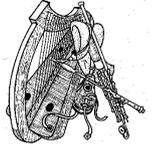




The Shenanigans



October (Deireadh Fómhair) 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).

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1. This month Oiche Shamhna - Irish Halloween event is being organised by your Committee.

The story of Halloween goes back a long way in Irish history, and has a lot to do with the spirit world connecting with the world in which we live. It is set down for **Sunday 30th October** – see [flyer for full details](#).

Please come along and support your committee's efforts at what promises to be a grand family celebration, with lots of fun and games for everyone – especially the children. With the Annual Dinner as well, this promises to be a busy month.

2. Club Matters and Members' News and Stories:

▪ **Heard at the September members' gathering:**

A man from Cork was in with his doctor. "Look, Sean. I've some bad news and some terrible news for you." "Good Lord. What's the bad news?" asked Sean. "Well," replied the doctor, "you have only 3 days to live." "And what's the terrible news?" "I've been trying to get hold of you these past 2 days."

▪ **The October Diary: Full Committee meeting:** Thursday 13th, 7pm; **Members' night** – Friday 28th from 5 – 8 pm give or take. Financial members qualify for one drinks voucher with live Irish music;

AND – Annual Dinner – Saturday 15th this month; – see flyer for details.

▪ **Traditional Irish Music sessions** at 7pm EVERY Tuesday in the Celtic/ Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers and supporters welcome. **Genuine traditional Irish tunes and songs** are played in the place where 'atmosphere is everything'.

▪ **September Committee Meeting:**

1) illumination of the flag poles and mural still being investigated; **2)** rule book to be updated mainly to reflect banking and bursaries adjustments; **3)** 24 members still to renew their membership; **4)** national member applications for Ruth-Ellen Driver and William Allam were approved; **5)** Annual Dinner – Johnny Jump Up asked to play and historian Maurice French asked to be our guest speaker; **6)** survey to be sent out to members for ideas on the use of our Club Room.

▪ **Don't forget to keep the afternoon of Sunday 4th December free for the Christmas Party.**

A big thank you to members who assisted with this year's Carnival of Flowers parade entry. A lot of time and effort went into the float which was awarded second place in Community category.

3. WWW Sites:

Johnston Castle in Co. Wexford houses the Irish Agricultural Museum – johnstowncastle.ie

4. News from Ireland:

▪ Ireland's oldest man, 108 y.o. WWII hero, Matthew Crowley died in Middleton's Community Hospital on 26th August, in the company of his oldest son, Leo.

5. Bits and Pieces:

- October - the Geese arrive, grazing on leftover corn in the fields.

- **Quote from James Joyce:** “This race and this country and this life produced me, he said. I shall express myself as I am.” (*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.*)

- **Irish Insults:**

He'd steal the eye out of your head and come back for the lashes. (He's a chancer and a layabout.)

- **A Ulysses word:** “...treeshade of *sunnywinking leaves*...” (Pub. 1922.)

- **Celtic Wisdom for Business:**

The one who tells you the faults of others, will tell your faults to them.

6. This Month in a sad History.

In October 1982, elections were held for an Assembly called by the British Secretary of State. This followed the election in '81 of abstentionist hunger strikers Bobby Sands (Fermanagh – South Tyrone) and Kieran Doherty (Cavan – Monaghan), along with H-Block prisoner Paddy Agnew (Louth) and Bobby's successor, Owen Carron.

7. 'Tings 'Oirish:

- **Who said this?** “Dublin University contains the cream of Ireland: rich and thick.” (The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

- **This month's Irish Blessing:**

May love and laughter light your days and warm your hearth and home.

- **Irish wisdom:** Everyone is wise until he/she speaks.

- **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) - monthly comment:** You don't love someone for their looks, or their clothes or their fancy car, but because they sing a song only you can hear.

- **W. B. Yeats' poem:** “In the Seven Woods.”

I have heard the pigeons of the Seven Woods
Make their faint thunder, and the garden bees
Hum in the lime-tree flowers; and put away
The unavailing outcries and the old bitterness
That empty the heart. I have forgotten awhile
Tara uprooted, and new commonness
Upon the throne and crying about the streets
And hanging its paper flowers from post to post,
Because it is alone of all things happy. (Cont'd.)

- **This Month's Limerick:**

The bottle of perfume Willie sent
Was highly displeasing to Millicent.

Her thanks were so cold
They quarrelled, I'm told
Over that silly scent Willy sent Millicent.

8. Irish History: Catholic Emancipation:

These agrarian secret societies were bound together by oaths codes of silence and by the exclusion of strangers. Communal solidarity was the name of the game.

This was the only enduring tradition of populist organisation that preceded O'Connell and he tapped straight into it.

(Cont'd.)

9. Words from President, Aileen.

Firstly a big THANK YOU to all the club members and friends who generously contributed their skills and time to design, construct, decorate the float and participate in the parade at the Carnival of Flowers. In particular, Peter McDonald, Lyn Curcuruto (Southerdens Florist) and Marie Louise Edwards worked tirelessly and the result was spectacular. The Qld Irish Pipe Band led us in the parade and then performed at the hotel to a large raucous crowd.

At the last Committee meeting, Pauline Kenny was appointed Chair of Social sub-committee and Peter McDonald - Chair of Building sub-committee. Funds were approved to furnish Club Rooms. Look out for an online survey asking for your views on the use of our Club Rooms.

Come along to two important social events in October: Annual Dinner 15th with guest speaker Maurice French - a local expert on Toowoomba pub history; then dress up for a fun family event on 30th Oiche Shamhna (pronounced EE-hyeh HOW-nuh) Irish Halloween with traditional games, food and pumpkin carving.
Aileen.

(Answer: Samuel Beckett)