



The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual



O'MALLEY  
CLAN GATHERING

CLARE ISLAND

Co Mayo, Ireland  
23 - 25 June 2023

# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



Clare Island

NOTE: Details of events below are the best information available at time of publication (1<sup>4th</sup> March 2023) and are subject to change. In the unlikely event of bad weather preventing ferry sailings, alternative venues will be organised.

Chieftain Martin O'Malley and the O'Malley Clan Association invite you to join us for the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Clan Gathering in Co Mayo from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

Note: All event bookings should be made at <https://www.ireland101.com/booking/book/omalley> only.

Please do not contact the venues looking for tickets as they do not have them. A small number of tickets for the Gala Concert on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> are available at Westport House.



## **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

***5:00 p.m. Annual General Meeting of the Clan at Westport House***

Guardian Chieftain Ellen O'Malley Dunlop will chair the AGM.

***5:45 – 7:15 p.m. Chieftain's Reception at Westport Housel***

Welcome to the 67<sup>th</sup> annual O'Malley Gathering from Chieftain Martin O'Malley. Special guest Anne Chambers, biographer of Grace O'Malley.



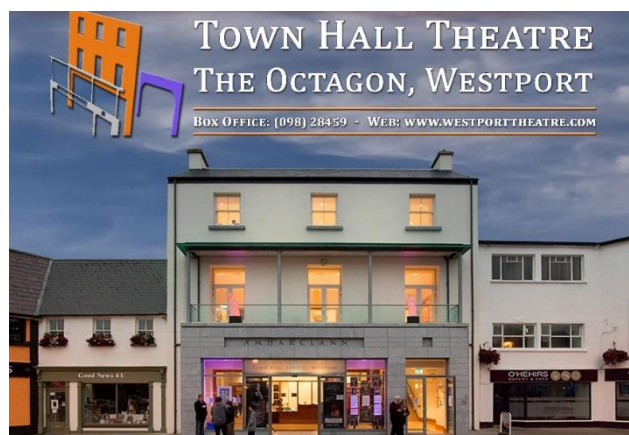
***8:00 p.m. Gala Concert at Holy Trinity Church, Westport***

Shaun Davy, Rita Connolly Donal Lunny and Cora Venus Lunny will perform extracts from Shaun Davy's renowned Granuaile suite, portraying episodes in the life of Grace O'Malley, Ireland's Pirate Queen, and other works.

## Saturday 24th June

**10:00 a.m. Update on Clan Projects. Venue: Upstairs Meeting room at Town Hall Theatre, Westport.**

Among other updates, Dr Maurice Gleeson will update us on the exciting Finding Grace's DNA project. We're trying to track down her genetic signature, so that O'Malleys everywhere can check and see how closely they may be related to the famous Pirate Queen.



**11:15 a.m. Travel to Clare Island**

Buses from the Octagon, Westport outside the Town Hall Theatre will take you to Roonagh, to catch a ferry to Clare Island. If you do not wish to take the bus, and to make your own way to Roonagh, ferry tickets may be booked directly from the ferry companies at <https://www.omalleyferries.com/> and <https://www.clareislandferry.com/>. Ferries may also be available from Kildavnet pier, Achill Island. Check with the ferry companies.

**1:00 p.m. Saturday Festivities on Clare Island**

On arrival at Clare Island harbour, overlooked by Grace O'Malley's castle, walk to the Community Centre for a light lunch. Use the early afternoon as you wish - rent a bike to explore the island or go on a guided Famine Walk. You could go for a swim at the beach or just relax with a drink and enjoy the scenery. There will be games and events for our younger visitors. Then assemble at Sailors Bar for an evening of music and dancing. We'll have some famous and

not-so-famous performers, and a chance to join in the Céilí. Eat at the barbecue and drink at the bar (not included in your ticket) as you wish. Weather permitting, we'll sit around a bonfire and sing a song or two before departing to catch the ferry and bus back to Westport. Choose between the early ferry around 6:30 pm or the late ferry around 10:30 pm.



# Sunday 25th June

## **9:15 a.m. Travel to Clare Island**

Buses from the Octagon, Westport outside the Town Hall Theatre will take you to Roonagh, to catch a ferry to Clare Island. As on Saturday, if you wish to make your own way to Roonagh, ferry tickets may be booked directly from the ferry companies at <https://www.omalleyferries.com/> and <https://www.clareislandferry.com/>. Ferries may also be available from Kildavnet pier, Achill Island. Check with the ferry companies.



## **11:00 Arrive on Clare Island**

Walk/cycle/minibus to Clare Island Abbey. It takes about 30 minutes to walk to the abbey from the pier. We will have two minibus taxis available for those who may not be up to the walk. These are not bookable in advance

## **11:45 Mass at Clare Island Abbey**

Saint Bridget's Cistercian Abbey was founded in the 12th/13th century. It was rebuilt around 1460 and contains numerous O'Malley tombs. Tradition claims it as the site of the baptism, marriages and burial of Grace O'Malley.



## **1:30 p.m. Clan Lunch at Clare Island Community Centre**



The formal heart of the O'Malley Clan Gathering. After a sit down lunch Chieftain Martin will review his year in office and recognise contributors to the O'Malley Clan.

## **3:00 p.m. (approx.) Inauguration of new Chieftain Nano O'Malley MacMahon**

After the inauguration and the singing of Óro Sé do Bheatha 'Bhaile, relax and enjoy the company until it's time to say farewell and catch the ferry back to the mainland around 6:30 pm.