Volume 1, Issue 95

November 2022

Ó Máille



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights

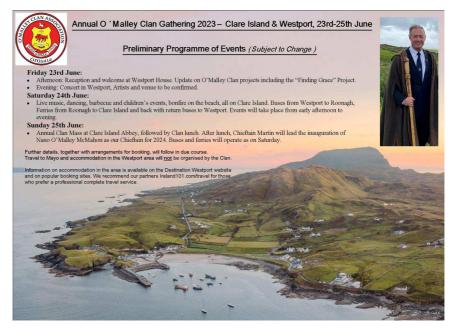
- Get planning your trip for June 2023!
- Get in touch and share your stories!
- Kevin O'Malley: A life in pictures!
- The Irish miners of Leadville
- President's Award for O'Malleys working to "END SEPSIS"
- 50 Years serving the community—O'Malleys Pharmacy
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- Spreading the word about the O'Malley Clan Association.

It's November! Get planning that trip for next June!!

The O'Malley Clan Gathering, 23rd to 25th June 2023

Check out the details on www.omalleyclan.ie

Remember, if you need any help planning your trip, we're here to help too, pop us over an email to omalleyclanireland@gmail.com and we'll come back to you.









Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!

Have you got a story, maybe with some old photographs, from your O'Malley family past that you'd like to share in future editions of Ó Máille?

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!



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Kevin O'Malley—A life in pictures!

Kevin O'Malley Might Just Be The Most Prolific Illustrator You've Never Heard Of

For more than 35 years, the Towson-based children's book illustrator has been creating a world of curious kids who feel real to

him.

After being banished for misbehaving in class, Kevin O'Malley spent many of his formative years in the library. He'd always loved the illustrations in books, but often the protagonist was unrelatable or pathetic. But one day, while in the stacks of his elementary school library, he discovered



Maurice Sendak's Where the Wild Things Are.

Above: Kevin O'Malley in his studio

"The book has a wonderful picture of a boy in a wolf suit chasing after a dog with a fork—it was the first time I saw a boy acting like I act," recalls O'Malley.

You could say O'Malley has been chasing that feeling ever since. Indeed, creating a world of curious kids who feel real to him has helped the illustrator build a successful 35-plus-year career.

The high-volume illustrator, who works out of his home in Knollwood, has done the drawings for 85 books, including the *Captain Raptor* and *Miss Malarkey* series. The secret to his success? That O'Malley—with his piercing blue eyes, big laugh, and self-effacing manner—still has the unbridled joy of a child, even at 61 years old.

His sun-filled studio that backs up to Towson High School's turf field is filled with artist's tools, including Prismacolor pencils in every shade, well-loved pastel sticks—some down to the nub—and a sturdy music stand that holds his latest art piece. Shelves line the back wall, and his own books are mixed among Russell Baker's *Book of American Humor* and *The Adventures of Mr. Toad*. It's here in this studio that O'Malley will first come up with a new book concept or read a pitch to illustrate someone else's story.

Kevin O'Malley—A life in pictures!

"Sometimes I've read a manuscript and said, 'No. I just don't see it.' Maybe it's too soft or too sweet or saccharine. I don't care for that."

Mostly he wants to write books that he wants to read. "A lot of children's books don't give a lot of credit to kids. They're written for adults. They're written because adults want to moralize or get a message across: 'Always say please and never just take and you won't be like Kevin and his stack of pancakes,'" he laughs, shaking his head. "A kid knows that's coming. And you can just sort of feel it, cringey, cringey, I'm being lectured to."

Even now he's often at odds with his editors. They are always trying to get him to end on a "jump up idea"—a lesson. "But I try to write things that amuse me. Mostly I want funny."



The second of six kids, O'Malley grew up outside of Philadelphia, in a rural area he calls Pennsyltucky, with Chevy Novas sitting up on blocks awaiting transmission repairs. One of his earliest memories is watching a Charlie Chaplin movie with his dad and two of his siblings, one still in a highchair at the time, and his dad being concerned that the kids didn't find it funny.

"They don't have senses of humor," he bemoaned to O'Malley's mother. That was when O'Malley first realized that humor was a gift, something that was important in his family, and even as a young boy he liked how he felt when he made someone laugh. He could often convey that with his art, as well.

"My parents saw that I liked to draw—but I was never the best," he says. Math also wasn't a strength: "I got 960 on the SATs—720 was in English and I can't figure out the remainder," he jokes. "I'm not the sharpest tool. I admit it freely." O'Malley is quick with such self-deprecating remarks and it's sometimes difficult to discern if it's a bit or something that goes deeper.

Despite what he thought, O'Malley got into every art school he applied to and arrived at the Maryland Institute College of Art in 1979. It was a big change from his small, sheltered hometown and O'Malley started to really see the world for the first time.

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Kevin O'Malley—A life in pictures!

"Art school is great for opening your eyes. I got better at listening, too," he says. While at MICA, he also met his wife, Dara, who works as a jewelry designer. "Never marry an artist," he says with a chuckle. "Marry an accountant so they can take care of you. Don't marry another artist."

Ever since high school O'Malley had been religiously submitting book proposals to publishers and he continued to do so during his time at MICA. But with no bites and desperate to pay off a loan to his parents, he took a job with The Becker Group, creating what's formally known as Santa Reception Areas—or holiday displays—at malls, and hotels, and on cruise ships. "It kind of takes all the charm out of Christmas," he says. "I would add yellow to the snow in the mall—now it looks realistic."

Despite his submissions, he didn't get published until he was in his late 20s. "I was rejected at least 100 times. I kept all the letters—'thank you but no' and 'while I really appreciate your work, I'm afraid it's not for us.'"

The motivation behind keeping all the rejects? "I kept the letters because I was bitter and vindictive. I had hoped to meet [one of the rejectors] one day and have the letter folded into a paper airplane with a sharp point and throw it at their forehead." (You can see why kids love him.)

Luckily, Andy Stewart, the former Mr. Martha Stewart, of the Stewart, Tabori & Chang publishing house, liked O'Malley's interpretation of well-known folk song "Froggy Went A-courtin" by Tex Ritter.

"He published it because he used to sing it when he went to college," remembers O'Malley. "I said, 'What the hell college did you go to?' He said, 'You're a brazen man, Mr. O'Malley, but I'm going to publish your book."

That was 1992 and it remains O'Malley's only book that's been banned by Baltimore County Public Schools. It wasn't a huge surprise, since Froggy robs a bank, evades the law, and spends much of the book drinking and smoking.

The following year, he followed that work with a wordless picture book called *The Box*, about a cardboard box that rockets a small boy and his teddy bear into space and back again. Next came *Bruno You're Late for School*, about a rhinoceros, O'Malley's favorite animal, trying to track down his homework. And he hasn't stopped since—though the time may be coming.

"I don't know honestly whether I want to continue making books," admits O'Malley. "I thought I'd get to 100 books, but it's just a number. Most of my books are out of print. Most are Third World fuel. They've been laminated into Ikea coffee tables."

Nearly all are O'Malley's words and drawings, but there's still something electrifying about collaboration. "The thrill of someone else's manuscript is the possibility of the interpretation," he says. Because of this, O'Malley changes his art style on just about every book he's done. "My agent said, 'If you keep changing, no one knows

Kevin O'Malley—A life in pictures!

who you are.' I said, 'I don't care. I bore easily.""

But his agent isn't wrong—it can be hard to pinpoint his style. "I have boxes and boxes of colored pencils. I use them on a lot of things. But [sometimes] I don't feel like using colored pencils...I feel like watercolor. Or I feel like this one is acrylic paint or this one is oil paint. Or this one is done with the computer. It feeds the mania of creating art."

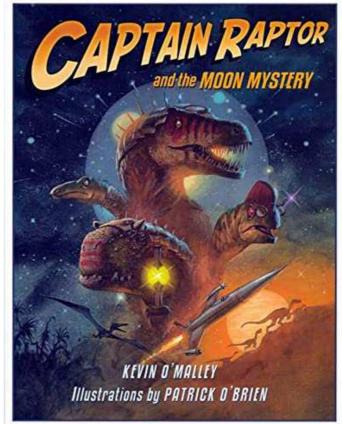
But it might also explain why O'Malley is the most prolific illustrator most people have never heard of. The artist remains unfazed. One of his most popular books, *Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude*, tells the story of a boy and a girl working through different ideas of how their fairy tale should evolve. O'Malley insisted that the publisher, HarperCollins, should use three different illustrators for the project to reflect the different viewpoints (the kids and the two separate fairy tales). And when Nickelodeon bought the rights to the book, they agreed to do multiple illustrated styles as well. He's proud of the finished product.

O'Malley reads the book out loud, looking at the pages, although it's clear he knows the words by heart. It reads like a conversation between two real children. "That was a wonderful book to do because we gave them

honest talk. We didn't play down to them," he says.

And while he might not want to admit to overt sentimentality, O'Malley loves the idea of families reading his books together. "My greatest disappointment is that I never got cameras mounted in people's homes so I can see them reading my books on the couch. There is nothing to me more terrific than curling up with a kid and reading a book. Make it cozy, and then you start reading, and then you stop and talk. It's just so lovely to do that."

"He's a child in old man's clothing," says Fred
Rasmussen, *The Baltimore Sun* obituary writer who
has been a friend of O'Malley's for decades. "His
personality is just irresistible," says Rasmussen. The
two are part of a large crowd that meets regularly



at Zen West in north Baltimore. The group often includes retired teachers, editors, and even former governor Martin O'Malley (no relation to Kevin).

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Kevin O'Malley—A life in pictures!

"Kevin has a curious habit—a vodka tonic with 19 limes stuck in it," says Rasmussen, who always teases his friend: "Are you afraid of scurvy? We have drugs for that." The two men banter, trying to make each other laugh. "He's very, very funny. He always says the same thing—'find joy'—when he leaves. He brings great joy to people."

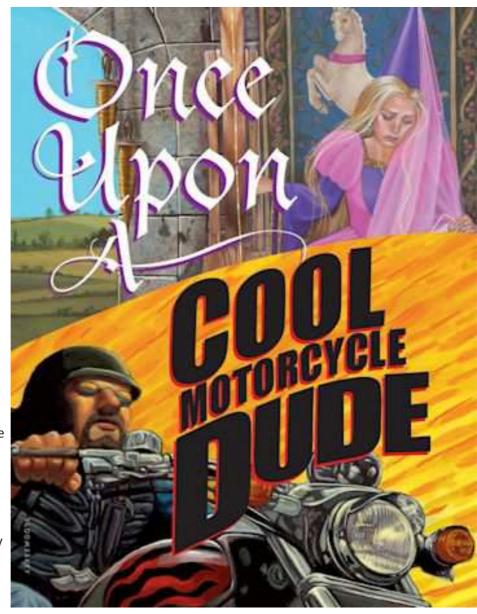
That's partly because of O'Malley's ability to hold onto much of the wonderment many of us lose as adults, though he deadpans that his own two sons have "never been an inspiration."

So maybe it's just other kids that inspire him. School visits are his fuel. "I must have been three books in when I realized there were such things as visiting authors," he says. He started going to elementary schools and not just reading his books but really educating kids in how to tell a story.

"The fun part is watching parents laugh, teachers laugh," he says. "The kids are easy. You say 'fart' and you get them."

After the readings, kids usually mob O'Malley like a rock star, sometimes literally climbing all over him. One time he caught a teacher shaking her head at him, amused. "Stand up," she whispered conspiratorially. "Keep the germs below the waist." He never forgot that.

"That's some sage advice. The nose-picking crowd is out there glomming on me. But they're nice. Kids are nice.
And they attempt to be funny and work out humor."



Kevin O'Malley—A life in pictures!

That said, not everything is a punch line. He's learned to let his views expand, including being mindful of student pronouns—something he didn't really think about 30 years ago. Another positive? More diversity in his field and the acknowledgement that being a "cis white guy" has given him an advantage. "It's my greatest disappointment, how much better the world would be if we didn't have such prejudices," he says.

In general, these days, it's hard to find the funny. And often that's what O'Malley needs to finish his books. "Right now, I can't come up with any endings. COVID has been very hard. The situation in our world is difficult. If you don't have a good beginning and a good ending, you can't make a story. You kind of have to know where you want to go. And recently I've felt myself turning into a moralist. I don't want to be a moralist. Who the hell am I to think I can tell you how to live your life?"

But he is a role model, whether he likes it or not. Kids often say to him, "How can I be you when I grow up?" "I tell them, 'You try to draw every day.' I have given away probably 4,000 drawings in my time."

The drawings were born out of a particularly rough patch in his life. "I wasn't feeling good in my head," he says. His father said that if the world is going to keep spinning, you may as well bring people joy. That's when he started creating pictures for people. "I will interrupt people at dinner and say, 'You were laughing. I'd like to draw you a picture."

So, he turned it into a project. During COVID he drew over 1,200 images. Friends and strangers would request an animal, most via Facebook, and tell O'Malley what they do to find joy. He would draw a dog, a wolf, a horse, a bear playing video games, planting flowers, baking a cake, swimming in a pool. Then scan it and send it out.

"I love giving away drawings and getting to know people—that's where the world gets better. So even the person you don't agree with has a favorite animal. And they have something they do to find joy. I'm on more refrigerators than any artist in this country."

He turns and asks, "So what's your favorite animal?"

Baltimore Magazine

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The Irish miners of Leadville

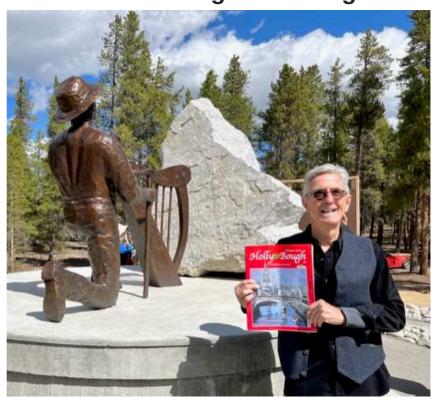
From West Cork to Colorado—Mining was a tough life

Stunned, moved, and silenced, those were the words used by *Holly Bough* reader, Paul McLoughlin when He visited a memorial to 1,400 Irish people unveiled in a US mining town this year.

Paul visited Leadville in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, a popular destination for Irish emigrants in the 1870's when silver was discovered there.

Many of the miners and their families that arrived there were emigrants from Leadville's "sister city", the West Cork town of Allihies.

About 1,400 Irish people died and were buried nearly 150 years ago in unmarked "paupers" graves here, and were referred to as the "Lost Irish" of Colorado. Their avarage age was just 22, and they were the children of the famine and the grim years after it.



Above: Paul at the memorial in Leadville, with a copy of the Holly Bough

The sculpture recognises them, and Paul, who made the 100 mile journey from his home in Boulder said, "Not knowing what to expect I was stunned, moved, and silenced by the memorial. It is far more substantial than I could have imagined.

When completed in the spring it truly will be a fitting rememberance both of the Irish, as a people, and what they did for America, and died doing in the Rocky Mountains. It's a remarkable story of triumph and tragedy, and now recognition. "The statue will draw people to Leadville, the highest incorporated city in the US, 10,101ft above sea level" added Paul who wrote the story of his Cork family's 380 year old chalice in last years *Holly Bough*.

About a third of the Irish in Leadville were from West Cork, around Allihies, with mines named after Jerimiah O'Donovan Rossa, Robert Emmet, and Theobald Wolfe Tone. The statue, designed by Terry Brennan from County Wicklow, depicts miner "Liam" crouching, helmet on head, a pick in one hand, a harp in the other. His eyes gaze past a large stone, towards Ireland, 4,500 miles away.

The memorial was co-funded by the US Government, whose President, Joe Biden, has Irish ancestors who worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania.

The discovery of silver near Leadville in the 1870's prompted one of the largest silver rushes in US history. Its population surged from a few hundred to 35,000 in just a few years. Historian Jim Walsh was the driving force

The Irish miners of Leadville

behind the statue. An assistant professor at the University of Colorado, Denver, He said that there were around 3,000 Irish born people in the town at any one time during the rush. Walsh, who has spent 20 years researching Irish history in Leadville, and is publishing a book next year, says life for those who came was harsh, with the Irish at the bottom of the social ladder. "They were a very desperate, working class community" He said. "Uneducated, they found mining jobs here for \$3 per day. They were working 10-12 hours per day, 6 days per week"

Leadville has snow from November to May, and professor Walsh, who has Irish ancestry added, "The Irish had inadequate housing, clothing, and healthcare"

When he first saw Leadville Cemetary, the paupers section was just acres of sunken unmarked graves. "That was a life changing

moment for me" He said. "I was learning about my own Irish ancestors. I saw my own people. I knew this was going to be a big part of my life and I wanted to tell their stories.

O'Connor, Maggie - 7m O'Donnell, John - 32y O'Donnell, Charles - 34y O'Keefe, Maggie - 29y O'Keefe, Margaret - 1y O'Leary, Patrick - 24y Oleson, Elmer - 3w Oleson, G. O. – 1y Oliner, F. - Unknown Oling, Carl - 42y Oling, Victor – 23y O'Malia, Anna - 1w O'Malley, John - 43y O'Malley, Mary - 1y Onaroto, Pasquele - 35y O'Neal, Dennis - 27y O'Neal, Julia - 12y O'Neal, Mary - 31y

Above:Some of those who persihed in Leadville, including some O'Malleys

This is a sacred space. An important part of the story of the Irish diaspora that needs to be told"



Above A view of the memorial at Leadville

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The Irish miners of Leadville

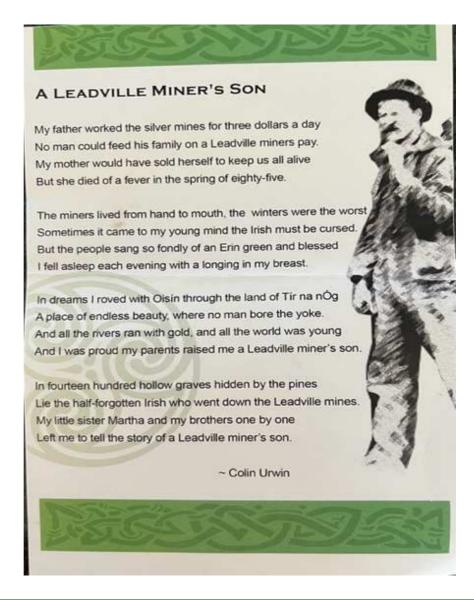
A website, www.rockymountainirishrootscollective.org, set up shortly will allow families to determine whether any missing relatives are buried at Leadville.

The strong ties between the Beara Peninsula and Leadville were recognised during this years St Patrick's Day weekend. A delegation from the Allihies Copper Mind Museum travelled to the town, and also to Butte, Montana, to formally establish twinning arrangements. The Allihies group of Tadhg O'SullIvan, Anne McNally, Niall O'Sullivan, and Tara Hanley took part in the Butte St Patrick's Day Parade, and then headed to Leadville afterwards. They also sought to establish educational, research, and tourism links between the communities.

The Holly Bough is published in West Cork each year. Celebrating 125 years in 2022, (first published in 1897).

The 2022 Holly Bough is packed with 164 pages of fascinating articles and photos, puzzles and quizzes, fictional stories, a section for children, and a bumper sports section.

Paul McLoughlin
Boulder Colorado



President's Award for O'Malleys working to "END-SEPSIS"

Louisburgh native Ciarán Staunton, (His grandmother was Alice O'Malley from Clare Island), and his wife Orlaith, have been announced as recipients of the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad. The awards will be presented by President Michael D Higgins at a ceremony at Áras an Uachtaráin later this year.

Ciarán and Orlaith Staunton have been recognised for their live-saving work on creating greater awareness of the dangers of sepsis. Orlaith is a native of Drogheda.

They are co-founders of US based END SEPSIS, the Legacy of Rory Staunton, which was founded in 2013



Above: Ciarán & Orlaith Staunton

as the Rory Staunton Foundation for Sepsis Prevention following the undiagnosed, untreated, and preventable death of their 12-year-old son Rory Staunton from sepsis in New York.

"We are deeply honoured to accept this Presidential Award in memory of our son Rory and in recognition of our family's lifesaving work to end sepsis. "END SEPSIS, the Legacy of Rory Staunton is the leading sepsis advocacy organisation in the United States, and this recognition of our international work means a great deal to our family," they said. The Stauntons were informed of their honour in a letter from Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney.

"I am honoured on behalf of the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, to inform you that you have been chosen by the Government of Ireland to receive a Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad." The Award, which was established in 2012 and is awarded annually, recognises the distinguished and sustained contribution to Ireland, Irish communities abroad, and Ireland's international reputation by people resident abroad. "I am especially pleased that you have been selected to receive the Award under the category of Charitable Works. The central and significant role played by you in setting up the Rory Staunton Foundation in the wake of the tragic death of your young son, Rory, and the resultant laws which have been passed, has had a far-reaching impact. Your work has undoubtedly saved thousands of lives and will continue to impact on future generations. The award is well deserved and I am delighted to see your efforts recognised in this very special way at a national level," Minister Coveney wrote. The presentation of the awards by the President of Ireland will take place at Áras an Uachtaráin in Dublin; the date is yet to be confirmed. The Stauntons, who are based in New York, are one of ten recipients of the 2022 Presidential Distinguished Service Awards, all based overseas. Colm Brophy, TD, Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora, said he is 'delighted' that 'the work and achievements of members of Ireland's diaspora' are honoured.

We are very proud of the impact our global family continues to have all over the world and the recipients of this Award demonstrate between them the remarkable diversity and richness of Ireland's diaspora. "The President's Awards highlight and celebrate in a very special way the achievements and the diversity of the global Irish family and I very much look forward to meeting this year's recipients when they travel to Ireland for the awards ceremony hosted by President Higgins later this year," said Minister Brophy.

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50 Years serving the community—O'Malleys Pharmacy

O'Malley's Life Pharmacy -Over 50 years of serving the community in Dooradoyle

In every community, there are a few places that everyone knows about and where everyone feels welcome, and *O'Malley's Life Pharmacy* is one of

them. Situated across from the Walk-In GP Clinic and near University Hospital Limerick, the pharmacy has been in the same spot for



Above: Fr O'Malley taught history and religous studies from 2006 to 2020 at Georgetown University

over 50 years, attending to the needs of the local community of Dooradoyle and environs.

The pharmacy was set up by pharmacist and former government Minister Tim O'Malley and is now run by his daughter Sheila, another pharmacist.

Norma Maher, Retail Manager, says: "We love to see our regular customers coming in to us. Often, we'll be looking after the third generation of the same family – parents, children and grandchildren – and it's great to be able to provide that continuity of service and knowledge across the years. The older generation might be coming in for their regular prescription, their children availing of our great Wellbeing section to help them to stay healthy to look after their young families, or maybe getting a bit of advice from our pharmacist, Eva, when one of their little ones is under the weather. Whatever the situation,

we're here to help. "I suppose, being here so long, we've seen lots of change. When I came to work here first, there was an older population around us, but now we see lots of young parents with small kiddies and we adapt to that change. Our Baby section is a lot bigger than it was only a few years ago!

"We're so lucky to have a team with great clinical knowledge and experience,' Norma continues. 'With Covid and huge pressure elsewhere in the healthcare system, people have come to rely on pharmacies like ours as the easiest and quickest way to



50 Years serving the community—O'Malleys Pharmacy

access clinical advice. We also provide day to day health services like blood pressure monitoring, smoking cessation, BMI monitoring, asthma management and vaccinations. All these services we administer in our separate consulting room, and it's great to have somewhere private to go if you need to talk to the pharmacist and you don't want to share your symptoms with the rest of the shop! Just pop in or give us a call to make an appointment for a specific service, like the flu vaccine which is available at the moment, and we'll look after you.

"It's important when you are giving people advice about something as important as their health that you are properly trained. We work very hard to keep all our team trained and up to date on the latest treatments and trends. Because our pharmacy is right beside the hospital, we are often working with patients who are that little bit sicker, maybe they're in to get their discharge prescriptions or the like. So our staff are very experienced in supporting people when they are going through a particularly rough time health wise. Committing to constant training gives our staff the knowledge and confidence to advise our patients and customers, and they, in turn, know they are safe to rely on our advice.

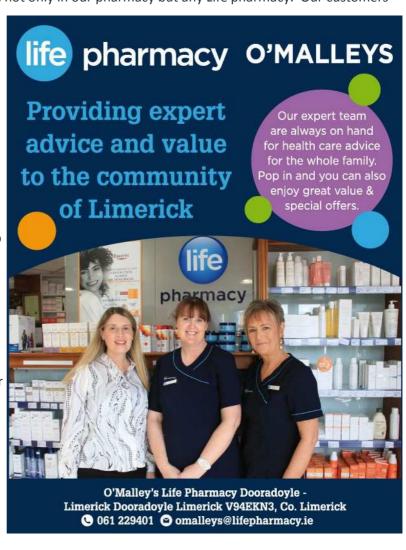
"Because we know our patients well, we know what other medications they might be on, whether maybe there's a history of, say, blood pressure or kidney problems in the family that might make one medicine riskier than another. All of this knowledge we use to keep our patients and customers as safe and well as we can.

Norma adds: "Eleven years ago, we joined the Life symbol group and that's been great for us. It means we can offer a loyalty programme that works not only in our pharmacy but any Life pharmacy. Our customers

have access to an Online Doctor, as well as online shopping from our website www.lifepharmacy.ie. Our customers can order from a wide range of products, even lines that we don't carry day to day on the shop floor, and we can have it in store for them to pick up within a day or two. Likewise with e-prescriptions, customers can get their GP to email us the script and we can have their medicines ready for them within about 30 minutes.

"This time of the year, we're heading into cold & flu season and there are plenty of people in to get their flu jab. This is also the time of year when we start preparing for Christmas, even though it's still a couple of months away. From now on, we start getting in our Christmas gift ranges, skincare sets, beauty sets, perfumes and all the nice treats for under the tree! Conscious of the cost-of-living pressures, we have something for every budget and we'll be getting in additional stock as we get closer to the big day. So come in and say hello if you're around Dooradoyle, we'd love to see you!"

Limerick Leader







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www.facebook.com/omalleyclan

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

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 TRIP

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