

Volume 1, Issue 109

January 2024

# Ó Máille



## O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

### This month's highlights....

- Happy New Year from The O'Malley Clan!
- Limerick 2024,. Time to start planning your trip!
- Portrait of an Artist—Eoin O'Malley
- The unveiling of the 2nd Grace statue in Newport
- Brian O'Malley—Getting on his bike!
- Caoimhe O'Malley stars in "Prickly"
- Edel O'Malley leading the way on Operation Transformation
- The 2024 O'Malley Clan Gathering, Preliminary Programme
- About The O'Malley Clan Association
- The O'Malley Clan Association Needs You!

### A Happy New Year to you all from The O'Malley Clan!

Chieftain Nano, and all of us here at The O'Malley Clan Association would like to wish you a Happy New Year. We hope all of you O'Malleys around the world will have a happy, safe, and peaceful 2024. Lets make it the best year yet!



**Limerick 2024. Get Planning Your Trip! (Click image)**

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## Portrait of an Artist—Eoin O'Malley

Hello! This is artist Eoin O'Malley and I'm his facilitator Orla Callaghan.

Eoin is delighted to be given the opportunity to make a contribution to the Artists Connect Blog series and to share a bit about his journey as an artist. We've been looking back to when it all started and thinking about the things that have allowed Eoin to keep working, what has gone well over the years and a couple of things that have been challenging along the way.

Eoin and I have been working together since 2008 at the Lalor Centre in Baltinglass, a local service centre of KARE. Eoin first started to paint when his key worker at the time, Teresa, had the simple but brilliant idea of using a pencil gripper on the end of a paintbrush so Eoin could hold the brush in his mouth. His own determination was clear from the start but continuing to work and develop would have been impossible without the support Eoin has had over the years from KARE particularly through the line manager Anne Leigh in the Lalor centre. Fundamental to Eoin's progress though is his amazing mother Marianne who always had the vision to recognise what painting could mean to Eoin and constantly goes above and beyond to provide all kinds of help and assistance.

Painting with your mouth isn't easy! Eoin didn't have an easel or anything at first but he quickly developed his skills with the brush and started to use acrylic on canvas. In 2010 Eoin had his first exhibition, *Brushwork*, in the Lalor Centre. It was a sellout and lit a fire in Eoin to work even harder. Soon after that Marianne got the table easel that made a huge difference to the way Eoin could access and navigate the canvas.

While Eoin was honing his skills with the brush I had to learn a few things too. I realised that I had to keep out of his way to make sure he properly owned the process. That helped set good boundaries for the methods we use to work together. Representing Eoin authentically in making proposals was another learning curve. Words are not Eoin's thing but there's so much writing required for exhibition and funding applications. I made the mistake of using the first person in the beginning but that just felt wrong so I figured out that I could write for Eoin in the third person but not as him.

Guidance from Arts Disability Ireland (ADI) has been an enormous help, their advice to make the voice of the artist central to the proposal is a clear benchmark to work from. They also suggest using video recordings which have worked really well in giving Eoin a platform to be fully present in applications. In 2016 Eoin had a solo show in the Riverbank Arts Centre in Newbridge and also got his first Arts Council award through the Arts Disability Ireland Connect scheme for mentoring with Paul Bokslag. Paul opened the exhibition -

*'The painting on the invite for this exhibition was given the title Borderland. I think a lot of Eoin's paintings reference landscape in one way or another. Landscapes can be real, imagined, inner or metaphorical. Borderland depicts the hill behind the centre as viewed from the window of the room that he paints in. A white fence on a hill forms a border between what is on either side. Borders aren't always a divide, they can also be seen as a connection between two worlds and maybe you could say that this painting is also about the future, about connecting with and moving on into another land.'*

That time really did mark moving into another land in many ways. Having Paul's response and input changed the dynamic of working in isolation and Eoin started to refer to himself as an 'artist' for the first time. Paul invited Eoin to visit KCAT studios in Callan County Kilkenny where he was able to see what working in a dedicated studio space with a group of other artists is like.





## Portrait of an Artist—Eoin O'Malley

In 2018 KARE provided Eoin with his amazing windmill easel enabling him to paint on a much larger scale than before and it was around this time that Eoin began to make work that related more specifically to source material and research.

Further awards from ADI continued the connection with Paul and meeting Sheena Barrett through the ADI/Fire Station Studio Visit programme has helped to open doors.

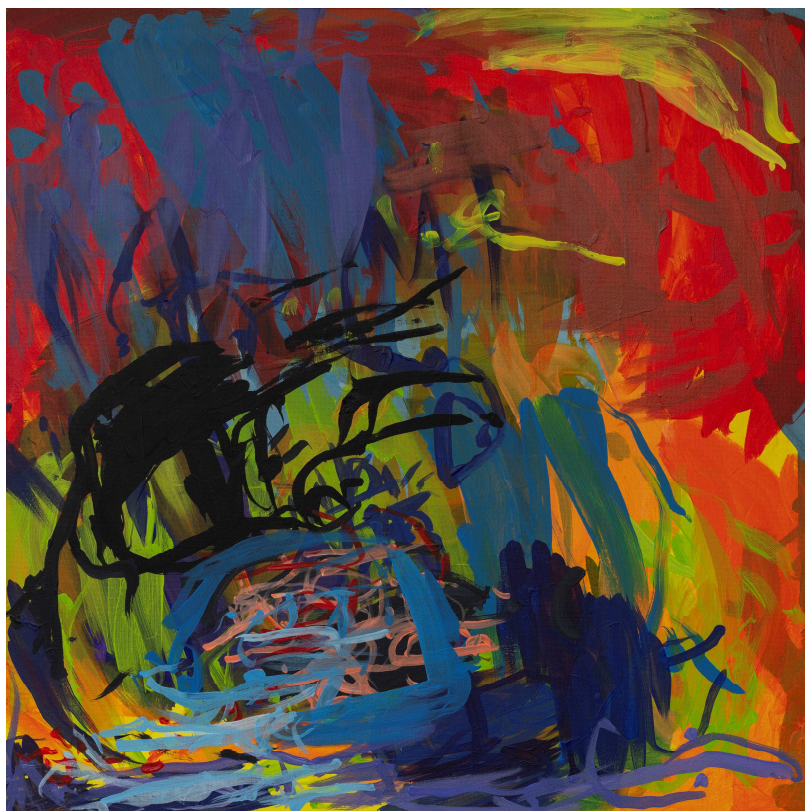
Getting support from Wicklow County Arts Office over the last year and the coincidence of Baltinglass being awarded Creative Places funding has meant that Eoin is now a member of the Baltinglass art group BART, taking his place in the local community as an artist. To be seen as a working artist in his home town means the world to him. Eoin is ambitious! When he imagines the future for his work he uses the phrase 'out there' with elastic intention. Thanks to last year's Research and Development funding from ADI and a connection forged by Sheena Barrett, Eoin was able to commission Clare Scott to write about his work.

When asked which he would choose Eoin replied emphatically PERSON. Way to go, Eoin, we can all take a lead from that distillation on the path towards inclusion.

It's been a very busy couple of years, hard to fit everything in, but the Storm Paintings series is finished now and the final aim of the Research and Development award, of having photographer Louis Haugh document the work, was realised in August.

So many great things have happened for Eoin over the last few years but it has to be said the main challenges of time and space haven't changed much. Time - despite the extra time afforded by funding it seems like there will never be enough time. In fact, the more that Eoin achieves the more time is sucked up by administration and application processes - a familiar state of affairs for artists trying to balance all that it takes to keep things going.

Space - demands on space in the Lalor Centre change all the time. Eoin has use of a great room at the moment, but understandably, it has to be shared to meet the needs of others and that could even mean moving out as has happened before. The security of a dedicated studio to call his own would make such a difference. Hopefully some day!



## Portrait of an Artist—Eoin O'Malley



So a bit about the practice. Eoin has always kept a digital notebook of images and interests. Typically we spend the first part of a working day with a coffee looking at stuff on the computer - following other artists' work, checking opportunities and investigating ideas.

Over the years the connections between the ideas and the work have become stronger and more intentional. Just before lockdown, Eoin had come up with a plan for his first series of paintings based on a single theme - the bright infrared diagrams of the named storms. Covid postponed painting for a while and Eoin and I worked remotely assisted by the staff in his residential home. The thirty-plus drawings from that time embody a strange combination of quiet meditative mindfulness and the tension of constant uncertainty.

It was great to be back together in the studio at last in September 2021. Then, even better, an amazing thing happened when Eoin got a commission out of the blue from the National Library to create an image to be used for their Christmas card. It was such a boost. The recognition of his work at that level reinforced Eoin's confidence no end and definitely ticked the 'out there' box. Drawing on impressions from a visit to the Library, Eoin made two paintings: 'The Reading Room' - now hanging in the Library and 'Sphinx Mosaic' - selected for Speech Sounds in Visual Carlow last year and for Mermaid's Twenty One in Bray this summer.

Eoin has now decided to investigate old maps for his next series of paintings but there's another area of work developing too. Eoin has been experimenting with using his chair as a mark-making tool for a while now. It started with the discovery of drawing on the floor just by driving over paper at a residency in the Riverbank back in 2015. Then at KCAT in 2018 Paul devised an arm to attach to the chair and made a video of the large-scale floor drawing. Now Eoin is trying out painting with his wheels and hopes to bring this



## Portrait of an Artist—Eoin O'Malley

into the public realm by inviting people to bring all kinds of wheels to come join in a collaborative track painting event next year!

As part of the Research and Development project, Eoin worked with videographer Luke Brabazon to produce a video documenting his working methods.

<https://youtu.be/wsP0l64GCeA>

Eoin chose the title “Eyes Out” which is his phrase for looking/seeing with intensity and purpose. Apart from that he didn’t want the video to have much to do with words. During the process of having material made about him and his work, we had to examine the language that Eoin wants to have used to describe him.



Language around disability is tricky and there is a sort of shifting sands thing about the rights and wrongs - for instance, I was taught that ‘person with disabilities’ was right because it puts the person first but ‘disabled person’ is politically preferred now as it infers the person is disabled by society.

Nearly time to say goodbye but just one last thing... In response to the question in the blog brief inviting connection and reflection from others -

Eoin would like to invite anyone who is interested to come visit him in Baltinglass, to meet and exchange ideas and inspiration, share stories and to keep on widening our network of community and communication into the future.

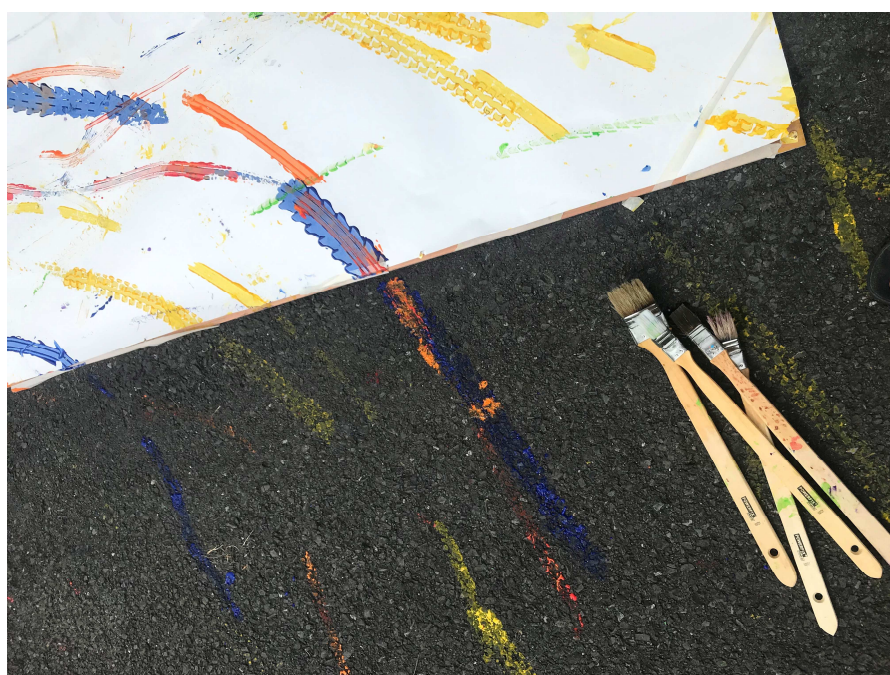
So please do get in touch by email [HERE](#)

You can see more of Eoin’s work [HERE](#) and follow him on Instagram [HERE](#)

With many thanks to Wicklow County Arts Office for the excellent Artists Connect initiative.

All the best.

Eoin & Orla



## Portrait of an Artist—Eoin O'Malley





**O'Malley Clan Table Quiz—2nd February, Cappamore, Limerick**



# Table Quiz

**Hayes' Bar,  
Cappamore  
Friday 2nd  
February 9pm**



**Teams of 4 @ €40  
A great raffle too, on  
the night.  
Come along and test  
that brain after the  
Christmas!**

**A fabulous  
night of craic  
with the  
O'Malleys  
and all of our  
friends!**



## Tell us your O'Malley Stories—What O'Malley would you love to have met?

We want to put together something very special for the O'Malley Clan Gathering coming up in June. There'll be various great events over the weekend, including Irish Dancing, and Irish Music, but something we want to include too, is the great Irish tradition of storytelling.

**What we're looking for is your stories. We want you to tell us about an O'Malley that you would have loved to have met. on a single A4 sheet, with no more than 500 words, (please include an image too),**

It could be artist and freedom fighter Ernie O'Malley, it could be Grace O'Malley, the Pirate Queen herself, or maybe Lord Sligo, one of the men that ended the slave trade. It could be someone from your own family history. A great grandad that sailed the seas of the world and would have lots of stories to share with you. It could be a grandad that dropped into Normandy by parachute in June 1944, or maybe a great great grandmother that sailed to the new world in the 1800's to find a new life for herself. It'll be your story, so you tell us who it is that you would have loved to meet and have a chat with. To hear all about their life, their adventures, their triumphs and tragedies.

What we plan to do with these single sheet stories is to create display boards with multiple sheets on each, and to have these on display at the Gathering in June. So, even if you can't wing your way over to Ireland to be at the Gathering in Limerick, you can still be present in this small way, and share a little bit of your O'Malley story with us all.

Who knows, if we were to get enough of these single sheet stories, we could put them together into a booklet too, and make that available.

We'll need you to get on board and put your stories together though. A single A4 sheet, so no need to go into forensic detail. There won't be space for that. If you do end up writing a book about your ancestors, we can promote that for you in the newsletter too, but for this we're looking for a short extract, a small window into their story, a snippet of the bigger story.

We have an example of what we might be looking for on the next page, but this is only a suggestion, lets get our thinking hats on, and see what we can come up with.

Please forward all submissions to [story@omalleyclan.ie](mailto:story@omalleyclan.ie) before 1st April, and we can go through all of them then and get those displays put together.

It'd be fantastic to have input for the Gathering from everyone around the world, including those that can't make it to Limerick, so here's your opportunity!

Thanks for your efforts, in advance.

Don O'Malley  
O'Malley Clan Association



## The O'Malley I would you love to Meet—The Pirate Queen



Grace O'Malley, also known as Granuaile, is a captivating historical figure whose life as the Pirate Queen of Ireland in the 16th century has left an indelible mark on history. The prospect of traveling back in time to meet Grace O'Malley is an enticing one for numerous reasons.

First and foremost, Grace O'Malley was a trailblazer who defied societal norms and gender expectations of her time. In an era when women were often confined to domestic roles, Grace fearlessly embraced a life of maritime adventure and leadership. Meeting her would offer a unique opportunity to witness firsthand the resilience and determination of a woman who dared to challenge the status quo, carving a path for herself in a male-dominated world.

The political landscape of 16th-century Ireland was tumultuous, marked by the clash between the Gaelic clans and the encroaching influence of English rule. Grace O'Malley, as the chieftain of the O'Malley clan, skillfully navigated this complex terrain, forging alliances at various times with both Irish and English powers. Interacting with her would provide insights into the challenges and strategies employed by a leader during a pivotal period in Irish history.

Furthermore, Grace O'Malley's mastery of the seas and her formidable naval exploits make her a legendary figure in maritime history. Her command of a fleet of ships and her prowess as a tactician enabled her to engage with powerful adversaries, including the infamous Queen Elizabeth I of England. Traveling back to her time would allow one to witness the daring maritime adventures and battles that have become the stuff of legend.

Beyond her military and political achievements, Grace O'Malley was also a shrewd businesswoman. She engaged in trade, managed her family's economic interests, and supported the bards and musicians of her time. Meeting her would provide a holistic understanding of her multifaceted persona and the dynamic role she played in various spheres of society.

Grace O'Malley's legacy extends beyond her lifetime, influencing the narratives of Irish folklore and history. Her story continues to inspire generations, serving as a testament to the indomitable spirit of those who dare to challenge conventions. To meet Grace O'Malley would be to engage with a living embodiment of courage, resilience, and a fervent commitment to one's principles.

In conclusion, the prospect of traveling back in time to meet Grace O'Malley, the Pirate Queen, is an enticing one for anyone intrigued by history, maritime adventures, and the resilience of trailblazing women. Her multifaceted life and enduring legacy make her a captivating figure whose presence in the annals of history beckons to be experienced firsthand.



## Newport has a new statue of The Pirate Queen!



Top left: Chieftain Nano at the new Grace O'Malley statue. Top right: some of the gathering at the unveiling on 13th January, including Chieftain Nano, Guardian Chieftain Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop, and former Chieftain Sarah Kelly. Bottom Left: Chieftain Nano with Darragh McGee, son of 1991 Clan Chieftain Peter McGee. Bottom Right: Some of the Newport organising committee





## Edel O'Malley, Leading the way on Operation Transformation



A County Mayo woman is has taken up the challenge of a lifetime as she was named as a leader on Operation Transformation.

The new season kicked off on RTÉ One on Wednesday, January 3 at 9:35pm with five brand-new leaders as it continues to connect communities all over Ireland with the aim of improving their health and wellbeing.

Ahead of the 17th season kicking off, Edel O'Malley from Castlebar has been revealed as one of the five leaders.

The 36-year-old lives with her fiancé Marcin and their one-year-old son Daniel in Ballindrobe.

Edel works in HR for Ashford Castle in Cong, a role that she loves and has been working there for six years.

Edel and Marcin met in a pub in Mayo and Marcin wrote his number on a piece of paper for her. She followed up with a message that night and the rest is history.

However, at the minute, Edel feels like she is stuck in a rut – she has a busy work and family life and can't find the time to go out and exercise.

Although she wouldn't be a fan of running, she is determined to try and run the 5K in the Phoenix Park.

Speaking on the challenge, Edel told RTE, "I am most looking forward to bringing some positivity and motivation regarding health and fitness into my life, to prioritise my own well-being without feeling guilty and to become a healthier and more energetic mam for my son.

"I am thrilled to be chosen to be a leader and hope to inspire some people along the way on their own journeys," said Edel.

Over the next number of weeks, Edel will go through a health and fitness journey like no other with County Mayo gearing up to get behind Edel and support her all the way.

Kathryn Thomas has returned to present the long-running show and devising the health and wellness plan and guiding the class of 2024 leaders are the team of experts: principal clinical psychologist Dr Eddie Murphy, dietitian Sophie Pratt, general practitioner Dr Sumi Dunne and fitness expert Karl Henry.

Best of luck to Edel on her operation transformation journey from all of us here at The O'Malley Clan Association. It's a huge step to take to put yourself out there as a leader, and your bravery is to be commended.

We'll be cheering you on all the way!

## Caoimhe O'Malley, starring in "Prickly"



Prickly – An energetic, magical, dark comedy – “think Motherland, meets Black Books, meets Fleabag.”

Dublin’s best Debt Collector, Shauna, is struggling to control the challenging thoughts in her head. Usually, speaking to her Cacti is enough to keep her worries at bay. But now her best (and only) friend has had a baby – Shauna’s mind is in overdrive.

When she finds an unexpected companion during a routine debt collection, she is forced to tap into her own softer side, and consider changing how she manages the thinking in her head once and for all...

But in the cut-throat world of Debt Collecting, can she care for this creature and still come out on top?

Prickly is the debut play of actor and writer Caoimhe O'Malley. Produced by The Mill Theatre, in association with Backstage Theatre and Droichead Arts Centre.



## Brian O'Malley—Getting on his Bike!



### Mayo teenager selected for top Superbike racing team

Ready4Racing Vision will return for the 2024 season announcing their first rider to join the Team as Murrisk native Brian O'Malley, who is set to make his debut in the Tracker Kawasaki British Superteen Championship.

The 15-year-old Irish contender initially competed in motocross but graduated quickly onto short circuits and in 2023 he competed in the Ulster Superbike series and raced an R3, finishing fourth overall.

The Murrisk teen said: "I am delighted and very excited to join the R4R racing team for the 2024 season. This will be my first year racing in the BSB Championship. Opportunities like this don't come around too often so I plan to work hard and gain as much experience as possible and prove that I have what it takes to stand on the podium. I would like to thank Gino and Elliott for this opportunity and my family for their support."

Gino Rea commented: "The Ready4Racing Vision Team are extremely happy to expand into the Superteen class and take on the young Brian O'Malley. Brian is a young talent with lots of potential and I can't wait to help him progress."

"I look forward to coaching him in every aspect, from on track tuition, fitness to nutrition. We are excited to enter the Superteen Championship, where the future generation of Champions will be racing and honing their skills. It's fantastic to see the Superteen Championship back in action."



## O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024—Preliminary Programme

### Friday 28th June



#### ***Cappamore Sports Centre Complex, Cappamore***

2pm “The O'Malley Olympics” We'll kick off a mighty weekend for all O'Malleys and our friends with lots of fun and games for kids of all ages in Cappamore, with treats for the kids, and a great time to be had by all. For O'Malleys **and all of our friends too!** A nice informal, fun start to the weekend in Limerick!



#### ***Hayes' Bar & Sliabh Feilim Room, Cappamore***

5pm: Chieftain's Reception, followed by a historical presentation on Ireland and the US, and our intertwined history over the hundred years since the Irish State was recognised by the USA, on the 28th June 1924. 100 years to the day. Professor Bernadette Whelan will examine the rituals of Irish emigration to the USA, from decision, to packing, to departure, and the intense impact on the social, psychological and emotional lives of those who left and those who stayed behind



## O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024—Preliminary Programme

### *St John's Church, Abington, Murroe*

8pm Concert by The Sliabh Feilim Singers with special guests, in aid of Cappamore Day Care Centre and Milford Hospice, Limerick.

### *Hayes' Bar & Sliabh Feilim Room, Cappamore*

10pm Drinks and nibbles back at Hayes' with Irish music and dancing, exhibits of family trees and family photographs. A great night in Cappamore!



## Saturday 29th June

### ***Bus Tour***

11:00am Bus Tour will take us to a Guided tour of Ardnacrusha Hydroelectric Power Station, built in the late 1920's with O'Malley Engineers to the fore, then on to 1pm Lunch in Limerick.

2:30pm A combination of walking tours around Limerick City finishing at the Round House with a special cocktail for everyone, to round off the afternoon.





## O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024—Preliminary Programme

### Saturday 29th June

#### *Evening Events*

7pm Pre-dinner drinks at the pub in Bunratty Castle Folk Park.

We'll meet up at the pub in Bunratty Folk Village for a little tippie before we head over to Bunratty Castle.



8:30pm till late, Medieval Banquet in Bunratty Castle.

What a night this will be! A medieval banquet in Bunratty Castle with the O'Malley Clan. This is an event that you won't want to miss.





## O'Malley Clan Gathering 2024—Preliminary Programme

### Sunday 30th June

#### ***St Munchin's Catholic Church, Limerick***

11:30am Annual Clan Mass

We'll pause and reflect on the year that has passed, and those we've lost in the past 12 months, with Canon Donough O'Malley celebrating mass.



#### ***Strand Hotel, Limerick***

1pm O'Malley Clan Annual General Meeting. Time to look at the admin side of things, see how we're doing and see what can be done better. Time to have your say as a member of the O'Malley Clan.

2pm Annual Clan Luncheon

3:30pm Inauguration of New Clan Chieftain Grace O'Malley



We'll have the finalised detailed programme up on the O'Malley Clan Association website shortly, with booking links to secure your spots at the various events.

If you've any queries at all, please drop us a line by email to [omalleyclanireland@gmail.com](mailto:omalleyclanireland@gmail.com) Get your trip planned and we'll see you in Limerick, June 28th to 30th 2024!

*Events are, at this early stage, subject to change*



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@clanomalley

*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 70 years now.*

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



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