July 2022



## **O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter**

Ó Máille

#### This month's highlights

- Thanks to Tom, and Congratulations Martin
- The 2022 Clan Gathering A mighty weekend was had in Mayo!
- Katie Curran O'Malley, running for AG in Maryland
- "Finding Grace" during Heritage Week in Westport
- Our Guardian Chieftain Ellen is elected to The Council of Europe
- Little O'Malley Peak in Alaska
- About the O'Malley Clan
  Association
- Spreading the word about the O'Malley Clan Association.

Right: Chieftain Martin O'Malley and Former Chieftain Tom O'Malley after Martin's inauguration on Sunday 26th June 2022 in Mayo.

## Thanks to Tom, and Congratulations Martin

What a weekend we had at the annual Clan Gathering in Newport & Westport. To finally meet up with all of those friends, old and new, that we couldn't meet for the past few years was such a treat.

A big thank you to former Chieftain Tom and his team for organizing such a brilliant weekend, and huge congratulations to Martin O'Malley of Maryland, USA, who has now taken the reins as Chieftain of The O'Malley Clan for the next year until we all meet up again for yet another wonderful weekend in Mayo in June 2023.



## The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2022



Above: It was a slightly damp welcome to Mayo, but We managed. Below Left: Former Taoiseach (Irish Prime Minister), Enda Kenny, Eri Mountbatten O'Malley, Guardian Chieftain Ellen O'Malley Dunlop, and then Táiniste Martin O'Malley. Below Right: Enda Kenny interviewing "The Peacemaker" Padraig O'Malley in the Town Hall Theatre Westport



## The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2022



Above Left: Chieftain Tom and Guardian Chieftain Ellen making a presentation to Clan Association Secretary Mary Jane O'Malley to mark her retirement after 33 years as Secretary to the Clan. Above Right: Sean Keane performing at Hotel Newport on the Saturday evening.

Below Left: Former Chieftain Middleton O'Malley, (known to us all as Middie), chilling out in Hotel Newport. Below Right: Some fabulous dancing on the Saturday night



## The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2022





Above Left : Proud Flag Bearers at the Annual Clan Mass in Burrishoole Abbey. Jack O'Malley Maryland, USA, and Eri Mountbatten O'Malley, UK.

Above Right: Piper Des setting the tone ahead of the Clan Mass at Burrishoole Abbey

Right: New Clan Chieftain Martin O'Malley, Maryland, USA, with his predecessor Tom O'Malley of Mayo



Paul McLoughlin, (or "The Colorado Correspondent" as We've now come to know him), shares his thoughts on a trip to the O'Malley Clan Gathering and other highlights of his trip to Ireland in June.....

The more you know before you go, the better the trip. I was prepared. I have sailed the Atlantic twice, both times from New York to Southampton. I could smell Ireland when Dingle was still over the horizon. The unmistakably earthy – heavenly to the sailor – odor of peat engulfed the senses like a fog.

The O'Malley Clan Gathering in June had the same effect. I was in the warm embrace of extended family, surrounded by yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Gosh, it felt good to be there.

For me the gathering had been a long time coming... yet arrived at the perfect time. I had been walking the Irish ancestry path on both sides of my family for 20 years. Returning home after my second crossing in 2005 (and a newly-minted Irish citizen) I stopped off at the National Library in Dublin to research Grace O'Malley. I had my grandfather's book, *It Was News To Me (1939)*, as a primer. I was after proof.

The connecting ancestral tissue on the other side of the family (McLoughlin/McSweeny) was the McSweeny Chalice, an ecclesiastical treasure in a vault at the seminary of the Archdiocese of New York. It was forged in 1640 and handed down through McSweeny priestly hands in Ireland until sent to the next generation of McSweeny priests in America in 1896. We only discovered the family heirloom in 2010 and have been re-

searching its provenance ever since. Much like Grace O'Malley the chalice is in my blood.

In 2019 after uncovering McSweeny 18<sup>th</sup> Century gravestones in Whitechurch Cemetery, I traveled to Newport. Tom O'Malley and Peter Mullowney took me to lunch at The Gráinne Uaile where they told me of the planned Gathering in 2020 to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the town. They showed me the house on Georges Street where Gramps was born in 1867. (Peter mostly kindly included the obituary of Gramps' mother, Bridget, in his remarkable volume **NEWPORT 300** The first two hundred years (1720-1920). Pages 284-285 Thank you, Peter.) They encouraged me to return the following year.

> Right: The Viscount Mayo Chalice in Ballintubber Abbey



The following year would become three. But the pandemic provided time and opportunity to explore more, much more. I took up with two distinguished Clan assets Brendan O'Malley and Maurice Gleeson on the Family Project in pursuit of Grace O'Malley. Primitive testing gave way to more sophisticated YDNA. I had to locate two first cousins willing to take the swab. My mother was the O'Malley, hence no O'Malley YDNA in me. (Forgive my learning curve: genetics is new to me.) Maurice's presentation at the beautifully renovated Westport Town Hall was clear, concise, and, to the best of my knowledge, accurate. Remarkable synthesis and explanation in just 30 minutes. More to come there with time.

I wrote four articles for the O'Malley Monthly Newsletter so ably edited and produced by Don O'Malley. (*Bubonic Plague, Brig St. John, Lady Gregory and WB Yeats, and Capt. Boycott*). All tales from my grandfather. A close reading of his book revealed facts and figures that had been heretofore dismissed as Irish fiction. Without it, I would never have gotten to this point, much less at the Gathering. I also wrote a piece for the **Holly Bough 2021**, Cork's historical Christmas annual since 1897, on the McSweeny Chalice. The story was there to be told; I was merely the scrivener.

A few years ago, I was introduced to Cormac O'Malley by his son with whom I played squash in Denver. What a coincidence. Cormac is an O'Malley Clan treasure as those of us who heard him on the Saturday bus ride out to Ballintubber Abbey can attest. Cormac needs little prompting, thank God, and what pours forth is pure liquid lore. In my inherited library I found a First Edition of Ernie O Malley's 'On Another Man's Wound' (1936), which my father had taken with him on his honeymoon to Ireland in 1937. He had marked a paragraph relating an incident in Ardee, CO Louth, where the McLoughlin's are from. Ernie wrote, *"I cycled to look at the burial mound close to the stream in the town, but I ran into police who tried to halt me in the street. I back-kicked one in the face with studded strength of a heavy boot, then drawing my gun on his part-ner, who was trying to open a holster flap, I cycled out of sight."* Quite the men, father and son. (Cormac, importantly, suggested I dine at Morans The Weir. I did. Indescribably delicious.)

The impending Gathering served as a rallying cry for members of my extended family who had shown little interest in ancestry in the past. The potential direct connection to the Grace O'Malley on the one hand and the McSweeny Chalice on the other made them take notice. (There had been some local excitement 15-years ago when a musical adaptation, *The Pirate Queen*, came to Broadway. Short lived; the show was a financial and critical disaster and closed unceremoniously after 85 performances.) Now we could truly come together over common ancestors, their trials and tribulations, and their many accomplishments ... not to mention widely divergent personalities and an occasional scandal. The YDNA testing rather sealed the deal; not just oral history, but now fact-based. Remarkable what saliva can divulge and Maurice Gleeson can interpret. Seven close-in kin attended the Gathering including my son and his new bride. The Clan welcomed them with a spectacular wedding cake at the Saturday night fete at the Newport Hotel. Heartwarming. And the music was grand. Hoping to ingratiate myself to Clan hierarchy, I line-danced with Ellen O'Malley Dunlop who had introduced the program on Friday afternoon in Westport. Friday's program included news of the imminent launch of the 'Grace O'Malley', a replacement for the sunken 'Asgard II'. The new 'Grace O'Malley' being refitted in Sweden will continue the successful at-sea program for life skills for young people.

My great grand uncle, Patrick McSweeny, who came to America in 1848 aged 11 and rose to Monsignor at the pinnacle of Irish Catholic influence in New York would often quote the Douay-Rheims Bible:

They that go down to the sea in ships, doing business in the great waters: These have seen the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.

#### Wonders, indeed. Godspeed, 'Grace O'Malley'.

Left: The Grace O'Malley STV, on the way to Ireland this summer

Friday's program also featured a documentary tribute - The Peacemaker - to Padraig O'Malley who was in the audience and sat for a stirring interview after. Padraig is the architect of peace accords around the world and notably the Good Friday Agreement, signed in April 1998. Unlike Grace, Padraig gets differing factions to dia-

logue with each other to mutual understanding. Back then, the sword was mightier than the pen. Now each has their place in history.

> Right: Padraig O'Malley, (The Peacemaker), in conversation with Former Irish Taoiseach, Enda Kenny



While the Gathering was a communal coming together, each of us came away with our own special memories. My first was wandering through Burrishoole Abbey with Maurice Gleeson on Friday morning. Every element mattered: the pouring rain, the picturesque setting on the point overlooking the tidal river, stone walls outlining where monks dedicated their lives to God, and 12 generations of my relatives under my feet in enriched Irish soil.

The second was the discovery of the Viscount Mayo Chalice made to honor Tibbott, son of Grace O'Malley who was the reason for her visit with Elizabeth I. Between the McSweeny Chalice 1640 and the Viscount Mayo Chalice 1635 the weight of three hundred and eighty years of Irish history and consumption of the Blood of Christ by generations of the faithful came to a head in the sacristy of Ballintubber Abbey. The realization of the confluence of my two ancestral lines in these ecclesiastical relics was almost overwhelming.

My 10-days in Ireland was an ancestral sensory overload. With Newport as a centripetal force, I drove 1,500 kilometers, tracing my mother's visit of 100 years ago from Kinsale to Sligo with stops, meaningful each, in Abbeyfeale (the Harnett's), Cork (home of the McSweeny's), Gort (Coole Park and Thoor Ballylee), Achill Island (the Bervie; swim in Keem Bay), Croagh Patrick (only he knows the extent of the ascent), and Doolin on the Cliffs of Moher (an intense moment in the pouring rain with a cow in a pastoral setting overlooking the Atlantic). And Newport, and 'Mayo, God help us', where my grandfather started life 150 years ago.

Places are one thing; people are another. Ireland is my ancestral home, but the Clan Gathering made me grateful for the life of Grace O'Malley and subsequent generations of O'Malley's. Particular thanks to Taoiseach Tom O'Malley and all those who made the weekend an unforgettable experience.

Sláinte.

Paul McLoughlin Boulder, Colorado

> Right : The fabulously intricate inscriptions on the Viscount Mayo Chalice at Ballintubber Abbey.





Above Left : The Second Wedding Cake for the Happy Couple Tully and Lilli, (not Lori, slight mistake there, but the idea was good!)

Above Right: Chieftain Tom with the Happy Couple in Hotel Newport on the Saturday night of the Gathering

Below: Paul (right) with Dr Maurice Gleeson at Burrsihoole Abbey on a wet Friday



#### Katie Curran O'Malley- Running for AG in Maryland

# The Post endorses Katie O'Malley in Maryland's attorney general Democratic primary

**Katie Curran O'Malley**, Maryland's former first lady and also the daughter of the state's longest-serving attorney general, is political royalty in the Free State. But having spent a decade as a Baltimore prosecutor and another 20 years there as a district court judge, she has never acted the part in any traditional sense. Rather, Ms. O'Malley has handled practically everything that passes through the doors of a big-city courthouse, from whitecollar crime to murder, domestic violence and truancy — an array of real-world experience, centered on struggling victims and offenders, that would give her an unusually broad perspective on the job she now seeks, as Maryland's attorney general. We endorse her in the Democratic primary on July 19.



Across the United States, just a handful of state attorneys general are women, and fewer still are women who have served on the bench, let alone for the span of time Ms. O'Malley has. She has earned praise as balanced, compassionate, energetic and hands-on. For years she went the extra mile, volunteering weekly to work one-on-one with preteen children skipping school in Baltimore. She was the only one of the city's district court judges to do so.

There was nothing remotely political about that work. In fact, as a judge she was barred from partisan activity altogether. Yet she is no stranger to politics, having grown up as the daughter of a prominent Democratic politician, former attorney general J. Joseph Curran Jr., and spent a chunk of her adult life as the wife of another, Martin O'Malley (D), who was governor of Maryland and mayor of Baltimore.

She showed spine as an advocate for state legislation legalizing same-sex marriage, a cause she embraced, many believed, more passionately than her husband did initially. The measure passed and was narrowly approved at referendum by Maryland voters, in 2012, three years before the Supreme Court issued a blanket ruling permitting same-sex couples to marry.

In the job of attorney general, held for the past eight years by Democrat Brian E. Frosh, who is retiring, Ms. O'Malley would pursue an unusually detailed, aggressive and wide-ranging agenda. As supervisor of an office whose staff includes 450 lawyers, she would focus on surging violent crime, particularly in Baltimore, whose per capita homicide rate is second only to St. Louis.

Her platform advocates tough measures to grapple with gun crimes, including by pushing to enable victims of gun violence to sue firearms manufacturers. She has sensible proposals to prioritize environmental protection, by going after polluters and ensuring the state hits its targets for reducing

#### Katie Curran O'Malley- Running for AG in Maryland

harmful emissions. Building on her experience as the top economic crimes prosecutor in Baltimore, before she became a judge, she has pledged investigations of coronavirus testing firms that have defrauded Marylanders and corporations that defraud the elderly.

Ms. O'Malley's primary opponent, Rep. Anthony G. Brown, who will leave Congress after six years, is an honest, intelligent public servant; he would also make an able attorney general. But his experience, which includes eight years as lieutenant governor, is that of a conventional politician. Ms. O'Malley, having been in judicial trenches, would bring to the role a broader, fresher, people-oriented view.

From the Washington Post



### "Finding Grace" during Heritage Week at Westport House



Westport House and the O'Malley Clan Association

Present

# **Finding Grace**

Grace O'Malley (1530-1603), "the Pirate Queen", is one of the most important figures in Irish history and a source of great national pride. Her many exploits are both legendary and inspirational, with successive generations of people worldwide becoming enthralled with her life history and its legacy. Grace's biographer, Anne Chambers, describes her as "an accomplished mariner, a fearless leader, by land and by sea, a shrewd political tactician, a successful independent business woman, a ruthless plunderer, a mercenary, a rebel, the protective matriarch of her family and her tribe and – above all else – a woman who broke the mould and refused to allow the barriers placed in her path, either by society or by nature, to deter her from her quest".

The O'Malley Clan Association is conducting research into Grace's genetic heritage, in a bid to identify the genetic signature of her immediate forbears. We hope that soon, O'Malleys from all over the world will be able to find out how closely they may be related to her. In so doing, we aim to highlight the importance of genetic heritage, attract the O'Malley diaspora to their ancestral home and draw further attention to the incredible human being that was Grace O'Malley.

On Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> August, Dr Maurice Gleeson, a leading genetic genealogist, will present the findings (so far) of this ground-breaking project. He will explain how multiple O'Malleys have combined their historical connections to Grace with DNA analysis to reveal the complex story of O'Malley descent. He will be joined by Anne Chambers, biographer of Grace O'Malley, who will talk about the O'Malley Clan into which Grace was born and how they interacted with the other leading families of the time. The panel discussion, chaired by Newport local historian, Peter Mullowney, will bring together the project, the woman and her impact on Mayo, Ireland and the world.

### "Finding Grace" during Heritage Week at Westport House



Left: Author Anne Chambers, and Right: Dr Maurice Gleeson



## Programme – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022

- 1:30 Open for signing in
- 1:45 Welcome from Chair Peter Mullowney

2:00 Dr Maurice Gleeson: The Finding Grace project and results to date, including 10 mins Q&A

2:50 Anne Chambers: Grace O'Malley and her family connections, including 10 mins Q&A

3:40 Panel Discussion moderated by Peter Mullowney

5:00 pm Close



Right: The magnificent Westport House

#### Little O'Malley Peak-Alaska, USA

## Move over, Flattop: Little O'Malley Peak may now be the most accessible hike in Chugach State Park

Anchorage loves Flattop Mountain.

Each summer, residents send their house guests, out-of-state visitors, family and friends out to experience the quintessential Anchorage hike. And plenty of locals hit the trail as well, making it as popular as any area hike.

And it's easy to see why. There's easy access and great views at the top of a moderately difficult hike — a well-earned reward.

But there's a nearby alternative, a hike virtually equal in distance and elevation gain with views just as majestic: Little O'Malley Peak.

The trailhead is even accessed from same Glen Alps parking lot that most hikers use going up the front side of Flattop.

And now Little O'Malley Peak might just be Anchorage's most accessible and egalitarian hike, equally as good for young, old, inexperienced and savvy mountain veterans.

The improvement in accessibility has been a relatively recent development, a cooperative effort between Alaska Trails, Chugach Park Fund and Chugach State Park.

Chugach State Park designated the reroute of the main hiking trail up to Little O'Malley Peak as a major improvement that could help mark the 50th anniversary of the park in 2020.

"Park staff identified it as a priority project, and that was enough for us to go raise funds," said Claire Holland LeClair, co-chair of the Chugach Park Fund.

Over the course of the project, the Chugach Park Fund raised more than \$100,000 in private donations including an early grant from the Rasmuson Foundation, and work started on June 1, 2020. Alaska Trails used a paid dedicated crew to do the work as volunteer efforts were halted during the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was our first experience with a paid trail crew and a project we took from start to finish," said Alaska Trails executive director Steve Cleary.

According to Cleary, the project provided a number of upgrades from the previous route, which was considered potentially treacherous.

"One of the big desires from the state park was to make a more sustainable trail, but also there are a fair amount of injuries happening from hiking the gully" between Little O'Malley and the ridge leading to False Peak nearby, he said.

.Starting from the Glen Alps parking lot, it's a short jaunt to Powerline Pass. From there, hikers dip down into the valley following the Middle Fork Trail, then stay right once the trail soon splits off toward Little O'Malley Peak.

The route follows a slow incline through the tree line, then meanders through a number of switchbacks closer to the top. Recent trips along the trail have seen plenty of families and hikers of all ages enjoying the route.

"The way it's designed is to keep people on the trail and showcase the views," Cleary said.

For a serious hiker, all of the switchbacks might seem like an unnecessary annoyance as opposed to the older, more direct route to the top through the gully. People still use the traditional route but LeClair, who is the former deputy director of Alaska State Parks, said there has been a shift.

"What we've seen over time is that more people are using the new alignment," she said.

But one place where Little O'Malley may be superior to Flattop is as a jumping-off point to other areas in the Chugach front range. Just behind the peak is the area known as the Ballfield or Ballpark. The open alpine area enables hikers to access Black Lake or Williwaw Lakes, O'Malley Peak proper and beyond.

## Little O'Malley Peak-Alaska, USA

"Over and over again, people said we'd rather have better access to alpine areas," LeClair said. "This gets people into the alpine zone with relative ease and safety."

For even moderately experienced hikers, the round-trip route up to Little O'Malley Peak can be done in three hours or less.

While the trail has been in use since late summer 2021, there is a dedication ceremony planned for the new route on July 8 at 4 p.m. hosted by Chugach Park Fund with the addition of an interpretive sign.

Anchorage Daily News.



Above: People hike down a gully, from Little O'Malley Peak, in Chugach State Park

Below: New switchbacks were created by Alaska Trails crew members as part of a summer project for Little O'Malley Peak Trail in Chugach State Park



#### Ellen O'Malley Dunlop elected to important European role

O'Malley Clan Guardian Chieftain Ellen O'Malley Dunlop Elected to Important Role in the Council of Europe

I have seen the value in Ireland being part of the EU in economic terms but for me more importantly the value to Ireland in human rights terms has been immense and that is why I responded to The Department of Justice's public expression of interest invitation for



my name to go forward for selection for election to GREVIO, the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence which is known as the Istanbul Convention as it was first signed in Istanbul in 2011. I was honoured, first of all, that I was selected as a candidate for election by Ireland and subsequently honoured to be elected by the GREVIO members to the committee. I will take up the position on the 15 member committee on September 1<sup>st</sup>. GREVIO's main concern is in the area of human rights, gender equality, violence against women and domestic violence and/or in the assistance to and protection of victims.

I have worked all my life in the area of equality and women's rights inspired by our illustrious ancestor Grace O'Malley. She was very much a woman out of her time and in very difficult circumstances, she led the O'Malley Clan, proving to be an astute strategist, a clever negotiator and an excellent leader and protector of her tribe. When I started out on my professional journey women were not paid the same as their male colleagues, were not allowed to be on a jury, if married and working in the civil service had to give up work and stay at home, deemed to be domiciled where her husband resided, rape within marriage was not a crime. These are a small example of some of the many inequalities suffered by women for way too long. I knew from the onset of my career that I wanted to play my part in addressing these inequalities in whatever way I could and I knew if Grace O'Malley was alive today she would be to the fore in fighting for these rights.

I have met many wonderful men and women along the way with whom I have worked and have witnessed and been part of many of the very necessary changes that have happened, for example rape within marriage is now a crime, we have a definition of consent in our legislation and a married woman can have her own right of domicility to name but a few of the changes that have happened. However the work has still a long way to go and seeing a country like Turkey withdrawing from the EU Convention on the elimination of Violence Against Women and Domestic

#### Ellen O'Malley Dunlop elected to important European role

Violence, the country where the convention was first signed, certainly highlights the fact that there is no place for complacency in the area of the elimination of violence against women and/or equality. Turkey is the first and only country in the Council of Europe to have withdrawn from an international human rights convention. 34 out of the 47 Council of Europe countries have signed and ratified the Istanbul Convention. Ireland ratified the convention in 2019.

I led the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre for 10 years during which time we witnessed the publication of the Ryan, Murphy and Cloyne reports. These reports vindicated the stories we were hearing in the therapy rooms, about the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of women and children by members of the clergy, by members within families and others in positions of authority. During the first lock-down I let Saoirse a Domestic Violence Refuge and saw the escalation in Domestic Violence and the lack of refuge spaces for women and children fleeing from abusive relationships. With many of my colleagues working together we have seen the value of the various EU Conventions in particular the EU Convention on Victims' Rights and the EU Convention on the elimination of violence against women and domestic violence when it comes to lobbying for change particularly in our laws. Just recently coercive control within a relationship has been made a crime as a direct result of Ireland's ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

GREVIO draws up and publishes reports evaluating legislative and other measures taken by the member States who have ratified the Istanbul Convention to give effects to the provisions of the Convention which have 5 pillars Prevention, Protection, Provision of Services and Policy Coordination. In cases where action is required to prevent a serious, massive or persistent pattern of any acts of violence covered by the Convention, GREVIO may initiate a special inquiry procedure. GREVIO may also adopt, where appropriate, general recommendations on themes and concepts of the Convention.

In March 2016, GREVIO adopted a questionnaire on legislative and other measures giving effect to the provisions of the Convention. It launched its first evaluation procedure shortly after.

I look forward to taking up this new role and to working with my European colleagues to further the task of eliminating violence against women and domestic violence which includes male victims.

Ellen O'Malley Dunlop





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o\_malley\_clan\_association

**O'Malley Clan Association HELP SPREAD THE MESSAGE!** 

How can I help spread the message of the O'Malley Clan Association to everyone else with connections to this famous historic Irish Clan I hear you ask?

The Clan Association is very active on Social Media, and if you see a post, like it, share it, comment on it, share your feedback in comments, retweet if you're on Twitter, share our stories on Instagram and posts on Facebook.

#### EVERY BIT HELPS! ESPECIALLY IF YOU ATTENDED THE GATHERING IN MAYO

#### TAG THE O'MALLEY CLAN ASSOCIATION IN YOUR PHOTOS FROM THE WEEKEND

There are O'Malleys, Malleys, Melias, Maleys, out there that still don't know about the Clan Association and its efforts to connect O'Malleys all around the world, so lets try and spread the word

All interactions, (Likes/Shares/Retweets etc), get us onto more peoples feeds on their phones, laptops, and tablets, so get clicking!

Thanks for the Help

O'Malley Clan Association

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.