



## The “Grace O’Malley” in Ireland, Summer 2022



*Above: The Grace O’Malley with a fantastic sunset in Cork harbour in August 2022.*

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*Above: Shaun Davey, Clan Guardian Chieftain Ellen O’Malley Dunlop, Rita Connolly, and Sandy Dunlop on board the Grace O’Malley in Dublin, and Below: Brian O’Malley from Clare Island, Operations Manager, Lord Mayor of Belfast Tina Black, Captain Gerry Burns, and Catherine Noone from the Atlantic Youth Trust on board the Grace O’Malley in Belfast*



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*Above : Author Anne Chambers and Clan Secretary Grace O’Malley visiting the Grace O’Malley in Dublin, and below: The Grace O’Malley entering Lough Foyle after arriving in Ireland from Sweden*



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*Right: Clan Registrar Don O’Malley visiting the Grace O’Malley in Cork, and below: The Grace O’Malley entering the port of Cork in the evening sunshine in August 2022*



## O'Malleys climbing for Rio



### **A group of friends have climbed England's highest mountain to raise further funds for a little boy battling cancer.**

Levi O'Malley and his pals trekked up Scafell Pike in the Lakes over the bank holiday weekend to raise money for Levi's nephew, Rio Spurr.

Rio, three, is the son of former Blackburn Rovers player, Tommy Spurr and his partner Chloe, who is Levi's sister.

Former left-back Spurr said a tumour was found on the kidney of his three-year-old son in April, but in June he confirmed that the disease had spread into his lungs.

In a statement shared by one of Spurr's former clubs, Preston North End, the former footballer said the news was 'breaking our hearts' – but described how his little boy continued to smile and sing.

As a result of the news, fundraisers were organised to help the family out, with more than £53,000 collected via a GoFundMe page created by colleagues of Mr Spurr from Priestley College, where he now teaches.

And on Saturday, Chloe's brother, Levi, climbed Scafell Pike with six of his pals, with a separate fundraiser launched, which at the time of writing had amassed almost £3,000.

Speaking before the climb, Levi said: "On bank holiday weekend me and a group of friends will be climbing Scafell Pike, England's highest mountain.

"We will be raising money for my sister Chloe and her husband Tommy's little boy Rio, who has a rare cancer.

"At only three-years-old Rio has been through so much already, originally diagnosed with Wilms tumour he's already had so much chemo and a kidney removed.

"However, the cancer has now spread to his lungs. Rio is looking at as much as 12 months in Manchester Children's Hospital with Chloe and Tommy having to sacrifice their jobs to care for their boy.

"If all goes well there is no promise the horrible disease won't come back, leaving them with no option but to go abroad for further treatment.

"I'm hoping with my connections in Australia/Ireland and from travelling I can help raise some funds for Rio."

The trek up to Scafell Pike was organised by Levi and one of his friends, Caine Aspinall, with the pals

## O'Malleys climbing for Rio

completing the climb in four hours – and their youngest climber, 12-year-old Matilda, was the first to the top. The group wore 'All for Rio' t-shirts and also took a banner with them with the same words emblazoned in orange letters.

Levi added: "My friend's daughter, Matilda, was an inspiration and was first to the top.

"We raised around £2,700 on the GoFundMe page and £800 on the day.

"My family has had a rough time lately and this is the least we could do to offer support to Chloe, Tommy and Rio.

"I'd also like to thank Andy Tyldsley for providing the t-shirts for the day and Wayne and Andy at Tour Solutions Ltd for providing us with the mini bus to get us all there and back."

Earlier this year, Rio's dad Tommy Spurr said in a statement: "On 17th April, we found out that our beautiful Rio has cancer.

"We were transferred from Blackburn A&E in an ambulance to Royal Manchester's Children's Hospital where we quickly found ourselves on the oncology ward. Rio had X-rays, blood tests, an ultrasound scan, CT scan and MRI scan.

"Our consultant told us he had a large tumour on his kidney and that the cancer had spread to his lungs so was stage four."

A biopsy of the tumour gave an official diagnosis of a rare type of kidney cancer called Wilms tumour – a condition that only around 80 children are diagnosed with in the UK each year.

Rio has been having chemotherapy since April and in June had a four-hour surgery to remove the main tumour and his right kidney.

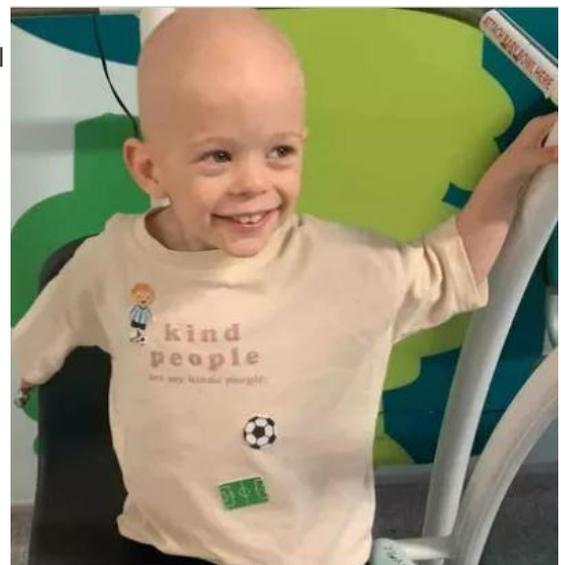
Spurr went on to say that when the pathology results of the tumour came back 'it was not the news we were hoping for'.

He said that the histology is unfavourable and high-risk, however the cancer is still treatable although Rio's chemotherapy is going to be much more intense from now on.

*Below: 3 year old Rio Spurr*

Fundraisers organised so far for Rio include: Ride for Rio - 120 miles bike ride from Hillsborough to Ewood Park stopping at all of Tommy's former football clubs, Running for Rio - Eight-year-old Archie O'Donnell running three miles every day in July, Tony Park's Legends v Soap Stars, Rio's 6s cricket tournament, Ribchester's red day for Rio, Rio's Pendle pub walk, Walking for Wilms, Deep beauty for Rio, Feniscowles football club's pub walk.

*Lancashire Telegraph*



## “The Beat Cop” a book by Michael O’Malley gets reviewed

### The Beat Cop, Chicago’s Chief O’Neill and the Creation of Irish Music: fine work but some bum notes

Much to admire but biographer misses O’Neill’s love of Irish music and fails to stick to the facts

The Beat Cop is an analysis of the life and influence of Francis O’Neill (1848-1936). A native of Bantry, Co Cork, he left home as a young man, travelling the world as a penniless sailor but ending up retiring as Chicago chief of police. O’Neill is mainly celebrated today for his collections of Irish music, for example O’Neill’s 1001: The Dance Music of Ireland (1907), still called the bible by Irish traditional musicians. Francis’s life story is a colourful one. For this reason, I was prompted to write a novel on his life: Chief O’Neill (Somerville Press). As you can imagine, I was interested in reading O’Malley’s new biography and analysis. The book is well researched and it was fun to revisit the O’Neill story and places: especially

Tralibane, outside Bantry, where he grew up, and his years in Chicago. As with my book, there is a key text underlying O’Neill’s story, his memoirs: Chief O’Neill’s Sketchy Recollections of an Eventful Life in Chicago (Northwestern University Press). In that short work, unfortunately, Francis O’Neill conceals as much as he reveals about his life. There are nostalgic recollections of his youthful misadventures, but also glaring omissions: of the 10 children he had with his wife Anna Rogers, only four survived to adulthood. O’Malley’s The Beat Cop puts the Chief on the witness stand, questioning this account of his life and how it contrasts with the history of his time.

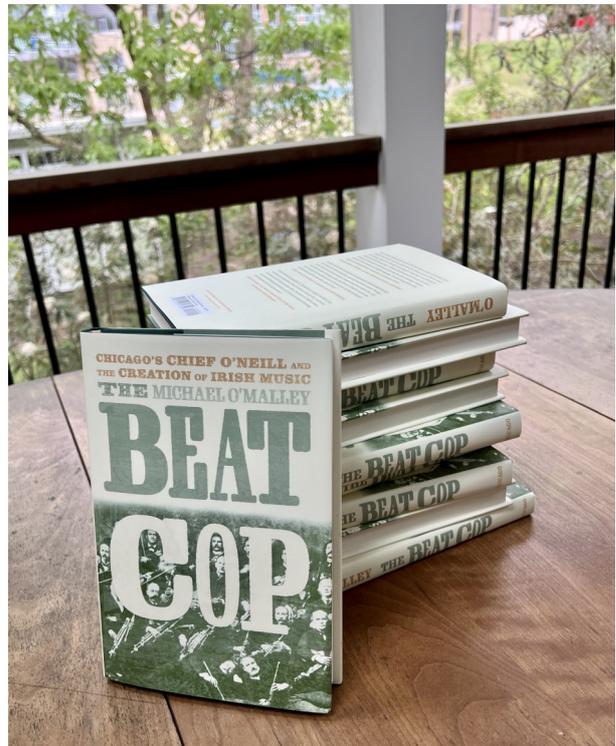
In the Introduction, O’Malley cuts through any romanticising of O’Neill:

Born an Irish colonial subject of Queen Victoria, O’Neill learned in the “National Schools” to see himself as a “happy English child.” The smart, bookish boy fled that colonial status for the sea and later escaped it altogether when he took the oath of citizenship to the US in 1873. But then a different kind of colonization took place, colonization by industrial life and the multitude of new ideas and technologies it offered. O’Neill patrolled Chicago as an agent of the state, part of the apparatus that organized and administered the city. [...] From his office in city hall he then used techniques of the modern police force to map and colonize Irish music.

O’Malley’s goal is to explain O’Neill through the political forces of his time. He speaks of O’Neill’s “double identity, both Irish and English”. The O’Neill family in west Cork survived the Famine, asserts O’Malley, so there must have been a degree of complicity with the colonial overlords.

As an Irish person whose family has roots in west Cork, I found this part of the analysis heavy-handed. This history of the Famine is a complicated one and I imagine most Irish people would rather not find out some of the skeletons rattling around the closets of our ancestors - the ones who survived.

However, to pin this specifically on O’Neill strikes me as unfair. When discussing Mary Ward, a blind singer from O’Neill’s childhood with a tendency to gossip, she is framed as a valuable informant offering “the competitive and ambitious O’Neills intelligence about their neighbours in exchange for food and shelter”. Again, this is not history but speculation, dare I say it, even fiction. In fairness to O’Malley, he does admit that “Perhaps the O’Neills were simply kind, and this judges them too harshly”. The truth is, we only care about Mary Ward because Francis was impressed with her singing and lilt of tunes.



## “The Beat Cop” a book by Michael O’Malley gets reviewed

Throughout, there is an impulse to expose these underlying flaws in Francis’s history; some of it well-founded, some better described as speculative. Francis rarely spoke directly about Irish nationalism and O’Malley takes this silence as further complicity. Again, I have to diverge here, based on personal experience. My own family moved to Chicago in the 1980s from the Ireland of hunger strikes and high unemployment. The company my father worked for, now Kerry Group, was then called North Kerry Milk Products. They quickly had to remove the “North” in the name because of the connotation with Northern Ireland. Ireland and its troubles have a long history in Chicago, with many incidents of Fenian activity which O’Malley documents. However, regarding O’Neill’s relative silence on the topic, my mind suggests a more subtle interpretation. To quote Seamus Heaney on the Troubles: “Whatever you say, say nothing”. In the same way as Kerry Group had to be careful about their “branding” in America, Francis had to be circumspect about any Irish political beliefs. I don’t see this so much as evidence of double consciousness of the oppressed as shrewdness on Francis’s behalf.

I’ll lay my cards on the table here. Francis O’Neill is a hero to me. I identify with his pangs of homesickness from leaving Ireland at 13 to arrive in a sprawling city like Chicago. I too turned to Irish music as refuge, even though it was as much Christy Moore and the Pogues as it was tunes I heard in pubs on the south side. When I found out more about Francis, initially from O’Neill’s 1001 and later through his Sketchy Recollections, I realized I wanted to tell that story through telling *his* story. I also knew how tight-knit the Irish community in Chicago was and I wanted to celebrate one of its famous members. But as The Beat Cop points out, all heroes have their flaws. There is no doubt that O’Neill relied upon patronage to rise to chief. He also managed to avoid and expose some of the more unseemly machinations of Chicago politics, something that is a credit to him which even The Beat Cop acknowledges.

*Right: Chief O’Neill  
originally from near  
Bantry in County Cork.*



The key aspect of O’Neill I feel The Beat Cop misses is his love of Irish music. Not emphasising this, to my mind, does a disservice to understanding Francis, who always described himself as “music mad”.

Music was a solace for missing home as well as a means to connect with the community which he had to police.

I don’t really buy the comparison of collecting tunes with a tough cop badgering witnesses. Perhaps in some cases there were aspects of that but by wholly politicising the story, the underlying obsession with music is neglected. He was so singular in his pursuit that The Beat Cop describes O’Neill as “emotionally obtuse”, what we might today classify as “on the spectrum of autism”.

To my mind, this is the worst example of too-convenient psychologising. As I pointed out above, O’Neill’s story has a very personal connection to me on a number of levels. Here is another one. I have a 15-year-old son who is autistic. I have learned so much about myself and what is labelled as autism from him. I have also learned to be very careful in applying that label to others, just because they are a little eccentric by current standards. Autism and the attempt to understand it was the main reason I wrote my second novel: Poor Farm (Moose House Press).

## **“The Beat Cop” a book by Michael O’Malley gets reviewed**

Set in rural Nova Scotia in the late 19th century, instead of imagining whether real historical people were autistic, it focuses on what the life of my son would have been like if he were born in Francis’s time. The story of historical treatment of people with autism is not told enough and rarely told with empathy. I particularly dislike it as an easy explanation for somebody not being emotionally connected. If anything, people on the autistic spectrum are often overwhelmed by emotions and, to the neuro-typical, appear disconnected. They are not obtuse or stunted.

When it comes to telling Francis O’Neill’s story, I certainly won’t claim to be perfect. I invented one character as a dramatic foil and embellished certain events to make the narrative more compelling. I can understand O’Malley’s desire to fill in the gaps in Francis’s story. However, I was writing historical fiction and laid out a big disclaimer at the start of the work. I appreciate O’Malley’s fine research into O’Neill’s life and, overall, am impressed by it. However, be warned that *The Beat Cop* occasionally strays from history into speculation. Francis O’Neill was no saint and it is worthwhile examining his flaws. However, a good cop (and historian) would “stick to the facts”, otherwise they are just telling a story.

*Ronan O’Driscoll is the author of *Poor Farm* and *Chief O’Neill**

*Below: Author of “The Beat Cop” Michael O’Malley*



## Congratulations to Eri Mountbatten O'Malley

Congratulations to Clan Member Eri Mountbatten O'Malley on his recent PhD. His work was praised by his supervisors as an 'outstanding scholarly work' and is currently in the process of getting an adapted version published as a research monograph. Research papers (based on his PhD) are also in the process of being published on notions such as personal development, meaning in life, happiness and the utility of wonder in education.

*Right: Eri on Graduation Day,*

*And below: with Gosia, Benjamin and Beatrice  
on Graduation Day*



## Col John O'Malley hurt during almost 3000 mile charity ride

**John O'Malley '87, Lieutenant Colonel, US Army Retired, is recovering from injuries he sustained in an accident while riding in an ultra-distance cycling race and raising money for a University memorial scholarship honoring his brother.**

After riding for more than a month in the Tour Divide, a 2,745-mile cycling race from Alberta, Canada, to New Mexico, in support of the fourth Ryan O'Malley Annual Ride (ROAR), a fundraiser for the Ryan T. O'Malley '99 Memorial Scholarship at the University, O'Malley was involved in an accident near Silver City, New Mexico, about 125 miles from the race's finish line in the early morning hours of July 15. According to the O'Malley family, John was found by two motorists who spotted him on the side of the road and alerted the police.



According to a [GoFundMe page](#) set up by Katie O'Malley, John's daughter, to help with their family's medical expenses, "John was airlifted from the scene in New Mexico and taken to an intensive care unit/trauma center in El Paso, Texas.

"We have since learned that he has endured a traumatic brain injury."

Although John can't recall the events surrounding the accident, he publicly thanked the Silver City police officers who assisted him in a Facebook post dated July 26.

"I am most grateful for their decisiveness and professionalism as a CT scan revealed a subdural hematoma," he wrote. "I still have no idea how nor when I sustained these injuries.

"At this point, I'm heartbroken that I didn't finish the race, but happy to be under great care (with) a great prognosis to return soon and get 'er done! The silver lining to all of this is that we raised over 12k for the Ryan T. O'Malley Memorial Scholarship fund at The University of Scranton allowing students in need the opportunity to get a college education."

According to John "Jack" O'Malley, Ph.D. '64, professor of psychology emeritus at the University and John's father, John was transferred from the University Medical Center of El Paso to Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Colorado Springs July 27, and he was released to his home in Monument, Colorado July 30, where he will continue outpatient physical therapy.

"His recovery has been remarkable!" Dr. O'Malley said. "Everyone has been so kind, and we deeply appreciate the caring and prayers."

According to several recent Facebook posts and comments made by John and his circle of friends, he remains an inspiration to many, and he plans to dedicate himself fully to healing and recovering until he's ready to race again.

"I'm headed back to Silver City to finish this baby!" he wrote in a Facebook comment July 30.

## Col John O'Malley hurt during almost 3000 mile charity ride

### ROAR

On June 10, John embarked upon ROAR: The Ryan O'Malley Annual Ride for the fourth time by participating in The Tour Divide, an annual ultra-distance cycling race that sees participants traverse the length of the Rocky Mountains from Alberta, Canada, to the US/Mexico border in Antelope Wells, New Mexico, in support of the Ryan T. O'Malley '99 Memorial Scholarship.

After Ryan's passing in 2011, his family established the scholarship in his memory to enable Computer Science students of limited resources with an interest in fitness to attend The University of Scranton. Since that time, Ryan's family and friends have raised more than \$150,000 for the scholarship, much of it through ROAR: The Ryan O'Malley Annual Race, a 5K fundraising event the family organized from 2013-2017. In 2018, John embarked upon the inaugural ROAR: The Ryan O'Malley Annual Ride by cycling the 500+ miles of The Colorado Trail from Denver to Durango in Ryan's memory. While John rode The Colorado Trail again for ROAR in 2019 and 2020, he was sidelined by injuries and knee surgery in 2021. Prior to beginning The Tour Divide, John said he was looking forward to riding for "family, community and the well-being of others."

"I ride to remember and honor our brother, Ryan," he said. "I ride to give back in some way to the community who nurtured us. Through the ROAR and Ryan's scholarship, we help to provide students with limited financial resources the opportunity to attend The University of Scranton."

John's love of cycling and adventure began when he was growing up in the Green Ridge section of Scranton.

"Bikes were a big deal back then, and if you had one, you were a lucky kid," he said. "For me, the bike became an instrument of exploration, discovery and freedom."

As the oldest child of Dr. O'Malley and his wife, Helene, John shared his love of cycling with his five siblings, especially Ryan, his youngest brother. "As a kid, time and distance had little meaning," he said of the hours they spent exploring the NEPA area together. "We'd just ride, inspired by the adventure and the natural beauty of the region."

Upon graduating from the University, John began his military career in Ft. Carson, Colorado, where he started racing mountain bikes. Since then, he has continued to ride and race, competing in triathlons and adventure races throughout the country. When he and his family settled in Monument, Colorado, he became so inspired by the expanses and terrain he saw on two wheels that he proposed the idea of funding Ryan's scholarship through an annual bike ride.

### The Tour Divide

The Tour Divide follows the 2,745-mile "Great Divide Mountain Bike Route," a 90% off-road trail that follows the Continental Divide through Alberta, British Columbia, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico. Established by the Adventure Cycling Association in 1998, it is considered the most important off-pavement cycling route in the world.

The Tour Divide's race clock runs 24 hours a day, and the self-supported riders aren't allowed any outside help other than the ability to access public facilities along the way that are available to everyone. Participating cyclists must carry their camping equipment, food and water through long stretches of remote mountain wilderness, pristine river valleys, open grassland and desert while risking injury, mechanical failure, treacherous weather and encounters with potentially dangerous wildlife.



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[o\\_malley\\_clan\\_association](https://www.instagram.com/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.*

## **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 IN JUNE**

**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