



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights....

- Happy Halloween from The O'Malley Clan
- Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!
- Author Anne Chambers sits down for a chat
- Fintan O'Malley running 330km for his girl Millie
- From Limerick to New Zealand to Ypres, Peter Paul O'Malley
- Plan your trip with Destination Westport!
- "The Enchanted Bay" from Cormac O'Malley
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- The O'Malley Clan Association Needs You! Join Today!!

Happy Halloween from The O'Malley Clan Association

Happy Halloween to all of you O'Malleys out there around the world. We hope you're enjoying the post summer season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. Its almost time to get that trick or treating costume organised!

I wonder how many young O'Malleys will be stepping out on their hunt for goodies dressed as pirates? If you'd like to share pictures of those fabulous O'Malley pirate costumes from the big day, pop them over by email to omalleyclanireland@gmail.com and if we get a few, we'll have to feature them in next months edition! Be safe out there too on the night, and have fun!!



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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Author Anne Chambers sits down for a chat!

For our October issue, We had a chat with Anne Chambers, author of Grace O'Malleys biography, amongst other books, including the biography of Grace's son Lord Mayo; From Rake to Radical; Lord Sligo 1788-1845; Eleanor Countess of Desmond- a contemporary of Grace; Mayo-born Prima Donna, Margaret Burke Sheridan; Dr. TK Whitaker – Irishman of the 20th Century; Ranji Maharajah of Connemara; The Geraldine Conspiracy, etc.

A long time friend and adopted member (1983) of the O'Malley Clan, many of you will have heard Anne speak at O'Malley Gatherings over the years.

Don:

Hi Anne, Great to chat again as always. I thought it would be nice to have a catch up and see what you're working on at the moment, (if you're allowed to tell us), and what's next to hit the shelves from our favourite author, and also to introduce you to any of our newsletter subscribers that may not know of your work to date.

I suppose if we start at the beginning with

The Pirate Queen herself. Can you remember when you first came across the name Granuaile?

Anne:

On our annual family holiday on the shores of beautiful Clew Bay as a child I heard the legends and folklore about the 'Pirate Queen', this so called 'baldheaded virago' aimlessly plundering and pillaging around the coasts of Ireland and further afield, banging on the door of Greenwich Palace demanding to see the Queen of England. Yet Grace O'Malley never got a mention in my school history books which made me wonder, like many others I'm sure, if indeed she had ever existed or was this just another legend from the past. In my early 20s, then working in the Central Bank of Ireland, encouraged by my then boss, Dr T.K. Whitaker, I set out on my own four year voyage to find the real woman behind the Pirate Queen...a voyage I'm happy to say continues to this day.

Don:

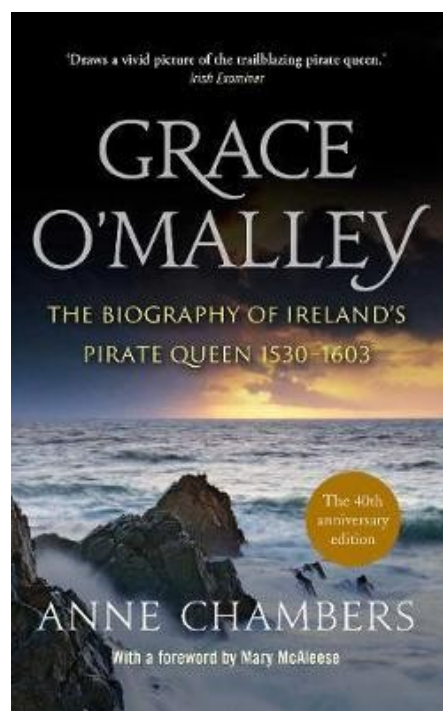
How and where did you find her?

Anne:

To try find and understand the true story of Grace O'Malley (or as close as we can ever get) it was necessary to find and decipher the manuscripts relating to her and her time...the 16th century...and to analyse her story within that specific time period, as well as



Above: Anne speaking at her launch of the new edition of her fabulous work on TK Whitaker at The Central Bank of Ireland,



Author Anne Chambers sits down for a chat!

examining her relevance today.

Sounds easy, but these 400 year old parchment documents, held in both public and private archives in Ireland and in the UK, because of their faded appearance, as well as the different palaeography, spelling (often phonetic or in an English dialect), superscript, substitution of various letters by dashes and 'wavy' lines etc then in use, combined with the myriad styles of the quillmanship of their authors, was like having to learn a new language. With perseverance though, from within the swirls and flourishes of the handwriting of these Tudor scribes, and when examined and analysed within the political, social and military parameters of the 16th century, the true story of Grace O'Malley eventually came to life.

Don:

It must have been an unbelievable excitement to open the papers from the 16th century that you found in Westport House, and dive head first into what was essentially a time machine?

Anne:

Access to papers previously unknown relating to your subject, for a biographer, is like winning the lottery. The manuscript collection in Westport House, to which I was given access to by the late Jeremy Altamont (a 13th great grandson in descent from Grace O'Malley) formed the basis for my biographies of Grace and also for her son, Tibbott-ne-Long Bourke, Lord Mayo. To open these 16th and 17th manuscripts for the first time since their authors' first put quill to parchment was a very special moment.

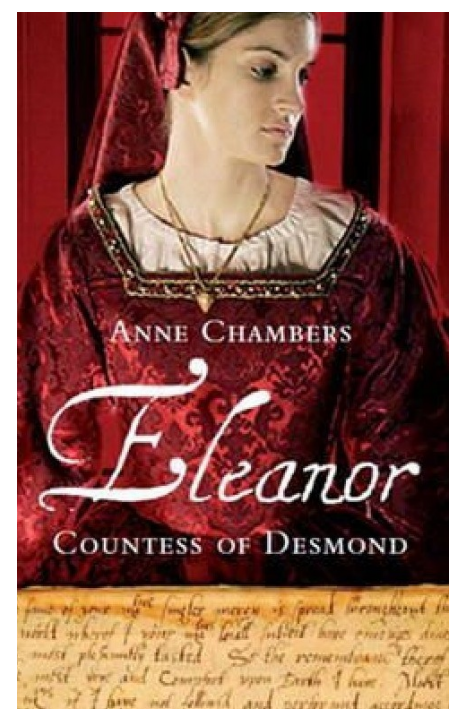
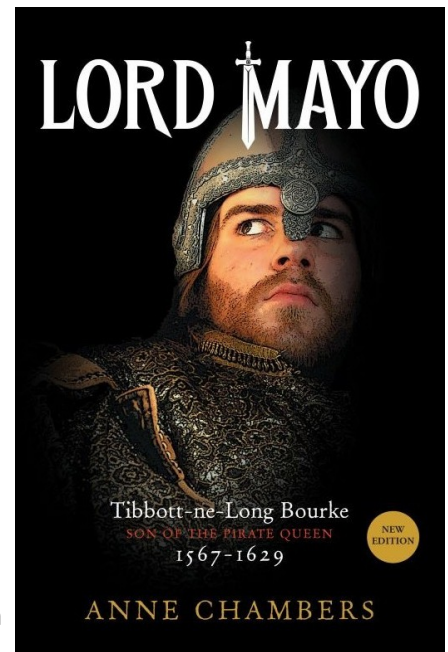
For my biography of the Irish Prima Donna, Margaret Burke Sheridan (from Castlebar) I was given her extensive personal and operatic papers and memorabilia by the late Garech Browne which in turn revealed so much of the woman behind the prima donna persona. The late Dr. T.K. Whitake provided me with access to his personal papers, while my 40 hours of interviews with him allowed for a rare opportunity to actually hear and discuss matters with my subject.

Don:

Grace isn't the only O'Malley that you've written about too though. There's the fantastic "Lord Mayo" about Grace's son Tibbot na Long, and his extraordinary life trying to survive in the "surrender and re-grant" era. Was it always going to be a natural progression, having written so extensively about Grace O'Malley, that you were going to have to bring the story on at least that generation further?

Anne:

The biography of Tibbott-ne-Long Bourke not only throws light on the eventful life of this able, bold, and pragmatic leader, his story also provides an insight into one of the most profound and little understood periods of Irish history which witnessed a complex struggle, for personal



Author Anne Chambers sits down for a chat!

rather than national, survival and control, against the background of the traumatic Tudor conquest of Ireland, and which, as history implacably tends to repeats itself, has relevance to present-day on-going wars and invasions.

Don:

Then there's another fascinating story of a descendant of Grace that you've examined in huge detail in "From Rake to Radical" the story of Howe Peter Browne from Westport House. Seemingly a bit of a renegade in his youth, living the high life and doing what young gentlemen did at the time, but as he matured, becoming a leading light in the emancipation movement, helping to forge the way for the abolition of slavery in the West Indies and later throughout the British Empire.

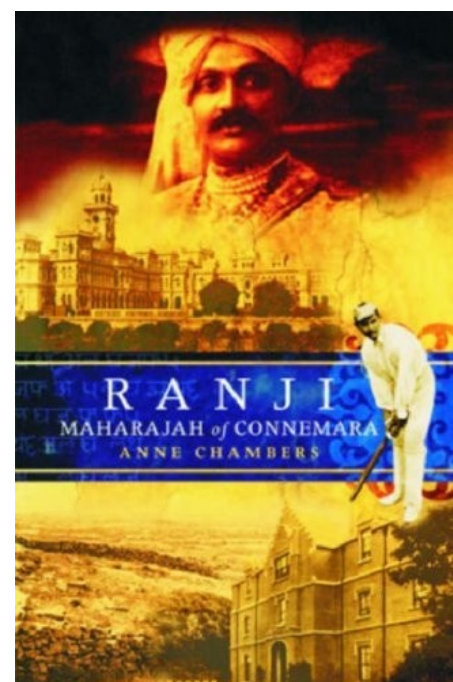
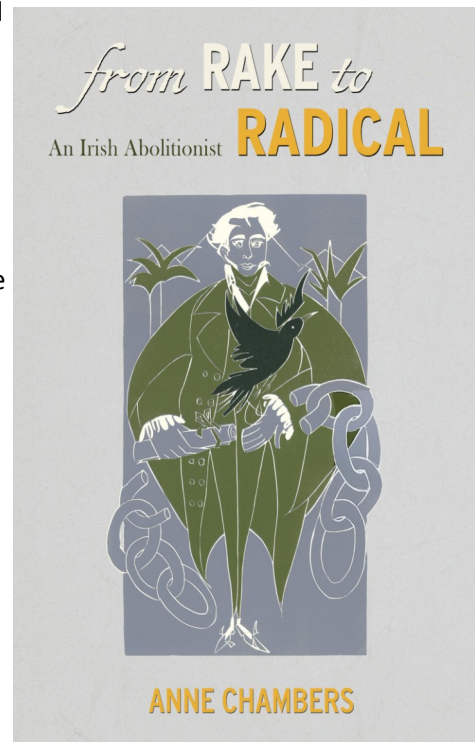
Anne:

Howe Peter Browne, 2nd Marquess of Sligo, 1788-1845 (an 8th great grandson in descent from Grace O'Malley) led me on an 8 year adventure, from Westport to the West Indies and many places in between. As well as finding and deciphering some 15,000 letters and documents connected with his remarkable life, (he wrote letters like we send texts today and his handwriting was worse than my own!) held both in public and private collections worldwide. Intrepid traveller, intimate of kings, emperors and despots, the range and diversity of Sligo's undertakings was truly breathtaking. From a youth of hedonistic self indulgence in Regency England, to a reforming, responsible legislator and landlord, Sligo became enshrined in the history of Jamaica as 'Emancipator of the Slaves' and in Ireland as 'The Poor Man's Friend' during the most difficult of times. A truly amazing life.

Don:

Now, I know that of course we're biased, but its not just O'Malleys that you've written about. There are many other biographies including that of "TK Whitaker" on the life and career of the most famous civil servant in Irish History. Also, the intriguing story of "Ranji – Maharajah of Connemara" an Indian aristocrat and famous cricketer who made his home in the middle of rural Connemara in County Galway in the early 20th century.

If I could be so bold as to ask, (maybe it's like asking a parent who their favourite child is), but have you a favourite book over the years, that you've worked on? I suppose to follow up then, the opposite, has there been one that you started, and then found to be much tougher going than you had foreseen?



Author Anne Chambers sits down for a chat!

Anne:

Well of course Grace O'Malley, to whom I owe so much, as her story and my connection with her continues to enrich and impact my own personal life, is of course the 'special one'. Every year she brings me on another adventure...the most recent being the National Geographic documentary 'Pirates: Behind the Legends, which aired in August.

When researching Grace's life story, however, I came across another 'forgotten heroine' of 16th/17th century Ireland - Eleanor Butler, Countess of Desmond (1545-1638) whose life and struggle to survive and protect her family against the ambitions of the machiavellian Tudor government, as well as of those within her own family, was truly heroic. Eleanor's lifestory is testimony to a courageous woman who refused to abandon hope in the face of what appeared to be insurmountable odds, enduring imprisonment, exile, and poverty in her mission to save her family from annihilation. Her story has reverberations today for women in places such as Afghanistan, Somalia and Palastine, whose lives are being torn asunder by forces, both foreign and native, over which they have little control. Yet despite such insurmountable odds, these unsung heroines continue to protect, provide and nurture their families and, like Eleanor four hundred years earlier, keep hope alive.

Don:

I suppose I'd better let our subscribers know, (if we're allowed!), what're you working on at the moment? Or what's next to hit the shelves?

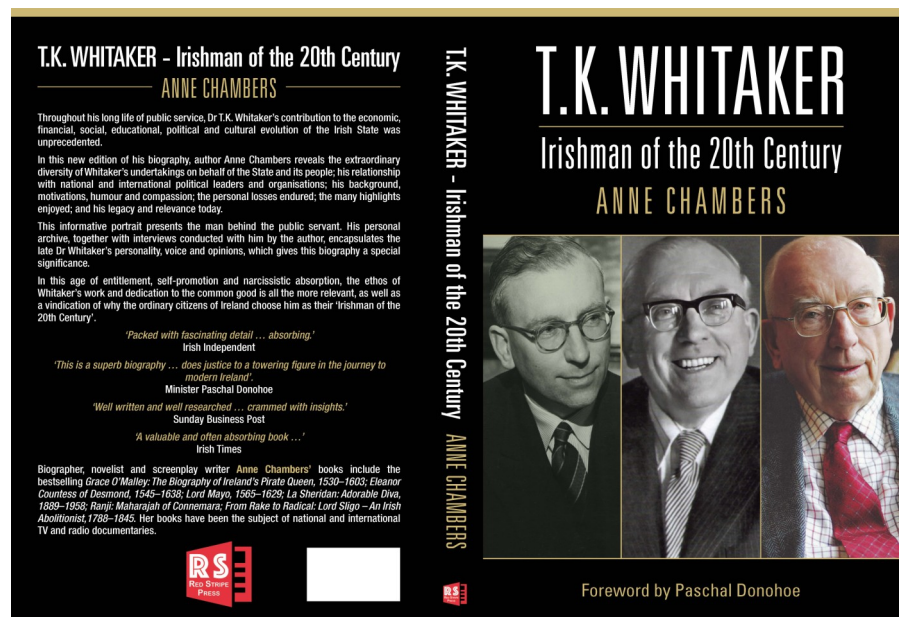
Anne:

On 3 October a new edition of my 'T.K. Whitaker: Irishman of the 20th Century' (Red Stripe Press) was launched, after my talk on the same subject, at the Dublin Festival of History and held appropriately in the Central Bank HQ on North Wall Quay. A wonderful evening and a fitting setting and tribute to the Bank's former Governor and public servant.

Presently I am preparing a public concert and narration of the life of the Irish prima donna, Margaret Burke Sheridan and her special connection with the composer, Puccini, whose 100th anniversary occurs in November. The concert will take place in the ballroom of the Shelbourne Hotel (where Sheridan spent the last weeks of her life in 1958) at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th November.

A radio documentary (for broadcast on local radio countrywide) on 'Herself' is in train, while my stage play 'MATRIARCHS: The Pirate Queen and the Virgin Queen' on the theme of ageism, looks like having a new production in Dublin next year and, together with various talks and school projects around the country... whew...no escaping Grace!!

Thanks for the chat Anne



Fintan O'Malley on a 330km endurance run to remember Millie



Fintan O'Malley is doing a 330km endurance run in memory of his amazing little girl Millie. Rick from "The Running Channel" sat down for a chat with Fintan to hear all about Millie, the amazing run that he's planning, and the whole story behind it.

Rick: We said we wanted to meet inspirational runners with amazing stories and well we truly have one! Fintan O'Malley recently lost his baby daughter who had been born prematurely after fighting for 33 days. He wanted to make a difference and so on the 27th of September 2024, Fintan is running from the memorial garden near where Millie was looked after, on an endurance run for 330km to raise some money for the neonatal unit where doctors and nurses fought to keep her alive. There's also some incredible positive news at the end of Fintan's story but we do need to give a disclaimer and a warning for those of you that might be affected by similar issues that we are going to be talking about miscarriage, premature birth, and also child loss, so please do bear that in mind.

Fintan it's amazing to have you here after so much trauma for you and your family. How on earth do you go about this quest to raise money for people who find themselves in a similar situation?

Fintan: It's driven by love. Love for a little girl. To create a legacy for her because she's not here to create a legacy for herself so we want to, as a thank you to the nurses, the doctors, the consultants, at Bolton neonatal intensive care who looked after us and gave us thirty three precious days with our baby girl. We want to try and make a difference in that hospital and we want to try and help other families who are going through such a traumatic time, to be a bit more comfortable in that situation, because it is one of the hardest, probably the hardest thing, you're ever going to do as a parent. Anyone who has kids will know that watching your child being sick is hard, but watching your child lying in a bed and never being able to get out of that bed is harrowing, and it's out of your control, but we have to find some good out of this, and I have to be able to try and turn trauma into something better, which is what we're trying to do by creating Millie's Legacy.

Rick: At what point after Millie died, after such a short period of time, do you begin to think actually I want to make a legacy out of this and I've seen what's going on in that hospital. I've been on that ICU unit for for 33 days and I want to get better kit, I want to get better support, and I want to make a difference. At what point after Millie passed away did you start thinking about that?

Fintan: Within 10 minutes really. As I walked out in the hospital. We had a private room to ourselves where we were allowed to hold her as she took her last breaths. I walked out and I had to give a

Fintan O'Malley on a 330km endurance run to remember Millie

hug to every one of that nurses that were on that ward that night, and I said I will be back and I'm going to do something, and we are going to make a difference in here.

Rick: What did they say?

Fintan: They just gave me a hug and we just cried. It's just that I have to find something good in it. I have to know her life wasn't for nothing. 33 days being here cannot be for nothing. It has to mean something. It does mean something to us, but it has to mean something greater.

Rick: Those 33 days you've described in such incredible detail about what a fighter she was, about what an incredible character she was, and also how much she taught you as a person as well.

Fintan: Yeah she changed me. She suffered. It's just when you lose a child it just opens your perspective on life. It just seems like you don't have problems, you think you have problems, but it's your perspective of it, and it just broadens your horizons, to see someone so small, she was 486 grams. She literally fitted into my hand, she was that small. To see someone fight every single day for every breath, for every heartbeat, the infections. We were told five times that she would not make it through the day and somehow she still made it through the next day, and the next day, and the next day, until finally her heart gave up, and that, that for us is like it can't be for nothing. There's a moment, isn't there, when when you say, I want Millie to see outside. I want her to feel what it's like to be outside and you take her outside of the ICU unit, with the permission of the doctors, into this special area in in the grounds of the hospital.

Rick: That area now has some significance doesn't it? With what you're here to tell us about today, what you're doing in a couple of weeks time?

Fintan: It's massive. We were quite lucky that they said to us that the area was there. We knew she was going. Her heart rate was dropping, and it was just getting slower and slower, and it wasn't recovering. The nurses asked us if there was anything you'd like to do, or anything you want us to do, and I wanted to take her outside. I couldn't have her just see inside the four walls of the hospital. It hadn't been done before, so we didn't know if we could do it but it was like 5am and there was nobody about, so we went outside the unit. We crossed the hallway. There's a little Memorial Garden there and I held her. That was the first proper time I got to hold her in 33 days because she was so ill. We looked up to the sky, with the help of the nurses who were keeping her breathing and we had 10 minutes in our garden. We told her that our grandparents were waiting for her, and some of our friends were waiting for her. That memorial garden now becomes the focal point, the start point, and the end point, of the 330km challenge, because that's where the race begins,



Fintan O'Malley on a 330km endurance run to remember Millie

Fintan: I'm being a PT now, I mean you are motivated anyway, I'm motivated, but this is different, it's a different energy it's like people think oh you're a PT, it's okay, and it's like we're just human beings, we have feelings, we have good days we have bad days, but for me it's like a different energy. It's from deep inside. There are days when I don't want to go out and run, and there are days when I'm tired, but then I still go. Millie struggled every single day she was alive, so I can struggle for an hour or a couple of hours a day, or longer. It's a bit more than that, from a training perspective, but yes it's going to take me four or five days probably.

Rick: Is that all? Four or five days to do 330km is no mean feat! What's your running experience and how difficult is this for you?

Fintan: When I was younger I used to do cross-country and track when I was about 14-16. When I was 16 I came to England and fell out of running but got back into it in 2019 when I was 39. I got back into running, but I hate road running, hate it, sorry guys but I do. I don't mind training, doing trail running, and then I signed for the half marathon as my first race and went straight in with that, straight in! After that I decided I needed a couple of other runs, more in the way of experiencing running rather than just going straight into something like that. I did the 55km Lakeland Trail. That was my very first ultramarathon. From there I went to a 50 mile. The local club did a 100km in loops, for charity during lockdown. Then I did my first 100km endurance run in the Brecon Beacons in 2021. That's my experience pretty much. I had meniscus issues with both knees, which had me out for a year.

Rick: I think something that makes the story that we're talking to you about today even more poignant, is that conceiving Millie in the first place wasn't straightforward?

Fintan: No it was a seven year journey so obviously we tried to go the natural route, as we all do, and then we were told we'd have to go down the IVF route because we both had issues. We tried IVF a couple of times and nothing happened. Then we got pregnant, and we had a couple of miscarriages, and then we had Millie. Then our very last embryo was our beautiful little Willow. She arrived in December just gone. So it's been a full circle of joy, grief, trauma, and back to joy again.

Rick: Just listening to you, I'm mesmerized by how tough it's been, but then there's this joyful ending, joyful might not be the right word?

Fintan: Oh she brings joy to our life! Willow starts training next week because she's 6 months old, so she's allowed in the running buggy next week! **Rick:** Oh wow so she starts training next week! That's a big moment! You've talked a bit about how you think men have difficulty discussing loss and pain, especially when it comes to losing a child, and also in other circumstances too around health and wellbeing. What is it you're hoping that other families might take from hearing your story?

Fintan: Becky and I are really lucky that we've come out of this together. If you look the statistics, sadly a lot of couples don't come out together, and I think a lot of that is that the couples struggle separately. The strain of it is huge, but they struggle separately, and don't speak. Men have this thing where, fine I'm your mate, but I can't talk about my feelings. That's rubbish in my opinion. For me, it takes greater courage to open up, and speak about things, because if you keep it all in you're only going down a darker hole, and it just becomes harder and harder to come out of. I've been very vocal about my feelings.

Rick: Were you vocal straight away about it? Did you feel straight away that you wanted to talk about it?

Fintan O'Malley on a 330km endurance run to remember Millie

Fintan: Oh definitely. I had to. I had to open up.

Rick: Was that to your wife?
or was that to someone else?

Fintan: Anybody. Anyone that would listen. Instagram friends, anyone at all. Anybody that would listen to Millie's story. I wanted Millie to have her own legacy.

Rick: I've got to say Fintan the first time I spoke to you, I was on a busy train platform, I think I was in Birmingham, and we were on a poor phone line and it was cutting in and out, and it was the first time that I approached you and told you that we'd love to have you on "TLC meets" and I wasn't expecting how open you'd be, and your clarity of thought about what you wanted to do in Millie's memory and also how open you were about the strain that you know it was putting on you and your family over such a long period of time. It took me a little bit by surprise the first time we spoke, but I just found it really quite heartwarming, difficult, but really heartwarming, and I think you should know how rare it is for someone to be so brave and open to speak like this.

Fintan: I'm just trying to be me honestly. It's my way of coping. It's my way of dealing with things, but if we can help one family stay together, if we can help one family to try again for a child. Your chances, people don't realize it's one in four trillion. Miracles do happen though. In terms of the fundraising though, you know the equipment on the neonatal unit that we're fundraising for, to support newborn babies who are born prematurely, who have to spend all this time on ICU units up and down the country, it's not alone the babies themselves, and the parents that we're trying to help, it's the staff, the nurses, doctors, consultants. We're trying to help those hard working staff to provide the best care they can with the best equipment available. We were allowed to stay on the hospital grounds. They have three rooms, but it's stressful when you've got people in and out and we want to be able to change that and try and make it a better environment if that makes sense. So that when you're going through that stress of the situation you're not needing to worry about small things like breast pumps and having to share equipment. When Willow was born, she had a week back in the same NICU unit, and it was just really nice to see there was 12 pumps there, and we had been a part of sorting that out. It was hard though to be back, back in the same place. When Willow was born everything looked fine, she was brought to her mom, and then suddenly I saw the nurse tap the doctor on a shoulder, and then I looked and I could see her lips going blue and then she was struggling to breathe and then it was all action stations again. You're just thinking, not again, not again. It all ended up fine though in the end and we have this joyful experience with Willow.

Rick: What's amazing to me, and what shone through from Chloe's original contact, was that she said we needed to talk to you because, yes while all of this is harrowing and very difficult, there's the side of it where you're now channeling that into something incredible, but also actually what she said was that you're this ray of positivity, even throughout the IVF, and your own surgeries, and then what ended up happening with Millie you were just kind of bulldozing through life and being these positive people.



Fintan O'Malley on a 330km endurance run to remember Millie

So from from a running perspective, you're deep into training I guess. How are how are the knees?

Fintan: Good. A bit of a sting in them at times but it's just part and parcel of training. Just trying to get as much sleep as I can with the little one these days, so power naps are quite high on the priority list, but it's good. It's hard at times though, hard being away from Becca and Willow doing the training. There's frustration when you miss a training run or something though, so you have to keep going.

Rick: I'm motivated for my own reasons, chasing times and new distances and so on, but nothing like the kind of the motivation that you clearly have. Everyone has that that thing that when it gets to 20 miles in a marathon of "why am I doing this" and they're remembering "oh that's why" and it's like you can flick a switch. Do you know what point you're going to have to flick that switch in the 330km?

Fintan: All the time. The switch is on all the time. There's no flicking the switch cuz it's all the time. It's when I'm tired, it's doing a run late at night when I want to go to bed, it's getting up at 4:00 am to get running so I can have a day with with the girls when I come home, it's on all the time.

Rick: That's fascinating isn't it, to have that, because I think it's one of the things we're proud about on the running channel. We talk about how running is not always fun and easy and beautiful, like what you might see on on social media. Quite often it's dark, brutal, cold, and feels rubbish. It can be hard to just get out the door so I think everyone needs to find their own reason for doing it. Did it help your head in the the weeks and months after Millies passing, running to clear your head and give yourself some space.

Fintan: Oh yeah for me, getting out in the mountains, that's where I feel closest to her, that's where I talk to her. I just feel really close to her when I'm out there. I talk to her all the time when I'm out running.

Rick: Is that a cathartic experience as much as it is also energizing for you now, and a positive one that that helps helps pull you up?

Fintan: Definitely 100% Last Sunday for an example, I had a really bad run on Saturday, my legs just felt tired, they just felt heavy, and I was just telling myself, you just need to remember Millie, she struggled every day, just get on with it, one step in front of the other, and you just keep going trucking. Rick: Can I ask what's probably a difficult question, but something you've had to deal with, and will have to deal with going forward, how do you speak to Willow about Millie?

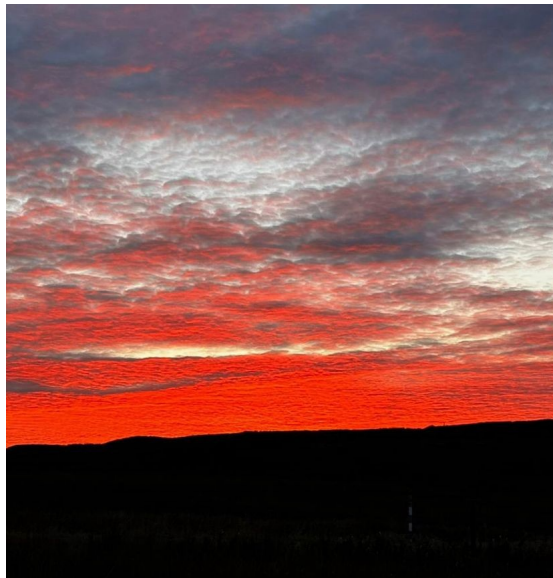


Fintan O'Malley on a 330km endurance run to remember Millie

Fintan: Well that's why I wanted her to be part of this. That's why I wanted her to be part of the training runs. I wanted, even as a baby, for her to play her part. We just tell her about how brave her sister was, and I show her little videos of Millie when she was in hospital

Rick: I'm thinking about when you spoke about going out for a run and that's your time to be on your own, but also you're talking to Millie. in that context I actually think your message about opening up for every everyone who goes through trauma, particularly men, that running with other people can actually be in my experience a really powerful way of doing that. It can be tricky to sit down, like we are today and talk face to face about heavy stuff, but if you're out for a run with a mate, shoulder to shoulder, it can be easier. In short, guys, don't be afraid to talk!

If people want to wish you well, or check out how you're getting on with "Millies Legacy" they can find you under "Millies Legacy" on Instagram, or on your own account too. You'll be updating the journey as you go along, and the best of luck for Sunday 27th September!



Left: The sunrise that greeted Fintan as he started out on the run!

Below Left: A well earned break in the hills

Below Right: Fintan with daughter Willow



Peter Paul O'Malley—From Limerick to New Zealand to Ypres

Peter Paul O'Malley

29 June 1895 – 20 December 1978

My father, known throughout his life as Paul was born at 28 William Street Limerick on the 29th June 1895, the third child and second son of James Fleming O'Malley and Elizabeth O'Malley (nee Power).

James and Elizabeth left Ireland around 1902 and settled as hoteliers in Naseby, Central Otago, New Zealand. At that time Naseby a thriving borough due to the presence of gold and the subsidiary industries that it supported. Paul's young life was seemingly unremarkable although I do recall his scathing comments on the treatment of the small number of ethnic Chinese miners living in the outskirts of the town. This was so bad as to have resulted in the murder of one such unfortunate which raised little concern in the general Caucasian population who held little regard for the Chinese miners. Not so Peter Paul I am relieved to say, who retained strong beliefs of fairness and equality throughout his life.

This life was intended to be in the practice of Law. He and his older brother Gerard (Gerry) became indentured clerks on leaving school. Paul, with a local practitioner Ira Fraser, who continued to practice law in the district throughout his life and whose name remained on the law firm Fraser, McDonald and Martin up to only a few short years ago. Paul's journey into the Law was interrupted by the outbreak of war in 1914, and with hostilities not being resolved quickly as was expected, Paul, his older brother Gerry and younger brother Joseph (Joe) enlisted for service in early 1916. They all saw service on the Western front and, notwithstanding being in different units were present at the battle of Messines Ridge in June 1917, one of the success stories of the Ypres Salient. Paul recalled that quite by chance the three brothers caught up with each other and shared a cigarette, astonished that they had all survived. Paul suffered what it seems to be a minor gunshot wound during the battle and was returned to his unit on his 22nd birthday, 29th June 1917.



*Above: Paul in uniform
during WWI*

While Messines Ridge was meticulously planned and implemented, aided by benevolent weather, the 2nd Battle of Passchendaele on the 12th October had none of those advantages. New Zealand military historian Glyn Harper (1) tells the story in graphic detail, recalling the appalling conditions, thigh high mud, ineffective artillery cover and well-prepared enemy defensive positions. All this made worse by the physical exhaustion of Paul's (C) company which had spent two weeks behind the lines, ostensibly for rest and recuperation but actually working 12 hour day shifts in the endeavour of trying to repair rail, vehicle & communication lines in what was by that time, a sea of mud and flooded shell holes. The company was marched overnight to the front line with only a few hours rest until the assault timed for 6.00am.

Harper records an account of the disaster written by a Corporal Harold Green of C Company ,3rd Battalion NZRB which leap-frogged the 2nd Battalion on the assault on Wolfe farm (2).

"(A)t 6.00.am a tremendous bombardment opened and we went over in a sea of mud. The fire from the German pill boxes was hellish and our barrage failed. The emplacements for the guns tilted causing trouble in our raids from the shells of our own 18 pounders". Corporal Green goes on to record that "C Company lost heavily, and the 3rd Battalion lost about half its numbers in casualties including all sergeants except Goodfellow". He could not have known that Paul O'Malley was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on the 10th October, only 2 days before the battle, but somehow miraculously survived. The Battalion took Wolfe Farm, but could proceed no further due to suffocating machine gun fire from the higher ground in front and were forced to dig in. Paul suffered a serious gunshot wound to his right shoulder late in the day. He was evacuated and repatriated to hospital in London, where he convalesced for several months before attending Officer training at Balliol College, Oxford graduating with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. He visited Limerick with his brothers sometime in 1918 and talked about his aunts, Nuns, in the city. I was in Limerick in 1987, after attending the Clan gathering at Westport. We had learned of this event in Ranfurly, and thinking it was a one off, decided to make the journey with my late brother Tony, my sister Pauline Claridge and her husband Dick. When in Limerick we met up with the late Paddy O'Malley and his lovely wife and spent a truly memorable few hours with them. During this time, Paddy told me "I remember your father, he was the quiet one". Paddy would have been 11 years old at the time, and sadly died only months after our meeting.

After this year's gathering, which I attended with my wife Kate, our son Sean, our eldest grandchild, Madeleine and a granddaughter of my brother Mike, Jess Flannery, Kate and I took a trip to Ypres to see if we could learn a bit more about these

Peter Paul O'Malley—From Limerick to New Zealand to Ypres

terrible events and try to understand if only perfunctorily the absolute horror of what had occurred. Thousands of young men taken from the other side of the globe, to sacrifice their lives, their physical and mental wellbeing to fight a war not of their making but out of the sense of loyalty, no doubt reinforced by popular sentiment and youthful bravado. We were amazed and impressed by the careful rebuild of Ypres and more so by the enduring sense of gratitude that prevails for the sacrifices made in its liberation by the forces of Britain, including the many Irishmen, independently acknowledged and the far flung Empire which included New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the Far East. We were greatly assisted in our journey by a new friend Freddy De Clerk, a retired Captain of the Belgian navy and Honorary Captain of New Zealand Navy. Freddy has a particular interest in the New Zealand involvement in these events and was most gracious in sharing his knowledge with us. The icing on the cake was being invited to recite the Ode at the nightly "Last Post" celebrations at the Menin Gate. While my father survived that dreadful experience, many many did not and there is no doubt the experience negatively affected his mental health for the rest of his life. I was very moved and proud to recite at the Menin Gate after a moving rendition of the "Last Post

*"They shall not grow old
As we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them
Or the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We shall remember them"*

Notes:

1. Harper. G. – Dark Journey. – Harper Collins Publishers.
2. Supra – p 86.

Below: The Menin Gate at Ypres



Destination Westport—Check it out when you're planning your trip



When planning your trip to The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2025, (27th to 29th June), we've been through the details of how to get here, and even a potential roadtrip that you could include the O'Malley Clan Gathering in, but what about Westport itself!

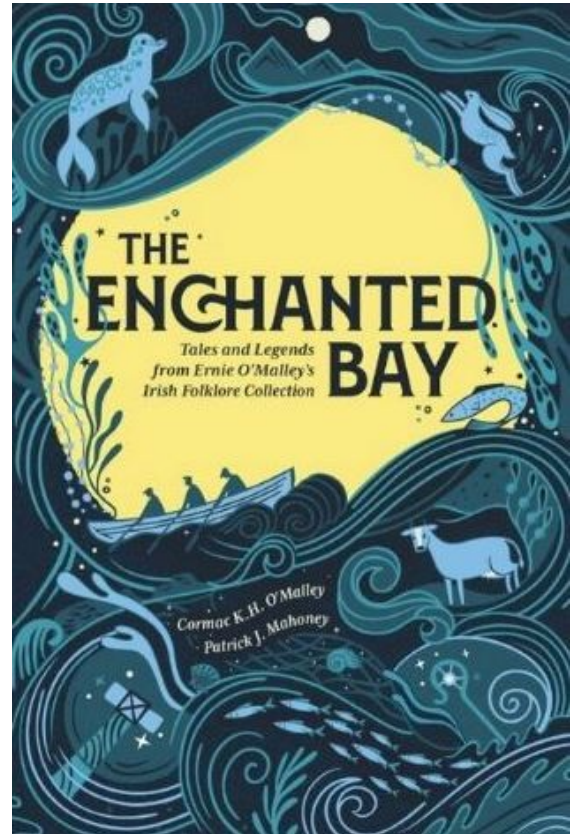
There's a great website, "Destination Westport" with heaps of details on places to stay, from budget accommodation to luxury hotels and bed and breakfasts, things to do, guides to activities such as a climb of Croagh Patrick, (not for the faint hearted), so make sure to check it out.

Westport has lots of fabulous places to stay, but beds will fill up quickly, so don't delay in putting your plan together. You won't need to concentrate on the "things to do in Westport" section as we'll be sure to keep you busy all weekend, but if you're staying longer in the Westport area it might be no harm to have a look through it.

As always, if you've any questions at all when planning your trip, pop us over an email to omalleyclanireland@gmail.com and we'll come back to you. Click on the image below to check out "Destination Westport"



Former Chieftain Cormac O'Malley launches his new book!



Above: Co-Editor Patrick Mahoney, Chieftain Grace O'Malley, and Cormac O'Malley at the launch of "The Enchanted Bay"

Former Chieftain Cormac O'Malley recently launched his new book, a collection of folklore from the archives of his Dad, freedom fighter, artist, and writer, Ernie O'Malley. Congratulations Cormac!! The Irish Academic Press notes on the book leave us salivating for when our copy arrives in the post.....

"It is a little-known fact that Ernie O'Malley, renowned for his role in Ireland's revolutionary struggle, was also a passionate collector of Irish folklore.

Centred on O'Malley's native Clew Bay and its environs and transcribed by his son Cormac, "The Enchanted Bay" is a rich tapestry of tales that showcases the enduring power of the oral tradition in Ireland. From the entertaining exploits of the Gobán Saor, mythical master builder, to the Clare Island man who married a selkie, this collection offers a glimpse into the heart of Irish storytelling.

A testament to O'Malley's multifaceted legacy, several of the stories in this compilation were gathered while he travelled Ireland as an IRA organiser. The insights he gained through folklore collecting would later inform his ambitious project of recording testimonies from former comrades, solidifying his place as a pivotal figure in the preservation of Irish history and culture"

Well done Cormac!!

O'Malleys! Test your brain with an Irish History Crossword

Across

- 2. REBEL LEADER AND LATER PRESIDENT OF IRELAND
- 5. CROP THAT FAILED LEADING TO THE GREAT FAMINE
- 6. SITE OF THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL LANDING OF A TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT IN 1919
- 9. THE LAST PORT OF CALL FOR THE DOOMED TITANIC
- 12. SAINT WHO BANISHED THE SNAKES FROM IRELAND
- 15. IRISH CURRENCY BEFORE THE EURO ARRIVED IN 2002
- 17. IRISH NATIONALIST PARTY FOUNDED BY ARTHUR GRIFFITH
- 18. NORMAN LORD WHO LED THE INVASION OF IRELAND IN 1169
- 19. IRISH POET AWARDED NOBEL PRIZE IN 1995
- 20. BRITISH FORCE SENT TO IRELAND TO HELP QUELL REBELLION IN 1920
- 22. IRISH RIVER AND SITE OF A FAMOUS BATTLE IN 1690

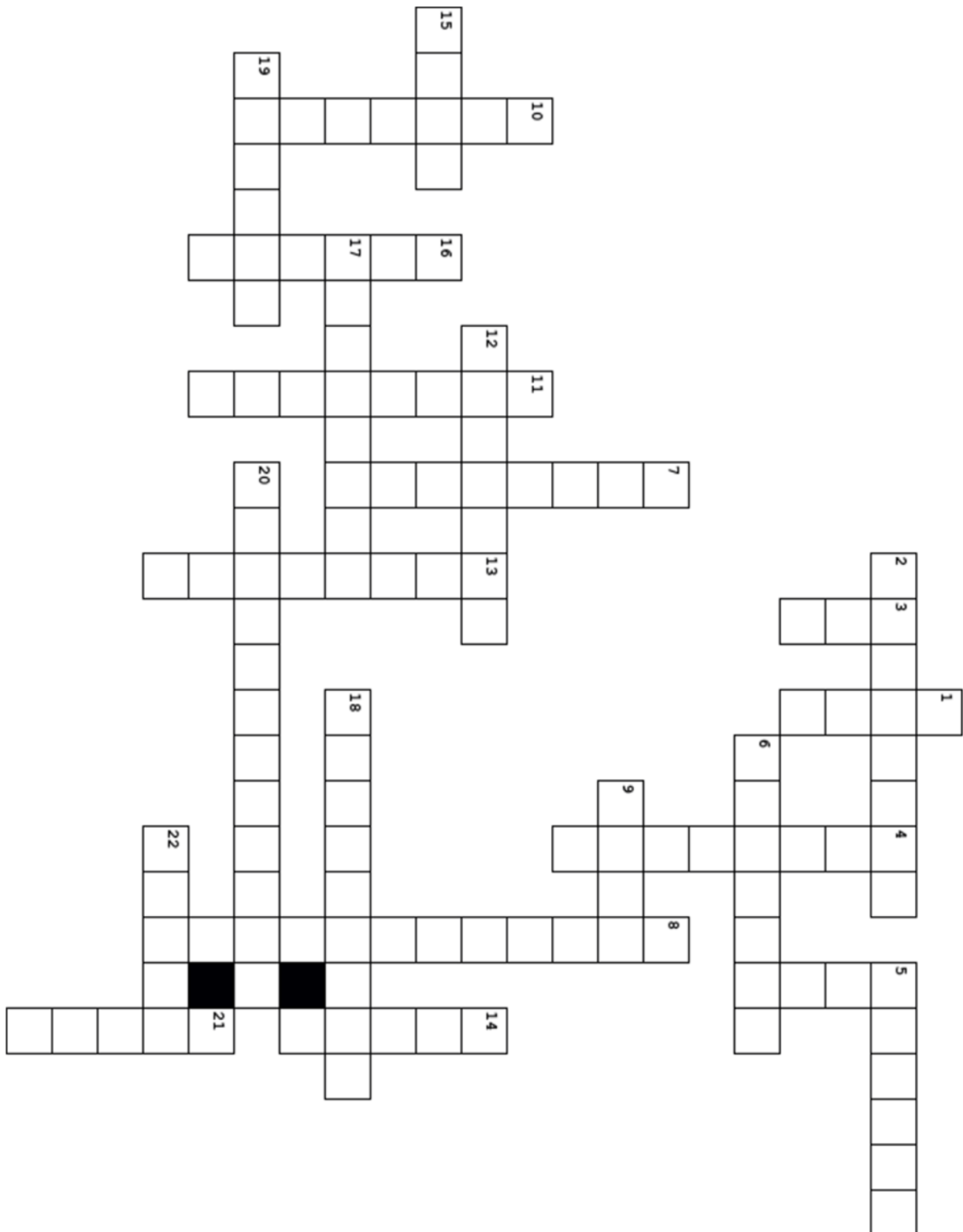
Down

- 1. MUSICAL INSTRUMENT AND SYMBOL OF IRELAND
- 3. WHAT DID IRELAND JOIN IN 1973?
- 4. FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF IRELAND IN 1990
- 5. AREA AROUND DUBLIN CONTROLLED BY THE ENGLISH SINCE MEDIEVAL TIMES
- 7. IRISH FREE STATE'S FIRST HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
- 8. WHAT WWII WAS KNOWN AS IN IRELAND
- 10. SOUTHERN PORT AND SCENE OF A FAMOUS BATTLE IN 1601
- 11. THE ISLAND WHERE THE TRANSATLANTIC CABLE CAME ASHORE
- 13. WHERE BRIAN BORU BEAT THE VIKINGS IN 1014
- 14. THE ACT OF IN 1801 JOINED IRELAND WITH BRITAIN WITHIN THE ONE KINGDOM
- 16. THE ROCK OF ANCIENT FORTRESS IN TIPPERARY
- 21. THE BOOK OF FAMOUS ORNATE IRISH MANUSCRIPT IN TRINITY COLLEGE

Answers from our September issue:

Across: 2. Ulster, 5. Dublin 7. Kilkenny, 8. Clare, 13. Mizen 15. Wicklow, 16. Armagh, 17. Cashel 20. Meath. **Down:** 1. Kerry, 3. Shannon, 4. Cork, 5. Donard, 6. Six, 9. Louth, 10. Sligo, 11. Lagan, 12. Thirtytwo 14. Neagh, 18. Liffey, 19. Derg

O'Malleys! Test your brain with an Irish History Crossword





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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 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.

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



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the Clan,
Be a part
of it**

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