



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights

- Happy St Patrick's Day from The O'Malley Clan
- Get in touch and share your stories!
- The greenway is to extend to Clare Island!
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- The O'Malley Clan Rally 2017

Happy St Patrick's Day from The O'Malley Clan Association!



Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!

Have you got an article or old photographs that you'd like to submit for future editions of "O Máille" The O'Malley Clan Association Newsletter.

We'd love to hear from you wherever you're based around the world. Old photographs and stories to go with them, old letters, family trees or just an arti-

cle that you'd like to share with the rest of the clan. Drop us a line and We'll get right to it!



Greenway to extend to Clare Island!



The Granuaile Castle Group –

by Ellen O'Malley Dunlop Guardian Chieftain of the O'Malley Clan

Last summer it came to our attention that funding was coming on stream for the extension of the Great Western Greenway to Roonagh Pier. Fáilte Ireland is proposing to bring the Greenway to Roonagh Pier and on to Clare Island and then back to Achill from Clare Island, so that tourists can experience the completion of a full Greenway Loop.

During the summer of 2016 a group of 10 of us got together to explore the possibility of accessing some of this funding in the hope of reviving interest in the restoration of the Granuaile Castle. The group is called 'The Granuaile Castle Group' and we comprise of islanders and people who have houses on the island. A proposal to mandate the group to explore this possibility on behalf of the island was agreed by Cliara Development Company in August 2016.

Since August we have met the relevant Ministers including Minister Sean Canney who has responsibility for the OPW and Minister Michael Ring who is Minister for State of Regional Economic Development under Minister Heather Humphries, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, whose department owns the castle. All heritage buildings in Ireland are under the ownership of Minister Heather Humphries' department.

Minister Ring has been very helpful and has linked us with the relevant people in Mayo County Council and Fáilte Ireland including Mr. Pádraig Philbin Mayo Co. Co. who developed the Great Western Greenway and Mr. Brian Quinn of Fáilte Ireland. We are confident that Minister Ring is very committed to helping us with the restoration of the castle and to creating a much needed interpretative centre for Clare Island. This will create sustainable jobs for the island and will also support the extension of the tourist season.

Greenway to extend to Clare Island!



The O'Malley Clan, in the 1990s was very supportive of the New Clare Island Survey, which was delivered by the Royal Irish Academy. The survey was a repeat of a Survey delivered in the early part of the 20th century by Lloyd Praeger. This was a survey of all forms of life on the island from plant to human life and everything in between. During the 1990s and early 2000s the unique wall paintings in the 12th century Abbey, where it is believed Granuaile is buried, were conserved by the wonderful Dr. Cristof Olenbourg. The wall paintings are a treasure trove of amazing hunting scenes, and musical instruments dating back to approximately the early 1100s. They are secular paintings in a holy place. The walks on the island bring you to the megalithic tomb, the promontory forts, the lazy beds and the fulacht fias, the Light House, The Napoleonic Tower to name but some of the other treasures that are on the island. However it is so important that the island has guides and an interpretative centre to unfold these treasures for the tourist, which could otherwise be missed.

When we look at the islands in Clew Bay, Clare Island is the only island where there are growing numbers in the primary school. There are 20 children going to St. Patrick's School on the island and there are 9 different nationalities now living on the island. It is an idyllic place to bring up children and we are very conscious that growing tourism on the island will be another support to the community. The main employers on the island currently are the Fish Farm, The GoExplore Hostel, The Community Centre, The Yoga Centre, The Weaver, The Lighthouse, The Ferries and the various B&Bs.

It will be a further treat for all O'Malleys to have Granuaile's Castle restored and to have the island's scenic beauty and history available to all who wish to visit this beautiful mythical island, the summer retreat of Granuaile and spiritual home to so many O'Malleys



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The O'Malley Clan Association aims to reach out to O'Malleys from all around the world and foster links between the O'Malleys around the globe and the clan at home here in Ireland.

The Clan Association formed in 1953 has been connecting O'Malleys around the world in The US and Canada, Britain, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, South America, and anywhere else you can think of for over 60 years now.

We hope with our new website, and newsletter, that We can go from strength to strength in our aim to connect all the O'Malleys around the world.

The O'Malley Clan Rally 23rd to 25th June 2017

The Annual O'Malley Clan Rally for 2017 takes place in beautiful **Claregalway**, County Galway on the weekend of the **23rd to 25th June 2017**. It'll be a fabulous weekend for O'Malleys from all over the globe. Highlights will include Medieval Banquet, Castle Experience, Abbey Visits, Talks and Tours, music, dancing, ceol agus craic!

It's time to begin planning your trip, there's only 4 months to go!!!

The full programme of events is up on the website and you can book online there too!, We hope to see you all there.

If you need any help with planning your trip, Or with further information on the Annual Rally, drop us a line by email (the address is at the top of this page), and We'll get back to you right away!

