August 2024

Ó Máille



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights....

- Our new Chieftain is planning for a great O'Malley Clan Gathering in Westport
- · Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!
- · An interview with our new Chieftain Grace O'Mallev
- The "Why" of the Gathering-Gerry O'Malley
- · A potential itinerary for a 14 day trip to an O'Malley Clan Gathering
- O'Malleys Test your brain with an O'Malley crossword
- About The O'Malley Clan **Association**
- The O'Malley Clan Association Needs You! Join **Today**

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Our New Chieftain is already planning for the Gathering!

Congratulations once again to our new Chieftain Grace O'Malley from Rathdowney, Co Laois.

Grace is already getting down to the big task of planning for next years O'Malley Clan Gathering in Westport, County Mayo on the weekend of 27th to 29th June.

There's sure to be a whole host of fabulous events, as always, and lots of friends to be made, and old friends to catch up with.

We'll have lots of details up on our website, and on our social media channels over the coming months, so keep an eye out for that, and start planning your trip today. It's never too early to book those flights! Only a little over 10 months to go!!!



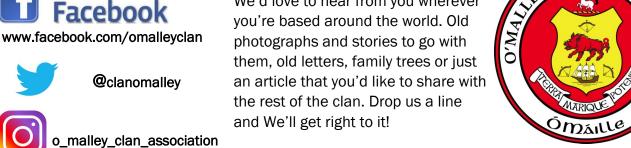
Get in touch, and share your O'Malley Heritage!

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

We'd love to hear from you wherever you're based around the world. Old photographs and stories to go with them, old letters, family trees or just an article 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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An Interview with our new Chieftain—Grace O'Malley

We have a new Chieftain! So we got to sit down and have a chat with Grace O'Malley at the start of her reign as Chieftain of the O'Malleys.

Q: Hi Grace, so we're looking forward to Westport in June 2025 already, but Limerick this year was a great Gathering weekend wasn't it? What were the highlights for you?

G: It was an absolutely brilliant Gathering. Chieftain Nano and her family and friends and the people of Cappamore and surrounding areas were so warm and welcoming. I loved the concert on the Friday night in Abington Church, seeing the amazing local talent and the feast in Bunratty Castle was fabulous. The highlight for my children was the Sports Day in Tinterriffe school, they still have their "O'Malley medals" hanging proudly on their beds.

Q: So how has the first few weeks of being Chieftain been? How does it feel, being the boss?

G: I've really enjoyed the first few weeks of being Chieftain and starting making plans for our Westport Gathering next June. I've had really lovely supportive messages from family and friends and O'Malley Clan members. I've met some relations to update our family tree



Above: Grace with partner Enda, and children Austin and Alice at the Annual Clan Gathering in Limerick following Grace's Inauguration.

as I'd love to present an updated family tree of our branch of Clare Island O'Malleys at the gathering next year. My children are extremely proud and delighted by it!

Q: Take us back to the start, When did you first hear of The O'Malley Clan Association?

G: I've known about the O'Malley Clan Association as long as I can remember. My auntie Ellen O'Malley Dunlop was the Chieftain, (current Guardian Chieftain), when I was four years old and I remember being very awestruck by her wielding the bata mór. When I was a teenager, I went to my first Rally with Ellen when my cousin Molly (Mary) O'Sullivan was Tánaiste and I've been coming ever since.

Q: Being named Grace O'Malley, when you were younger, were you always excited to hear about your historical namesake, The Pirate Queen?

I loved hearing about Granuaile when I was young. I remember being absolutely delighted in Third Class in primary school when she appeared in the Ages Ago history book. Everyone always mentions her to me whenever I introduce myself!

An Interview with our new Chieftain—Grace O'Malley



Above: Chieftain Grace's family home, O'Malleys Pub in Rathdowney, Co Laois, where John A O'Malley from Clare Island settled four generations ago.

Q: Who is the 21st century Grace O'Malley? Tell us a bit about yourself.

G: I am from Rathdowney in Co. Laois, and now live in North Dublin with my partner Enda and two children Austin and Alice. I have five brothers, Daniel, Anthony, Peter, Tom and John P, and my family run a pub, The Corner House / O'Malleys in The Square in Rathdowney. The pub has been in our family for four generations since my great-grandfather John Anthony O'Malley from Clare Island bought it. My family still have a strong connection to Clare Island and we love visiting there a couple of times a year.

My auntie Ellen introduced me to O'Malley family history and genealogy and brought me along to the O'Malley Gatherings. She has always been very inspirational to me and is a fountain of O'Malley knowledge and history.

Q: Is there anything in particular that you'd like the O'Malley Clan Association to focus on during your tenure? Any ideas for events during the year leading up to Westport 2025?

G: My grandfather Donie O'Malley loved going to the Clan Gatherings. Donie had 12 brothers and sisters (many of whom attended the Gatherings with him and some were Chieftains) and I would love to bring all this side of the family together and map an updated family tree of the ancestors of John Anthony O'Malley of Clare Island.

I would also love to connect with people who are also called Grace O'Malley all over Ireland and the world!

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An Interview with our new Chieftain—Grace O'Malley

Q: Westport June 27th to 29th 2025. It's going to be a great weekend! Any little hints of what you're thinking in terms of events over the Gathering weekend in 2025?

G: I'm hoping to arrange a trip to Granuaile's castles around Westport. I'm also hoping to bring together some O'Malley talents in music and art but it's early days! I'm was also very inspired by Nano's fancy-dress themed banquet and how much fun it was for everybody to dress up.

Q: If someone out there was wondering what the O'Malley Clan Association was all about, and was thinking about joining up, what would you say to them?

G: The O'Malley Clan Association is about getting to know your family's history and the stories of your extended family, having a direct line to your family history and geneaology (all the way back to Granuaile via Maurice Gleeson's DNA project) and getting to gather together at least once a year with O'Malleys all over the world and have a brilliant time meeting in person and enjoying food, music and history together.

Q: The O'Malley Clan Association has been going strong for over 70 years, with modern communication making things easier in some respects, how do you see the next 70 going?

G: I think the new technologies have been ground-breaking in connecting the O'Malley Clan and reaching new people across the globe. Our Zoom Gatherings during Lockdown were fantastic showcases of our Clan. The monthly newsletter is also fantastic for sharing stories of interesting O'Malleys past and present. We are connecting O'Malleys all over the world through social media every week. The best thing about the social media side is that it has encouraged more new people to travel to our in-person gatherings every June and that is where the real magic happens. My brother Peter says that we should change our O'Malley motto to Powerful on Land, Sea and Cyperspace!

Q: Anything else you can think of for the moment?

G: I'm so grateful to the team behind the O'Malley Clan Association who work throughout the year to keep the ship afloat. It has been wonderful getting to know them and I'm in awe of the dedication that has brought our association from strength to strength since 1953. Ó Máille Abú!



An Interview with our new Chieftain—Grace O'Malley



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The "Why" of The Clan Gathering—Gerry O'Malley

The Why of the Annual Clan Gathering, Gerry O'Malley (The O'Malley Journal 2000)

Life must be lived forwards but can only be understood backwards. We explore the past in order to illuminate the future. The philosopher, Heinrich Heine, said "Under every tombstone lies the history of the world"

The Clan Rally celebrates the Clan system which died out in the seventeenth century, but which seems to have been particularly well suited to the Irish character and temperament, certainly more so than the Anglo-Norman feudal system.

Ireland's Golden Age

The beginning of the Clan system was also the beginning of Ireland's Golden Age (the eighth century A.D.). A cultural unity existed here that was all the more remarkable because of the



absence of a political unity. The Men of Art (Aosdana) constituted the most important element in early Irish society. They could travel freely throughout the country. They were originally druids.

With the coming of Christianity the druids as such disappeared. The poets gave up their pagan and magical functions, but otherwise they continued to enjoy the full privileges of their predecessors. The Bardic Schools, in which pupils had to learn prodigious amounts of poetry by heart, continued up to the seventeenth century. Ireland in the Middle Ages was in a unique position in that learning and literacy were not the sole preserve of the Christian clergy. The poets were the true bearers of the ancient Celtic tradition. It is no accident, then, that Ireland was the first nation north of the Alps to produce a whole body of literature in her own speech.

The Irish were the first people north of the Alps to use surnames (in the tenth century). Family names are still important. The name over the pub door is more likely to be 'J. A. O'Malley' than 'The Pig & Whistle'. The Brehon Laws and the Clan system were the mainstays of Irish life during Ireland's Golden Age. The Brehons (Judges) were men learned in traditional law, which enshrined a very old Indo-European social system. The Brehon Laws find their closest parallel in traditional Hindu law.

Irish Society

Irish society at that time was rigidly stratified. There were slaves, labourers, workmen, freemen, and nobles. Rank depended on wealth as well as birth. Learning was also a qualification. Irish law had a maxim 'A man is better than his birth.'

An elaborate interplay of patronage and loyalty, along with fosterage, resulted in mutual responsibility which, in small rural communities, ensured a reasonable measure of law and order in a society which had no police force and where the state was not involved in lawsuits. It was a very personal way of coexistence which seemed to suit the Celtic temperament.

The "Why" of The Clan Gathering—Gerry O'Malley

Life Under the Brehon Laws

Some aspects of Irish society at the time:

 Fosterage of children (usually returned to their parents at the marriage age –(14 for girls and 17 for boys).

- Distraint of cattle to recover damages.
- Ritual fasting to assert one's rights (Cf. Gandhi).
- Divorce (legal in Ireland until the twelfth century).
- Hospitality (whoever comes to the door must be fed and cared for with no questions asked).

The pivotal unit of society was the joint family (fine) which was responsible for the misdeeds of it's members. The worst kind of crime was the killing of one's own kin to gain the chieftainship. The election of the Tanaiste during the lifetime of the chief was a countermeasure.

The English

Gaelic resistance to English domination was based on Chieftainship and Tanistry. The Irish dynasty was virtually unkillable. Once when Piers Bermingham fought with his neighbours, the O'Connors of Offaly, he had the chief, his two brothers and twenty-nine of his leading men killed at a banquet to which he had invited them. But because eligibility for the chieftainship went to four degrees of kinship, there were sufficient O'Connors left for the sept to survive. Incidentally,



for his perfidy, Bermingham got £100 reward from the Dublin government and a stirring ballad, in English, praised his bravery as a 'hunter-out of the Irish'. In the eyes of the law, Irish Chieftains were felons and outlaws.

So, the English wanted desperately to smash the Brehon Laws and the rule of Tanistry. The Statutes of Kilkenny (1366) stated that 'all mere Irish living under Brehon Laws were in servile condition.' In the fourteenth century stringent laws were enacted by which the English were forbidden to 'practise fosterage, marriage with Irish, use Brehon Laws or entertain Irish minstrels, poets and storytellers'.

When Richard II came (in 1395) a number of chiefs made submission to him 'except O'Donnell and the barbarous chieftains of the Connaught seaboard'. Under Henry VIII (1491-1547) further efforts were made to suppress Brehon Law and the Bards. The Irish were 'enemies of the crown' and any land belonging to a person with an Irish name was forfeit.

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The "Why" of The Clan Gathering—Gerry O'Malley

The Annals of 1584

'All Erin was occupied by the foreigners this year, so that they put back the honour and nobility of the men of Erin.'

The Annals of Loch Cé

'It is impossible to count, or reckon, or relate all the injuries and oppressions the foreigners committed upon the Clans of Connaught.'

The year 1584, incidentally, saw the arrival of the most-hated of the governors of Connacht, Sir Richard Bingham. He was the particular bete noir of one Granuaile and once he had his brother, John, walk that lady through the streets of Galway in chains, condemned to die on a gallows which he had erected for that purpose. She was saved by the intervention of her son, Theobald, and Bingham himself was later recalled

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After Kinsale (1601) the Irish system of land tenure was replaced by landiordism and the Irish laws of Chieftainship and Tanistry were abolished.

No Titles

A small example of life under the Clan system -no titles

were used in ordinary conversation. The lowliest field worker addressed his chief by his first name. No Mister, no Sir, no Esquire, no bending of the knee, no forelock-tugging. That all came later when Ireland lost its Clan system, and its honour.

It would be foolish to ignore the benefits we have had from being a colonised country. We have, for instance, an architectural heritage from that time that is a continual joy. Many people would, however, hold that the-price was too high and that in Ireland, as in every other-part of the globe, the process of colonisation was bad for the soul of the colonised. But there's nothing can be done about that. The past cannot be changed. What can be done ... and what is done at every Clan Rally ... is that our pre-colonial past is celebrated.

Irish Culture

The collapse of the Clan system is associated with the breakdown of traditional Irish culture. I won't give you chapter and verse for this; my feeling for it is more a gut feeling than anything emanating from scientific research (more hysterical than historical, you might say). It was a tragedy which reduced a oncegreat nation to bondage. But that, of course, was the whole idea.

In spite of the destruction of Ireland's politics and civilization and the ruination of her institutions, her scholars fought a tremendous reargnard action in seeking to preserve a priceless heritage from oblivion.

The "Why" of The Clan Gathering—Gerry O'Malley

'A Tribe of Brotherly Affection and of Friendship'

There is one quotation I particularly like and that is from the fourteenth century poet who described the O'Malleys as 'a tribe of brotherly affection and of friendship' more than a hundred years before Columbus set sail for America. And he wasn't even an O'Malley poet - Sean Ó Dubhagain was bard to the O'Kellys. 'A tribe of brotherly affection and of friendship'. This means, among other things, that our meeting just cannot be self-serving, inward-looking or vainglorious. There is no shield of exclusion to people outside the Clan, but, rather, a most warm and heartfelt welcome to all our friends.

And elitist? Well, hardly. A few years ago at a Rally I went around with a notebook and wrote down all the names people had on their respective family trees. Practically every name in the phonebook was there. To misquote Lenin slightly: 'everyone is connected to everyone else'. Celebrate one Clan and you celebrate all Clans.

Irish Identity

As we move forever closer to our larger European inheritance, Irish identity is more than ever at risk. It was said recently that foreign students attending Irish summer schools will ultimately know more of the island's history and culture than their Irish counterparts.

Whimsical? That's another charge often levelled at the Clan Rallies. From the first specific aim of the Clan Association formed in 1949, namely, to restore Carrigahowley Castle, to the foundation and operation of the Granuaile Trust, the on-the-ground activities of the Clan have been far from whimsical.

But by far the most important aspect of the annual jamboree is the inherent sense of an extended family getting together. This is enjoyable in itself and one needn't go any further. But there is another dimension, best described by Hubert Butler:

The extended family can be a blueprint for what life might one day be like. Perhaps, some generations or centuries from now, groups of people linked together as kinsmen and kinswomen may feel a special responsibility for each other based on a closer knowledge and affection than is possible in our faceless, centralised society.

In an increasingly complicated life, the siruple things, meeting, talking informally, not only remain the same but increase in importance.

Gerry O'Malley, Rathdowney, Co Laois O'Malley Clan Chieftain 1972 Clan Guardian Chieftain 1991 Page 10 Ó Máille

A Possible tour of Ireland, and an O'Malley Clan Gathering!

So you haven't been to Ireland before and you'd like some ideas for the trip you're planning to next years O'Malley Clan Gathering in Westport, County Mayo on June 27th to 29th

To start with you'll have to get to the Emerald Isle, (that's Ireland), and there are a few ways you can do that. The vast majority of visitors will arrive into Dublin, Cork, or Shannon airports. I prefer Cork or Shannon myself as you're already in "the west" then, but some of our visitors might want to check out what Dublin has to offer too, so I've put together an idea for an itinerary to cover 12 days of touring around this beautiful island.

If you have a bit longer, you could include more gorgeous places to visit like Kilkenny, Limerick, and Donegal. If you can't spare 12-14 days away from your normal life, you could cut out a night here and there to suit your schedule.

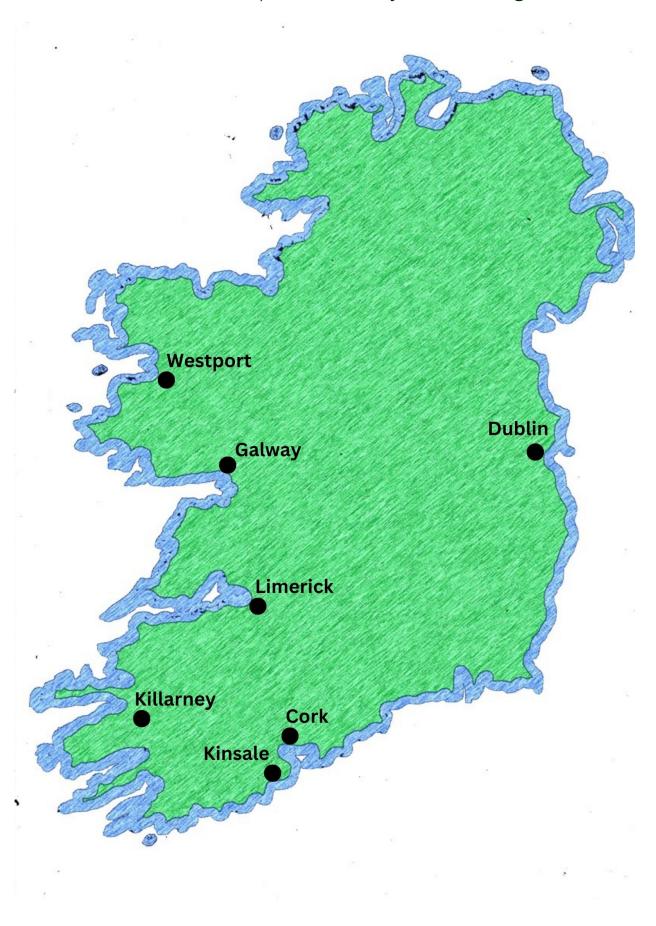
There are direct flights to Dublin from all over North America, the UK, Europe, and Asia, and so of the three airports mentioned it probably has the best connectivity. Shannon has direct flights from the UK, Europe, and North America too, while Cork has flights coming in from the UK and Europe.

For this itinerary we'll arrive into Dublin on day 1, and depending on where you'll be arriving from you'll be either jet lagged or buzzing to check the place out. I'd suggest staying 2 nights here to give you plenty time to acclimatize and to check out the many many things to see and do here in the capital city of Ireland. Check out the Book of Kells and Trinity College, the Guinness Storehouse, with amazing views across the city. There's many museums also, EPIC, the Irish emigration museum being a particularly good one! There's lots of food, drink, and Irish music on offer too for the evenings.



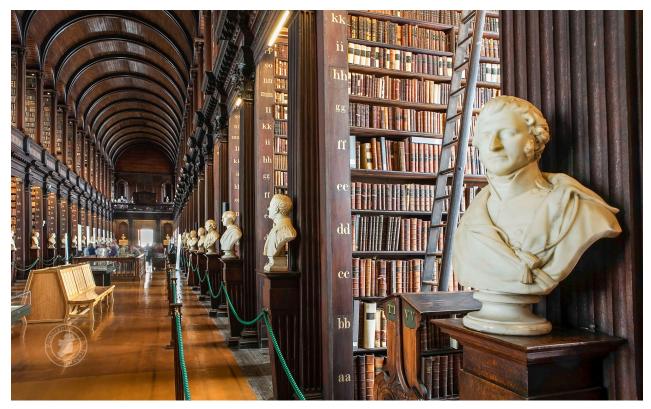
The Guinness Storehouse, a must see attraction, in Dublin

A Possible tour of Ireland, and an O'Malley Clan Gathering!



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A Possible tour of Ireland, and an O'Malley Clan Gathering!



Trinity College Dublin, Home of The Book of Kells

After two days of settling into the pace of life here in Ireland and soaking up what Dublin has to offer, it's time to pick up that rental car, (remember to drive on the left), and lets head South to Cork. Lots of scenery on the way, (and if you're taking a longer trip in terms of time, you could stop off somewhere along the way like the historic city of Kilkenny for a night or two), but I digress. I'd suggest another two night stay in Cork, where you could check out the city and see the delights of The English Market, and maybe take a trip out to Cobh, (pronounced Cove), where hundreds of thousands of Irish people would have emigrated from. Cobh was also the last port of call for the ill fated Titanic back in April 1912.

A trip to the fortress of Spike Island might also be a good idea here too. An island that has hosted a fort, then naval base, then prison, and now a fabulous visitor experience.

While in Cork, on one of the days, I'd suggest a trip out to the lovely little harbour town of Kinsale. Renowned for its food, it's beautiful harbour, and it's fabulous little narrow streets with multi coloured houses, it's a gorgeous place to spend an afternoon.



Kinsale Harbour, County Cork

A Possible tour of Ireland, and an O'Malley Clan Gathering!



Above: Spike Island, (Fort, Naval Base, Prison, Visitor Experience, (Ireland's Alcatraz!)

Below: The English Market in Cork City Centre, (How markets used to be!)



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A Possible tour of Ireland, and an O'Malley Clan Gathering!

Time to leave Cork then and head West into the Kingdom of Kerry. I'd suggest another two night stay here, basing yourself in Killarney. A lovely town at the foot of the tallest mountains in Ireland, the MacGuillicuddy Reeks. There's tons to do here. Walks in the national park, lake tours. Walking in the Gap of Dunloe. A tour of the Ring of Kerry by car, or by bus, is also a great way to take in the wonderful scenery in this part of the country. Keep and eye out too when you're around here for filming locations from various movies from Star Wars to Ryan's Daughter. Kenmare is also a lovely town to visit if you're in this area, with lots of fabulous food options.

Leaving Killarney then, after another two nights of good food and traditional music, we turn North and head through Limerick on our way to our next two night stop in the city of Galway. Again, if you have longer to spend in Ireland, Limerick would be a great place to spend a couple of nights in. A very historic city, founded by the Vikings many many moons ago. King John's Castle from the 1200's still dominates the riverside skyline of the city to this day. Bunratty in County Clare would also be a great place for a pit stop, (even if you're only passing through on the way to Galway). You'll have seen the castle from our recent O'Malley Clan Gathering footage, but there's also a lovely folk village with reenactments and period buildings too see. Apart from all that there's some lovely food on offer in the local pubs and some great shopping too, even if you're just popping off the motorway towards Galway for an hour.



Above: The scenery in Kerry is hard to beat, The Gap of Dunloe

A Possible tour of Ireland, and an O'Malley Clan Gathering!



Above: Killarney Town, a gorgeous spot in The Kingdom of Kerry Below: A nice pit stop on the way to Galway, Bunratty, County Clare



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A Possible tour of Ireland, and an O'Malley Clan Gathering!



Above: Another nice stop if you have time! The Cliffs of Moher, Co Clare

Next we arrive in Galway, the City of The Tribes. A fabulous city to visit, with an amazing amount of restaurants, cafes, shops, and of course pubs. There's almost always some form of festival on in Galway city too during the year, Galway Races, Galway Arts Festival, Galway Film Festival, Galway Oyster Festival, etc etc. There are tours available to the Aran Islands, and there are gorgeous places to visit like Kylemore

Abbey, and Clifden in Connemara, or if you're feeling energetic there's sea kayaking or hill climbing or whatever takes your fancy.

After two nights in Galway it's time to move on again, and this time it's on to Westport for the O'Malley Clan Gathering, (June 27th to 29th). The events at next years Gathering haven't been finalised as yet, but if you check out the O'Malley Clan Association website, there's details there of the events that took place at the 2024 Gathering, and that'll give you an idea of the type of things that'll be going on.



Above: The bustling city of Galway

A Possible tour of Ireland, and an O'Malley Clan Gathering!



Above: Connemara in County Galway has some stunningly beauiful landscapes

And Below: A trip to The Aran Islands in Galway Bay can be a great day out too!



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A Possible tour of Ireland, and an O'Malley Clan Gathering!

There's lots to see and do around Westport too of course. A visit to Westport House, the home of some of the descendants of Grace O'Malley, The Pirate Queen, is a must. There's lots of traditional Irish music too, and there's always a climb of Croagh Patrick, if you need to burn off some energy!

Following the Gathering then, I'd be suggesting, if your time is up, travelling back to Dublin, and getting that rental car back in, before one last night with the pints of Guinness and the traditional music, before hopping back out to Dublin Airport again in the morning for the flight home.

We'll have links up in relation to planning your trip to next Junes O'Malley Clan Gathering in the coming months as the planning of events takes shape, along with more general links to accommodation providers, guides etc.

If you need any help planning your trip of course, we're here to help.

Pop us over an email to omalleyclanireland@gmail.com



Below: Westport House, a "must visit" for all O'Malleys

A Possible tour of Ireland, and an O'Malley Clan Gathering!



Above: Climbing Croagh Patrick is worth it for the views alone $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1$



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O'Malleys! Test your brain with an O'Malley Crossword!

Across

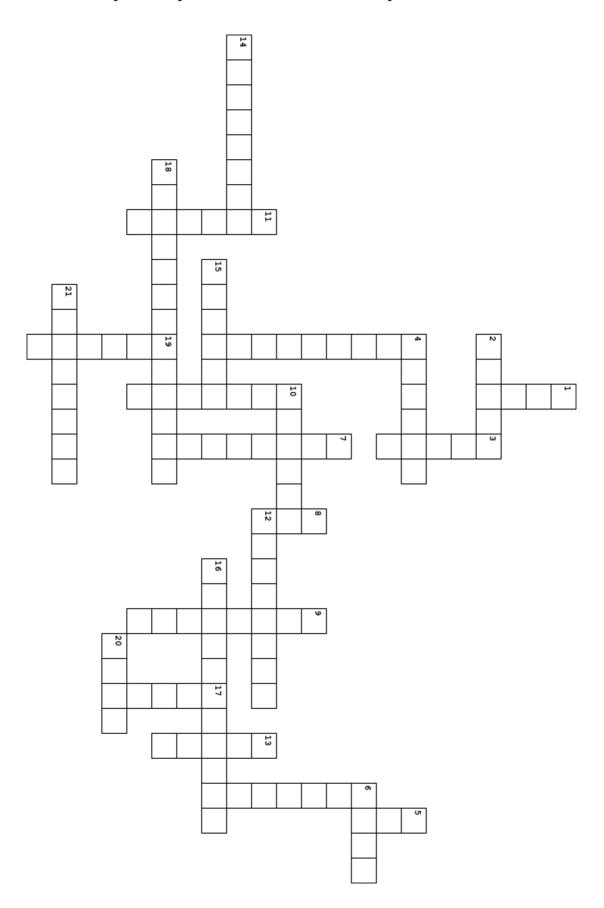
- 2.....ISLAND WHERE THE PIRATE QUEEN IS SAID TO BE BURIED
- 4. MEATH FOOTBALLER OF THE 1990'S
- 6. LORD BOOK ABOUT THE SON OF THE PIRATE QUEEN
- 10. CAPTAIN OF THE FIRST MAYO TEAM TO WIN THE SAM MAGUIRE CUP
- 12. WILD WAY, TOURING ROUTE ON IRELAND'S WEST COAST
- 14. FATHER OF THE PIRATE QUEEN
- 15. FORMER GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND
- 16. CASTLE THAT FEATURED IN OUR 2017 CLAN GATHERING
- 18. PUB IN LIMERICK ASSOCIATED WITH O MALLEYS
- 20. BAY WITH LOTS OF ISLANDS OVERLOOKED BY CROAGH PATRICK
- 21. TOWN WHERE NEXT YEARS GATHERING WILL BE HELD

Down

- 1. NICKNAME OF OUR O MALLEY MMA STAR
- 3. O'MALLEY FREEDOM FIGHTER AND ARTIST
- 4. GRACE O'MALLEYS CASTLE NEAR NEWPORT MAYO
- 5. POWERFUL BY LAND AND ...
- 6. HOME STATE OF 1 DOWN
- 7. GRACE O MALLEYS BIOGRAPHER, ANNE
- 8. WHICH COUNTRY HAS THE MOST O'MALLEY CLAN MEMBERS
- 9. VENUE FOR OUR BANQUET LAST JUNE
- 10. WHICH RIVER FLOWS THROUGH LIMERICK CITY
- 11. FORMER OWNER OF THE DODGERS
- 13. THE PIRATE QUEEN AND WHICH OTHER GRACE HAVE STATUES OF THEM IN
- 17. OUR CURRENT CHIEFTAIN'S FIRST NAME
- 19. OUR CURRENT TÁNAISTE'S FIRST NAME

Answers in Next Month's Issue

O'Malleys! Test your brain with an O'Malley Crossword!







The O'Malley Clan Association Unit 11, Abington Enterprise Centre Murroe Co Limerick Ireland V94 XFD3

Email: omalleyclanireland@gmail.com

Website: www.omalleyclan.ie

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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The O'Malley Clan Association NEEDS YOUR HELP, Join Today!





Join Today.....www.omalleyclan.ie



Support the Clan, Be a part of it