
An Seanacháí



Vol. 81, Issue 2, February 2020

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends:

Welcome to a new column in the Seanachai. We are not sure how often this will happen but we thought it would be fun to try something new and offer up the musings of your President.

We are entering a very busy season for the All Ireland Cultural Society. In March we will host our St. Patrick's Day celebration; in April we will elect a new Board; and in May we will perhaps host a concert. (Stay tuned for more details on that last event!)

We are proud to offer a family friendly St. Patrick's Day celebration on the actual date - Tuesday, March 17th, from 3:00 - 8:00 pm. Did you know this is the 79th year our club has celebrated St. Patrick's day with the Portland community? It's a tradition to be proud of and one I hope carries on for the next 80 years. We are a volunteer run Society and I am asking all of you to step up and serve. Work shifts on St. Patrick's Day run 1 & 1/2 hours. This leaves you lots of time to enjoy the festivities with friends and family. Louise Martell is in charge of the volunteers so reach out to her (or any board member) and let her know how you can help. You can reach her at irishclubpdx@gmail.com. Just put St. Patrick's Day volunteer in the subject line or by phone at 503-297-3327. This is our chance to showcase the club to the larger community and you our members help us put our best foot forward. Let's show Portland how the Irish celebrate our heritage. It will be a night filled with dancing and music and storytelling. Come one, come all.

February is also the time we put together our nominating committee for the board of directors for the coming year. The election for the new board will be held at our April 18th meeting. The new board will take over May 2nd. Five board members and officers are retiring or leaving and four will be staying. I hope that each of you will take some time to look over the open positions listed here and ask yourself if NOW is the time to join the board. The positions open are: Trustee; Director; Treasurer; Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary. New members bring new energy, ideas and vigor to the board so please volunteer to serve. Like Uncle Sam in the posters of old, WE NEED YOU! If you have questions feels free to reach out to any board member to find out more about each position.

The board currently meets the first Saturday of the month from 10:30 - 12:30 at the Tualatin Library. The board can meet anywhere, at any time. The new board will set the day and time. So please don't let the existing meeting time or location be a deterrent. Together we can make it work!

A favorite phrase of mine is many hands make quick work. Together we make the club strong. It takes all of us. Please consider serving on the board. I look forward to seeing you all at the February meeting and at the St. Patrick's Day celebration March 17th from 3:00 - 8:00 pm. It's our gala event of the year. Help us make it a success.

Oh, and that concert in May - come to the February 18th meeting at the Stamp Society from 2:00 - 4:00 pm and hear all about it!

Slainte,

Mary Sacksteder, President
All Ireland Cultural Society

Tea Party, Pub Social and Card Game

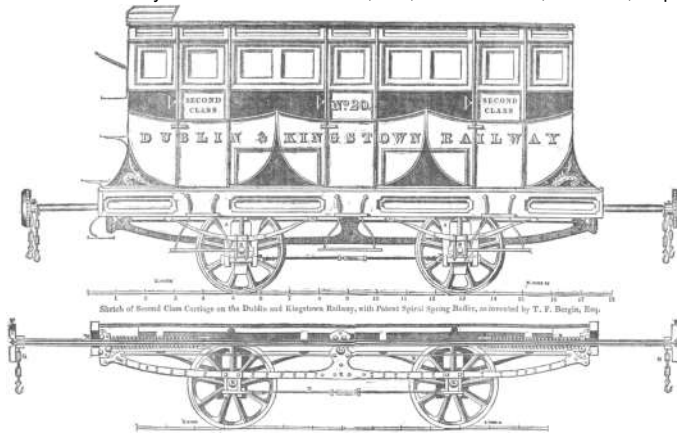
It was a very social month for the AICS with a tea party, pub social and "25" card game. Special thanks to Julie O'Connell who organized the tea party, Jim O'Connell who organized the pub social and J.J. Grealish who organized and led the "25" card game. We're also grateful for the warm hospitality of Jody Whelan who visited with us during the pub social. Whelan's menu of Irish favorites (and other items) is quite good so stop by if you're in the area. One of the bonus features of the pub social was garnering new member Beth Setters, a card player, who quickly took to "25." We may have card parties yet!!



MaryRose Mulligan Kerg and Carol Cummings enjoying the craic at Whelan's

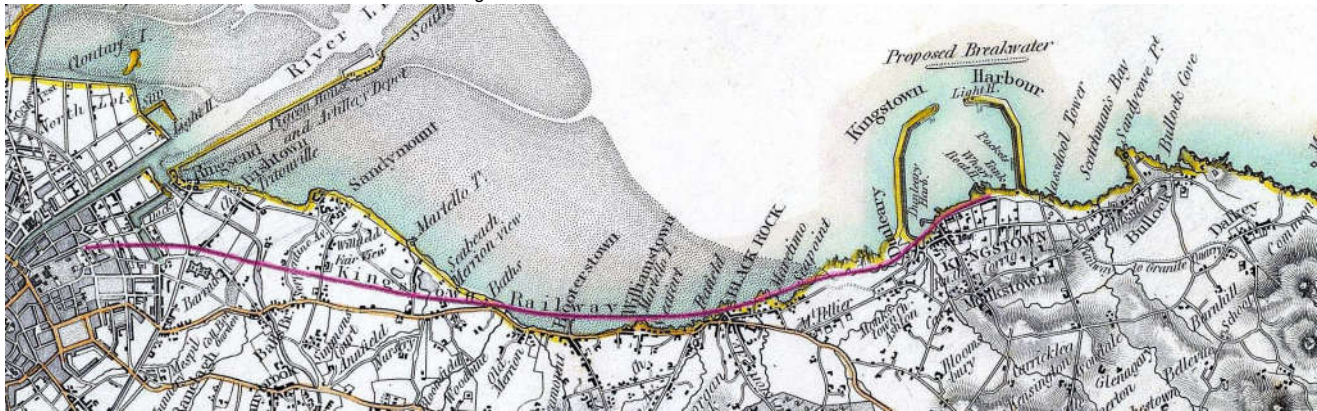
Traveling the Rails in Ireland

There's no better way to see Ireland than traveling by rail. For senior Irish citizens it's also the cheapest way to go - pensioners get free passes! Irish railroads first began taking passengers when the Dublin and Kingstown Railway (D&KR) opened in 1834. It linked Westland Row in Dublin with Kingstown Harbour (Dun Laoghaire) in County Dublin. It may seem hard to believe but this was the first railway to build its own locomotives. Operation, but not ownership, of this railway was taken over in 1856 by the Dublin and Wicklow Railway (D&WR) that had formerly been known as the Waterford, Wicklow, Wexford and Dublin Railway. As is evident from its name this railway served the Dublin and southeast area of Ireland. It subsequently changed its name to the Dublin and South Eastern Railway (D&SER) in 1907, a name it retained until it was amalgamated with the Great Southern Railways in 1925. Some of the great hotels in Ireland were owned by the Great Southern Railway, such as the Parknasilla Great Southern near Sneem in County Kerry. Many of the hotels have been sold off but they once were a convenient, and, in some cases, luxurious, stopover for travelers.



Second Class Carriage of the Dublin and Kingstown Railway

Below is the Original Route



The railway proved expensive to build, the final cost being a little under 60,000 pounds **per mile**! Not only did this company build its own engines, it named them as well - names like the *Vauxhall* and the *Hibernia*. What did a fare cost in those days? Newspapers advertised an hourly service and fares of one shilling, eight pence and six pence for first, second and third class seats respectively. Carriages were constructed differently, depending on the class of rider they were to transport. Fully enclosed purple first class carriages had three compartments with two rows of upholstered seats, seating three abreast. The pale yellow covered carriages also had upholstered seats in three compartments but four abreast - a total of 24 passengers. Green second class open carriages were only used in summer - seating 28 passengers in seven rows. Blue third class carriages had a capacity for 35 passengers in seven rows of five abreast on boarded seats with low backrests. Typical trains had a single first class carriage, two to four second class carriages and three third class carriages.

As might be expected, these lines eventually made their way to CIE's control. Introduction of the high frequency DART services eventually resulted in a different configuration of services around Dublin. BUT, this was how it started and for many Irish pensioners and tourists rail travel is the preferred way to go.

It's That Time of Year

Yes, it's time to pay your annual membership. You may do it by putting a check in the mail to the following address: P.O. Box 3411, Portland, OR 97208-3411 or by paying at our next meeting on February 15th at the Oregon Stamp Society building. Paying your membership timely allows the club to plan for the future, both in terms of membership and in monies available to maintain our mission. No one is going to chase you so the onus is on you to get it done. That's one of the less attractive features of January - in addition to the weather - every annual payment seems to fall due. Just the way it is!!!



Corrib Theater Season, Gala and Summer Theater Tour

The Corrib Theater has announced it's spring theater presentations, Gala and summer theater tour. Kicking it off is a drama by Gerard Mannix Flynn called James X. It features Darius Pierce as James, a plaintiff confronting the Church and State for injustices heaped upon him in his childhood. The play is directed by Gemma Whelan and will run from February 14th - March 1st at New Expressive Works, [810 SE Belmont Street](#) in Portland.

There is a Corrib Gala coming up - on March 16th at 6:30 pm. It will be held at the Milagro Theater in the Zocalo, [535 SE Stark Street, Portland](#). For a \$50 ticket you can enjoy: a dinner with wine; the music of Irish fiddler Bronnie Griffin; a scene from the Milagro's upcoming play, ***The Corrido of the San Patricios***; and an auction.

Following James X the Corrib Theater will feature ***Kissing the Witch*** from April 3- 26 . This is a play by Emma Donoghue, directed by Lava Alapai.

And, should you want more drama, The Corrib theater will be hosting an Irish Theater Tour featuring eight dramatic performances in Galway and Dublin between July 21- 31. For more information about or tickets for any of these offerings go to www.corribtheatre.org.

The Corrib is a 501(c)3 organization, meaning any donation you wish to make may have a tax advantage.

Good and Welfare.

Welcome to new members **Nancy Jarrell and Beth Setters**

Save the Date for AICS Activities:

February General Meeting

Saturday, February 15th at 2:00 pm
Oregon Stamp Society Building
[4825 NE 33rd Avenue](#)
Portland, Oregon

AICS St. Patrick's Party

Tuesday, March 17th
Aquinas Hall
[340 NE Clackamas Street](#)
Portland, OR 9723

Ancient Order of Hibernian

On Tuesday, February 18th, the Hibernians will have a special guest from a local theater group to discuss the drama "The Corrido of the San Patricios," presented at the Milagro Theatre. It recounts the experiences of 200 Irish Catholic soldiers who fought for the Union Army in the Mexican-American War. When they could no longer tolerate the abuse heaped on them by the Union Army they switched sides and fought with the Mexicans. Tim Birr spoke to that period in history at a Hibernian meeting last year. It just goes to show you never know who's listening!

Saturday, March 7th will be "The Greatest Saint Patrick's Day Banquet Ever" - even if Bill has to say so himself. Again, it will be held in the Hibernian Room at Kells beginning at 6:30, featuring Breda Yeates's Molly Malone Dancers, live music by Cary Novotny, including traditional Irish ballads, and piping by Tim Birr. There will be a grand buffet, a prize raffle and the famous "cake raffle." The cost is \$40 per person and you can reach out to Bill to make a reservation: 503-939-8732.

Ireland's Consul General for the Western United States, Robert O'Driscoll, will be speaking at Kells on March 2 at 7:00 pm about Ireland's future after Brexit. All are invited to attend. If you want credible information about this important development you can get it [here](#).

On Tuesday, March 17th at 8:00 am there will be a Mass at the Cathedral followed by a ceremony at the Great Hunger Memorial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Breakfast will follow the Mass and ceremony.

The Molly Malone Dancers



The "Cake" Raffle



Genealogy Committee

Contact Don Anderson (dndanderson@comcast.net) if interested in joining the Genealogy Committee.

Celtic Events

Celtic Community Night at Artichoke Music [2007 SE Powell Boulevard, Portland, OR](http://2007SEPowellBoulevard.com). The second Wednesday of the month is dedicated to Irish music at Artichoke. This month fiddler Erik Killops and harpist Tracy Rose Brown will be featured on Wednesday, February 12th, at 7:00 pm. For ticket info please call 503-232-8846.

2nd Saturday Community Concert will be held on February 8th at Winona Grange 271, [8340 SW Seneca Street, Tualatin, OR.](http://8340SWSenecaStreet.com), at 7:30. The cost is \$15, \$25 and \$30 depending on age whether purchased in advance.

Annual Shamrock Cruise on board the Portland Spirit will be sailing on Sunday, March 15, 2020 from 2:30-5:30. The boat will leave from [110 SE Caruthers Street](http://110SECaruthersStreet.com) in Portland, OR (next to OMSI). Tickets are now available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4315

Irish Cruises

Gertie Bryne's 2020 Cruise

An all Irish cruise of the Mexican Riviera leaving from and returning to San Diego between February 22-29, 2020!!! Perfect for west coasters. Yes, 95 % of the talent on this ship is brought out from Ireland by well-known entertainment entrepreneur Gertie Byrne, originally from County Mayo. These are the ports of call:

Cabo San Lucas
Oasis Baja (California)
Mazatlan
Puerta Vallarta

If you would like more information on this cruise please call 1-800-356-4713 or go to this web site:
<http://www.gertiebyrne.com> - it has a complete list of entertainers and pricing.

Andy Cooney's 2020 Musical Cruise

Andy Cooney is hosting a seven-day cruise through the inner passage to Alaska, leaving Seattle, WA on May 31st and returning to Seattle on June 7, 2020. Cruising is aboard the Emerald Princess. Ports of call are:

Ketchikan
Endicott Arm and Dawes Glacier
Juneau
Skagway
British Columbia, Canada.

Inside cabins are \$1299 per person; ocean view are \$1799 per person; and balcony are \$2149 per person. Taxes, fees and port charges are \$243.14 and airfare is not included in the pricing. For more information call Travel Professionals at 800-724-9511 or 845-651-4441. They can also be reached by e-mail at: travelpro@warwick.net.

Joanie Madden 2020 Cruise

For those of you who'd like to venture a little further from home, Joanie Madden and Cherish the Ladies are running an eastern Mediterranean cruise from October 18 to 25th. There will be 80 of the best Irish musical groups performing - including Cherish the Ladies. This cruise will leave from and return to Barcelona, Spain. For more information go to: joaniemaddencruise.com.

Weekly Irish Dance

Monday: Sean nos dancing taught by Maldon Meehan, advanced class at 7:00pm at the dance studio the Audiocinema Building, [226 SE Madison Street, Portland Oregon](#) and beginner class at 8:00 pm at the same location. Fees: \$20 at the door or \$15 for a six week session if paid in advance.

Set dancing at Betty Woerner's at [2912 SW Arnold Street, Portland](#) - no charge. Call 503-244-1593 for more info.

Tuesdays: Tir Eoghain ceili class, 5:00-6:30 PM at McMenamin's Kennedy School, [5736 NE 33rd Ave., Portland, OR](#). Admission is \$5.00. Next class is February 15th, no class in March and April date and location to be announced. **This previously weekly class will now go to a monthly class.**

Thursdays: Winds of Donegal, 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the Winona Grange, [8340 SW Seneca St., Tualatin](#), \$5 fee. Beginners always welcomed!

Monthly Dance and Music Events

Ceili Mor: 1st Friday of the month. 8-11 pm (Doors open 7:30PM), October through May, Winona Grange, [8340 SW Seneca St., Tualatin](#). \$12 adults, \$10 students (Age 12 and up), veterans, and seniors 65 and over \$10.00.

For more information please go to [SandAlIrish Entertainment.com](#) or [www.irishpdx.com](#).

Irish Jam Session: 2nd Sunday of the month. 3-6PM, Winona Grange, [8340 SW Seneca St., Tualatin](#). For more information, contact Sam Keator at sam.keator@frontier.com.

Ceili of the Valley: 2nd Friday Ceili. 8-11 pm (Doors open 7:00 pm, lesson about 7:15), Year Round, VFW Hall, [630 Hood St NE, Salem](#). \$10 General, \$8 CVS Member, \$5 students (age 11 and up), Kids 10 and under are free, \$30 Family. For more information please go to [www.ceiliofthevalley.org](#)

Ceili of the Valley also hold classes every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 at the same location. \$5 per class

Comhaltas Irish Saturday at Sellwood Community Center, February 22nd. Foinn Seisiun tune learning 4:00-5:00; Irish Gaelic Conversation 4:00-6:00 pm; Improver's Seisiun 5:00-6:00 pm; Irish Song Circle 5:00 - 6:00 pm; pot luck 6:00 pm; Open Seisiun 7:00-9:45 pm; set dancing lesson 7:00 - 7:30 pm; set/ceili dancing and party pieces 7:30 - 10:00 pm. Fee is \$4:00-10.00.

Advertisements

If you have a business or a service to offer to our members, let us advertise for you. We can print your business card for \$25 per year. *An Seanachai* goes to more than one hundred local households. For more information about this incredible bargain send an e-mail to Dorothy Foley at abbydorneypdx@gmail.com.



Whelan's Irish Pub

Come Join the Craic!

11709 SE Division Street
Portland, OR 97266

(503) 327-8020

whelanspdx.com



Like us on Facebook!

Kiawe Island Bistro
Fresh Food, Fresh Taste
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Executive Chef

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Essential Information for the All-Ireland Cultural Society

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Board of Directors 2019-2020

President: Mary Sacksteder
Vice President: Jim O'Connell
Recording Secretary: Julie O'Connell
Corresponding Secretary: Louise Martell
Treasurer: Molly McGuire
Directors: Brendan Kerg, Mary Sacksteder
Trustees: Shirley Hahn, Dorothy Foley



Left to right: Mary Sacksteder, Jim O'Connell, Louise Martell, Caroline Fogart, Shirley Hahn, Molly McGuire, Dorothy Foley, Julie O'Connell, Brendan Kerg. Missing: Colleen Spiering, Helen Grealish.

Editor of *An Seanachai*: Dorothy Foley

Committees

Book Club: Julie O'Connell
Communications: Louise Martell
Genealogy: Don Anderson
Scholarship: Jim O'Connell and Donal Brady
Sunshine: Patsy Lee

St. Patrick's Celebration 2019, Mary Rose Kerg, Brendan Kerg, Louise Martell, Rose Ann and Tony Ranft

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AICS Website

www.oregonirishsociety.org

The AICS is a federally recognized 501(3)(c) non-profit public benefit cultural organization. The AICS is listed with the State of Oregon as a non-profit corporation. Donations and contributions made to the AICS may be tax deductible for income tax purposes.
