

THE KELLY CLAN ASSOCIATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER No. 58



GOOD NEWS!
OUR 2015 GATHERING IS TO BE HELD
AT
CASTLECOURT HOTEL, WESTPORT
ON 15, 16, 17 MAY 2015
MORE DETAILS INSIDE



Letter from your Editor

Hello All

I hope you have all survived the winter. I know our members in the USA had particularly bad times during January and the UK had more than its fair share of flooding and damage. My part of the world, County Clare, suffered quite badly during the January storms with severe damage all along the western seaboard. The bill for the repairs run into millions of euros. On a more positive note, spring is trying to arrive and the tiny heads of daffodils and crocuses [or is it crocii - the botanists among you will know] are beginning to appear.

Also on the positive front is the news that our next Gathering is set to take place in the lovely town of Westport, Co Mayo at the Castlecourt Hotel. Mayo is a beautiful county and we are looking forward to having a great weekend there. We will keep you updated with things as we progress with our planning but at least you can make a note of the dates which are

15,16 and 17 May 2015.

You may or may not have heard that yours truly has been voted in as Uachtarán of the Association. Father Celsus has decided to step down after 6 years of doing the job and I have now taken over. I am delighted, of course. It is a great honour and I hope to be able to live up to the previous good work that Father Celsus did during his time in office. Any help or suggestions that you, our members, make are more than welcome and we are always glad of comments - good, bad or indifferent. It helps us, the Kelly Clan Council, to know what you enjoy doing, what you think we are doing right, or how you would like things to change or improve.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter - the first of 2014. Our website is now up and running - www.kellyclans.com Please do have a look at it and tell us what you think. Our secretary, Bernie Kelly, has worked very hard to get this all in place and it was a timeconsuming, but worthwhile task. Bernie is in charge of the website and if you have any comments, or information you would like posted on the site, please contact her direct - clankellyinfo@gmail.com

My good wishes to you all and have a Happy Easter. Do keep in touch with any of us on the Council. Details of how to contact us are shown here.

Mary K

PS Don't forget to renew your subscriptions if you have not already done so.

Contact details:

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www.kellyclans.com

Interesting map of Ireland with the English interpretation of the various counties.



More good news

Michael Pearmain, the husband of Kitty [Kelly], Tipperary is doing well after his hip operation last year. He would like to thank everyone who sent cards and get well wishes. Your thoughts and prayers have certainly aided his recovery and we look forward to seeing them both at the Gathering in May next year.

Get Well Wishes

We would like to wish Carol Kelly, wife of Larry, our very best wishes for a speedy recovery after her recent illnesses. Carol is a wonderful supporter of the Clan and is always available to help at the Gatherings. We look forward to seeing her next year back to full health.

NEW MEMBERS

Mary C Conneely, Co Monaghan

Colm O'Kelly, Dublin

We extend to them the O Kelly Welcome - *Failte Ui Cheallaigh*

TRIVIA

Everyone has a photographic memory - some just don't have film

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine

Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it

It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try and pass them

You can't have everything, where would you put it?

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well

I started out with nothing and I still have most of it

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak

Contributed by Bernie Kelly courtesy of Ballinderreen Parish Newsletter

Castlecourt Hotel – Venue for our next Gathering

15, 16 and 17 MAY 2015



www.castlecourthotel.ie

Telephone: 098 55088

We are finalising prices and itinerary at the moment but will keep everybody posted as soon as we can.

The Gathering promises to be full of interesting happenings, including a tour around the beautiful Mayo countryside, presentation and talks, DNA update, gala dinner, genealogy talks – not to mention the wonderful opportunity of forging new friendships and renewing old acquaintances and friends.

Alan Kelly's history

Alan Kelly lives in England but his ancestors were from Kilchreest and Kilnadeema, Co Galway. He and his brother Jeff have visited both the villages, where they met some of the villagers, who made them feel most welcome.

Alan's link into Kilchreest was through his great, great grandad, Martin Kelly, born about 1833 and his father was Thomas Kelly born in Galway. Martin left Ireland and joined the British army like so many brave Irish lads and also married an English lady, Eliza Bloom from Sheffield. They had 10 children and Alan descended from their eldest lad William Kelly who also married a girl of Irish descent, Agnes Dwyer (Tipperary).

Alan took up the baton from Alfred Kelly with his American cousin, Tom Kelly. Alfred Kelly was a captain in the US Navy and commanded the American fleet in the Persian Gulf. He, Alfred, had been searching for over 20 years and he brought together a good research team in Tom and Alan before he died (RIP). After following various leads from the locals in the two villages, which pointed him in the direction of the Kellys from Kilnadeema and Funchaduan, Alan had found his current Kelly family, which means he is related to Anthony "Millionaire" Kelly and his family, some of whom he has met. The target as a Kelly research team then was to find Martin Kelly 1833 's mother. Alan then went through the parish records and the only couple who could possibly match the timing and events were Thomas Kelly (born approx 1800/1810) and Mary /Margaret Egan. It seems therefore that Alan's Kellys left Kilchreest about 1835/6 and moved up the mountain. Thomas and Mary had two known daughters (Catherine 1837 and Elizabeth 1838) and this family unit cannot be traced anywhere in the world – at the moment!!

So the first question to everybody - does anybody know of any Kelly family who had married an Egan? Thomas Kelly and Mary or Margaret Egan. Alan would love to track down this family and it would also open up more Irish connections for him.

Alan has also had his y-dna measured as there is a big Kelly surname project under way in the world to group Kellys into their rightful Septs /Clans. This has also opened up the fact that Alan's Kellys in the early 1800's or earlier had very close relationships with the Dooleys of Galway so again another possible family addition.

Does anybody know of a Kelly/Dooley connection? The church records for births in Kilchreest start in 1855 - too late for Martin, to identify his mum and in Kilnadeema in 1836 – again too late

Useful places to research

The March issue (22nd edition) of Irish Lives Remembered Genealogy e-Magazine is now live and FREE to read/download via www.irishlivesremembered.com

In this edition Riverdance Composer, Bill Whelan's Family History is researched by the team at Irish Ancestry Research Centre in Limerick.

Tracing your Limerick Ancestors

Dr. James Ryan & Margaret Franklin guide us through researching your Limerick Ancestors

Photo Historian, Jayne Shrimpton covers a New York image of Limerick born Actress, Ada Rehan

Findmypast Ireland, Limerick Genealogy, Limerick City Library, Limerick Studies, Limerick Life, Limerick Archives & Limerick Museum showcase what records they hold for the city & county

- Irish Ancestry Research Centre & Bridget Bray team up for 'The Genealogy Event' this August Tracing the Irish in New York
- Joe Buggy provides an overview on where to research the Irish in New York
- We take a look inside Joe's new book Finding the Irish in New York City
- Renowned U.S. Genealogist, Megan Smolenyak finds the real Annie Moore
- Maureen Wlodarczyk covers the story of Cavan born Mary Anne Madden Sadlier

Other News

- Brian Donovan from Eneclann shares his views on Genealogy & Family History
- Findmypast Ireland showcase their new FREE APP 'I Once Was'
- Win a copy of The Morpeth Roll book courtesy of Four Courts Press
- Michael Merrigan discusses the Battle of Clontarf 1014 and its historical importance
- Lorna Moloney invites you to the Irish Genealogy Summer School at University College Cork
- Australian Family Historian Shauna Hicks helps you trace the Irish in the Northern Territory
- Celtic Ashes launches a new range of cremation jewellery to remember your Irish loved ones

More on Laoise Kelly

Laoise played at the Kelly Clan Gathering in May 2013 and four years previously. Laoise originally came from Westport in Co Mayo and is now living in Achill Island. She is regarded as one of Ireland's leading traditional harpers.

Kim Fleming was her principal teacher. Laoise won several All Ireland titles and Harp competitions including the Keadue Carolan and Granard Harp Festivals.



In 1992 she was awarded the Waterford Crystal Harp at the Belfast Bicentennial Harp Festival competition, which commemorated the great Harp Festival of 1792. The majority of competitors were previous All Ireland winners at that festival.

The adjudicators in this competition were Welsh triple harper Robin Huw Bowen and Derek Bell of The Chieftains, who said of Laoise *"her triplets were made in heaven"*. Laoise was a founder member of the traditional group 'Bumblebees' with whom she recorded two albums and toured extensively. In 1999 she recorded her first solo album 'Just Harp' to critical acclaim *"Kelly virtually reinvents the instrument with her rhythmic and melodic intricacy, her syncopation and undulating chords and harmonies ... she'll have you swaying with her profound musicality"* - Irish Times. In 2010 Laoise released two new recordings; 'Ceis' a solo harp collection and 'The Wishing Well' a dynamic pairing with county Clare fiddler Michelle O'Brien.

Throughout her solo career Laoise has recorded on over 50 albums with many of Ireland's foremost artists including The Chieftains,

Christy Moore, Sharon Shannon, John Hoban, Dónal Lunny, Triona Ní Dhomhnaill, Tommy Makem, Matt Molloy, Mary Black, as well as Kate Bush and American country/bluegrass icon Tim O'Brien.



She has toured and performed in all corners of the globe from Africa, Japan and Russia to New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Paraguay, the US and Canada, and throughout Europe.

She has played for the twenty five European leaders (presidents and prime ministers when they visited Dublin).

Career highlights include representing Ireland at the World Harp Festival in Paraguay, 2009; performing at the Féile na Laoch Seán Ó Riada anniversary festival in 2011; performing with poets Seamus Heaney and Paul Muldoon on the Hill of Tara, 2010; participating in a Dónal Lunny led collaboration with the Maori's of New Zealand; performing the Famine Suite with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra; representing Ireland on a 'Harp and Soul' UK Tour with harpists from China, Brittany, Scotland and Wales and representing the Celtic Countries at an International Women's Day festival in Moscow.

She has been featured on numerous TV programmes including Eurovision, A River of Sound, The Late Late Show, Sult, High Reel, Sin É É, Songbirds, Thomas Moore, Eimear Quinn's Christmas Celebration, Open House,

The Raw Bar, The Arts show, TG4's; Gradam Ceoil, Geantraí, Sibín, Ceol Cois Locha, Sruth na Maoile, Ardán, Cainúintí Ceoil, Imeachal, BBC's; 'Harp & Soul' tour documentary, Colmcille Session, An Stuf Ceart, and she was the featured artist on RTÉ radio's Celtic Connection and The Full Set.

Laoise is very interested in early Irish music. She gets a lot of her tunes from the early Irish music collections. She plays with groups of traditional musicians or solo, and collaborates in duos with award-winning Scottish Gaidhlig singer Kathleen MacInnes; Monaghan uilleann piper Tiarnan Ó Duinnchinn; innovative Clare fiddler Tola Custy; pioneering whistle player Cormac Breatnach. Following a successful Music Network tour she continues to tour with Trad legends Tommy Peoples and Breandán Begley.

Laoise regularly tutors at University of Limerick, Dundalk IT, Dublin IT, UCC, and at the University of Ulster, Derry.

"There is such body and depth in her playing that at times you feel there must be more than one musician playing . . . Kelly has mastered her instrument completely" – acousticmusic.com "An exuberant and innovative talent which catches the spirit of the modern Irish music movement in a way that few harpers have done to date" - Irish Music Magazine. More info www.laoisekelly.ie

Norah O'Kelly – Artist [contributed by Joseph Kelly, Oranmore]

Miss Norah O'Kelly, an artist from Templeogue, Co. Dublin had a fine pictorial plaque titled 'An Aesop Fable' which was one of only a small number of Irish works selected to be shown at the exhibition of British arts and crafts at the Louvre in 1914. It had previously been shown at the arts and crafts **Society** of Ireland in 1910 along with a handsome enamelled silver beaker and cover by O'Kelly. [The Arts and Crafts Movement in Ireland by Paul Lamour, 1992]. Nora Dowel O'Kelly (44) was born c. 1885 and was daughter of Bernard Dowel O'Kelly (43), and his wife Norah Barrett and grand-daughter of Tobias Kelly, of Clon Doyle, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway, and his wife A. M. Dowel.] Miss O'Kelly had trained in Dublin and was a prize winning student with a silver sculpture. Later she went to India to teach in a school there. She got caught up in the First World War and was unable to return to Ireland until the end of the war. She started an art school and among her pupils was our esteemed founder member and first editor Brian O'Ceallaigh, who was her nephew. Brian played a pivotal role in preparing Ireland for entry to the European Union. He had been seconded from the Department of Foreign Affairs. While based in Chicago Brian was made a Freeman of that city. Later Brian became Irish Ambassador to Egypt.

Norah O'Kelly was a very fine artist but due to her teaching commitments she did not produce a large body of work. Her nephew Brian presented this writer with one of her paintings. It is of a garden scene

The 44 after her name is not her age. It means she is the 44th generation after Máine Mór, founder of the Hy-manians who lived about 460 AD. This means that Brian is 45th generation

Kelly Thespians



Pictured are Mary Kelly, Mark Kelly and Sarah Kelly at a recent performance of Pirates of Penzance

The trio are presently rehearsing their parts in the musical Oklahoma!