniform is being rolled out for all gardai, sergeants and inspectors. Polo shirts, two-tone soft shell waterproof jackets and operational trousers will replace the old uniform. For the first time, the uniform will be clearly badged with the Garda crest.

▪ For the first time in 70 years, all lamp-posts in DUBLIN will be switched from sodium to LED light bulbs- financial savings and a clearer light.

5. Bits and Pieces:

- It is said that the crows build their nests on 1st March. But if it falls on a Sunday, they will respect the Sabbath and wait until Monday.
- **Quote from James Joyce:** “And then I asked him with my eyes to ask again yes and then he asked me would I yes . . . and his heart was going like mad and yes I said yes I will yes.”
- **Celtic Wisdom for Business:**
It is better to be content with the small portion that comes with a blessing than the large portion that comes with a curse.
- **Irish Insults:**
As fat as a Galway Bishop. (Overweight.)
- **Ulysses word:** “At the *lacefringe* of the tide.” (Pub. 1022.)

6. This Month in a sad History.

In March 1922, programmes against nationalists in the Northern Ireland statelet reached a peak. One of the worst attacks by the Ulster Special Constabulary was the murder of well-known Belfast publican, Owen McMahon along with three of his sons and a barman. A fourth son died of his wounds a month later.

7. ‘Tings ‘Oirish:

- **Who said this?** “What makes Ireland inclined toward the drama is that it’s a great country for conversation.”
(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)
- **Irish Wisdom:** Bricks and mortar make a house, but the laughter of children makes a home.
- **This month’s Irish Blessing:**
May your world be bright with cheer.
May your cares all disappear.
May contentment come your way.
And may laughter fill your day.
- **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly comment:** What is a cynic? A man (or woman) who knows the price of everything, and the value of nothing.
- **W. B. Yeats’ poem:** “The Fiddler of Dooney”
– cont’d.
When we come at the end of time,
To Peter sitting in state,
He will smile on the three old spirits,
But call me first to the gate.

For the good are always the merry,
Save by an evil chance,
And the merry love the fiddle,
And the merry love to dance.

And when the folk there spy me,
They will all come up to me,
With “Here is the fiddler of Dooney!”
And dance like a wave of the sea. (Concl’d.)

▪ **This Month’s Limerick:**

Said an Ogre from old Saratoga
“I’ve tried to de-Ogre by Yoga
I’ve stood on my head
All day in my bed.
But the mirror still says I’m an Ogre.”

8. Irish History: The rise of O’Connell – 1800’s:

O’Connell was a visionary but not an idealist; his campaigns were always directed towards specific ends and he himself was keenly aware of the realities of Irish life, even the ugly sectarian realities.

This was most clearly seen in the Clare by-election of 1828. One of the members of parliament for Co. Clare, William Vessey Fitzgerald, was seeking re-election. As a liberal Protestant, a long-standing supporter of Catholic emancipation, he also had roots going back to the Fitzgeralds of Desmond. His re-election should have been a formality.

(Cont’d.)

9. Words from President, Tomas.

Firstly congratulations to our newest Committee member Gillian Ross, Gillian is Irish born and has been a member for a number of years. Thanks to retiring Committee member Margaret O’Mara for her excellent contributions.

Building work will commence shortly on the Hotel veranda and toilet reconstruction, including baby change table and access for people with disabilities.

Some of our members have been working hard behind the scenes to make this St Patricks Day parade one of our best ever, so make sure you are there next Sunday in your Irish attire!

Tomas

(Answer: Lady Augusta Gregory – 1852 – 1932.)