



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights

- A Merry Christmas to you all
- Clan Gathering Bookings now Live!!
- The Porter House , Westport, is pub of the year!
- Keeping an eye on the elections in Colorado
- A Forbes Magazine feature on The O'Malley Clan!
- "From Rake to Radical" the new offering from Anne Chambers
- Jigs and Reels with O'Malleys in Bristol
- The full programme of events for the Gathering in June 2023
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- Spreading the word about the O'Malley Clan Association.

A Merry Christmas to you all from The O'Malley Clan!

A very Merry Christmas to you all out there around the world from Chieftain Martin, Tánaiste Nano, and all of us here in The O'Malley Clan Association. We hope you all have a wonderful festive season and a Happy New Year for 2023!



Bookings for the O'Malley Clan Gathering 2023 are live!
Click on the image below



The Porterhouse in Westport is Pub of the Year!

Mayo premises named 'Best Music Pub in Ireland'

The Porter House Westport is delighted to have been named Best Music Pub in Ireland for 2022, sponsored by IMRO, at the Irish Pub Awards.

The awards were announced at a gala ceremony in the Round Room at the Mansion House.

One of only nine national award winners, this is a huge accolade for the pub and for local proprietors Joe and Marian O'Malley.

Unique to Westport pubs, there is live music seven nights a week at The Porter House with two live music sessions every night all year round and extra afternoon sessions in the summer.

Added to this is the warm, professional service and the banter and craic of a local pub.

Visiting musicians are always welcomed into the sessions and live music acts are booked from a pool of local musical talent.

The Porter House has also amassed a loyal following of visitors to the area from around the world, many of whom stay in touch and return again each year to visit.

Proprietor Joe O'Malley said:

"Though this is not the first time the Porter House has won an award on the national stage, this particular award is very special to us, especially following the closures of the pandemic and the absence of live music from our pubs and venues.

"We are delighted for the team in the Porter House and would like to thank them and the musicians that play there week after week for their contribution to this achievement'.

Connaught Telegraph



Above: Alison Kealy (chair, LVA), Paul Browne (senior licensing executive, IMRO), Larry Martin (Porter House), Marian O'Malley and Joe O'Malley (proprietors, the Porter House), Gerry McCormack (Porter House), Anne Bentinck (Porter House), Minister Heather Humphreys, and Paul Moynihan (president, VFI).



Keeping an eye on the elections in Colorado

A recent letter to the “Boulder Daily Camera” from one of our regular contributors Paul McLoughlin, on his recent positive experiences in election monitoring in the Centennial State.



It dawned on me in the newly-minted darkness of election night that, once again, I had witnessed the beauty of the American people.

Four times in my life I have been part of what makes America work. Not talking here about politics, pundits or processes. I mean my fellow citizens with whom I fought, sat, counted and judged.

1) Vietnam. I was a young, oh so young, 2nd Lieutenant Combat Engineer in Chu Lai in 1969. The younger men whom I commanded opened my eyes to the length and breadth of this vast land. One who threw a baseball behind the hooches (“Let ‘im practice, Lieutenant”) became a Golden Glove outfielder for the Phillies.

2) Jury Duty. I’ve sat in the box in Boulder. You can’t come away from the pressure of jury deliberations without admiring the sagacity of those with whom you disagree. I’ve also been a Grand Jury Foreman in New York City. I’ve witnessed American beauty in the crucible of justice, warts and all.

3) 2020 Census. I was census field manager for Boulder County. Sixteen months of political machinations, no-knock COVID canvassing, scorching heat and a wary public. Over 500 census takers in Boulder County delivered the count. They were simply magnificent — disciplined, purposeful, relentless and competent — against all odds.

4) 2022 Election. We the people determine the outcome, but somebody has to do the work. I saw the assistance provided to voters as the co-lead judge in Gunbarrel — all actions bipartisan. Later, I spent two days in the Boulder County Clerk’s Office working side by side with “Mrs. Longmont” and other Boulderites of every stripe to ensure the integrity of the voting process.

Any one of these activities reinforces faith in the American people. All four over 50 years confirmed my hope for America.

Paul McLoughlin, Boulder



A Forbes Magazine feature on The O'Malley Clan

From Forbes Magazine!

“Ireland’s Most Famous Pirate Queen: Grace O’Malley”

BY FORBES TRAVEL WRITER, MARGIE GOLDSMITH

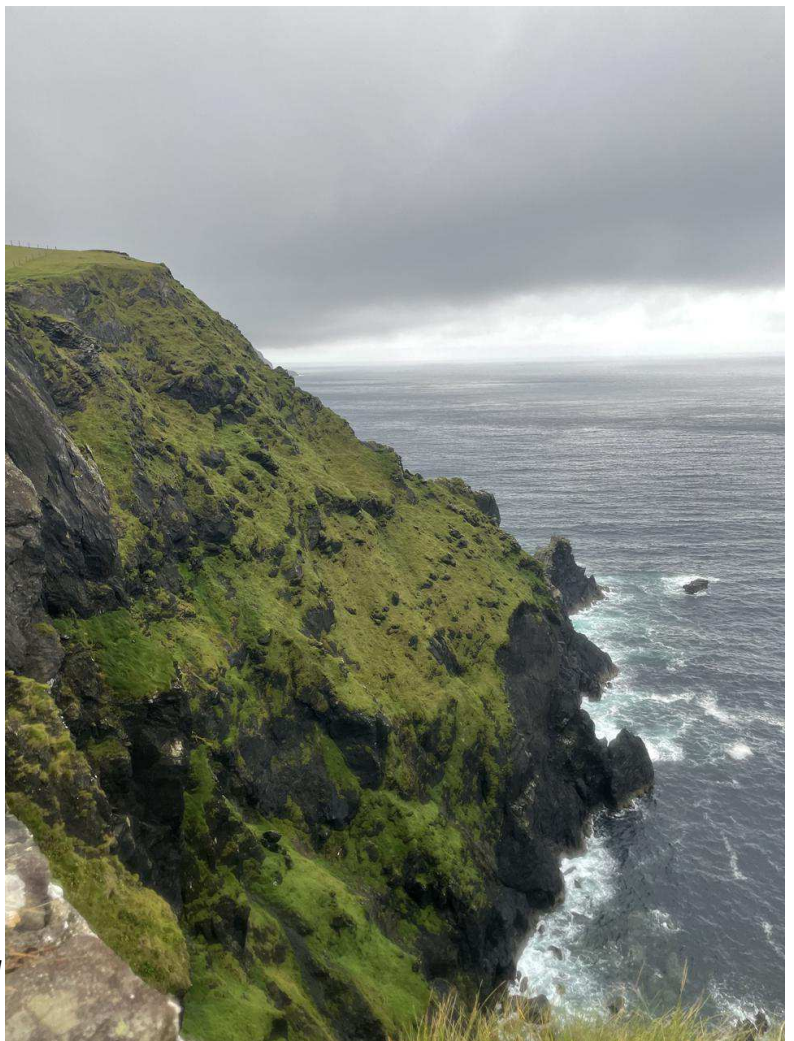
I didn’t know when I went to Clare Island in County Mayo, Ireland, that I would fall in love. It would seem difficult to fall in love on a 4,000-acre Irish island with only 160 residents and at least twice as many sheep, but fall in love I did. And with a woman. Not just any woman, but Ireland’s most famous stateswoman, Grace O’Malley, who lived from 1530-1603 and was known as the Pirate Queen. In Irish she is called *Granuaile* and beloved by everyone who lives on the Emerald Isle.

I was touring the island with a local guide, Martina Keane, who jokingly pointed out the island’s only “supermarket,” the size of a one-car garage. We hiked up to an old watch tower with the wind so strong I could barely stand up. The view overlooked half the island and the only sentient beings around for miles were stray sheep. Martina told me about a tomb dating back to the Stone Age, but when she said it was now just a pile of rocks, I passed on hiking up to it. There’s only one main road (unpaved) on the island, so narrow that one car has to pull over while the other passes, and so bumpy it’s no wonder most people come here to hike, always surrounded by views of the sea.

We pulled up in front of a castle which had once belonged to Grace O’Malley, the Pirate Queen. *Pirate Queen*? Was this mythology? No, Martina explained, Grace O’Malley was a real person. And while there is no proof this was her castle, it is thought to be so, and the cove right beside it is where Grace O’Malley would have docked her fleet.

Her fleet? Grace O’Malley, called in Irish, *Granuaile*, was the daughter of a Gaelic chieftain and became one of the greatest clan leaders and warriors Ireland has ever known.

Right: A view of the sea from Clare Island



A Forbes Magazine feature on The O'Malley Clan

In an age of lawlessness and piracy, she was a fierce and beautiful woman who could as easily seduce a man as dispose of him with her sword. At the age of 12, she stowed away on her father's ship, and when he discovered her, he allowed her to follow her instincts and become a seafarer. She eventually commanded 200 men and a fleet of galleys, even giving the English Navy a run for their money.

At 16, she was married off to a chieftain in a politically arranged marriage. She bore him three children but hated staying home while he went off to sea. When he was killed in a fight, she succeeded him as chieftain and began building up the O'Malley empire by sea.

Her second husband was another chieftain whom she married with a prenup: she would try him for a year and then decide if she wanted to keep him. *Granuaile* ended up kicking him out and also took his castle. While at sea, she gave birth to his son, and was below deck nursing him when her ship was attacked by North African pirates who were overtaking her men. Grace put down her baby, stormed up to the deck, fired a musket, and soon conquered the enemy.

Martina drove me to the Abbey, where it is thought Grace O'Malley is buried. Again, Martina explained, there is no actual proof, but *Granuaile* was living on Clare Island in her later years, and the detailed, ornate plaque near the crypt in the Abbey has the O'Malley motto *Terra Marique Potens*, Latin for "powerful by land and sea."

On the walls of the Abbey are hand-painted figures on horseback which seem to have been painted before Grace O'Malley's time but indicated life on Clare Island.

The Abbey and castle are the only *Grainne*-related sights on the island, though that is by no means the end of the O'Malley story.

We drove up to the 200-year-old Clare island Lighthouse, one of the great lighthouses of Ireland on the Great Atlantic Way, now a small inn where I was staying for the night. I stood outside and watched the setting sun, thinking about Grace O'Malley, imagining her with her two swords, dispatching warriors twice her size.

The next day, on the way to dropping me back at the ferry, Martina gave me a tour of the upper half of the



Above: The author arrives at the old Watch Tower

Below: Grace O'Malley's Castle on Clare Island



A Forbes Magazine feature on The O'Malley Clan

Island. There was a 7,500-year-old pine forest, more sheep, horses and a few colorful houses, many of which are B&B's during the busy tourist season.

While there is little to do on the island except walk or hike, I was sorry I had only booked one night. I asked Martina if there was anything more to tell about Grace O'Malley and she said there's an O'Malley Reunion every year, and in 2023, it will take place on Clare Island and Westport, County Mayo June 24-26.

When my ferry docked back in Clew Bay, I drove to the small town of Louisburgh and bought Anne Chambers' book, [Grace O'Malley: The Biography of Ireland's Pirate Queen 1530-1603](#).

According to Chambers (the definitive authority of all-things-Grace O'Malley), Granuaile was 63 years old when she sailed her galley from her Clew Bay castle to Greenwich Palace to negotiate with her enemy, Queen Elizabeth. O'Malley refused to bow to the Queen and kept both her head and freedom. Says Chambers in the book, "*Granuaile* was an accomplished mariner, fearless leader, shrewd political tactician, independent businesswoman, ruthless plunderer, mercenary, rebel, and a woman who refused to allow any barrier to obstruct her quest. She commanded loyalty because she was braver than the men."

There's an O'Malley joke that the only man in the O'Malley family was a woman.

Grace O'Malley is thought to have died at age 73, in 1603, buried in the unmarked tomb I saw in the Abbey.

A few weeks after I returned home, I was still obsessed with Grace O'Malley, so I contacted her brilliant biographer, [Anne Chambers](#). What was it that made Grace O'Malley such an extraordinary human being, I asked. Anne Chambers emailed back: "Grace O'Malley's life celebrates the power of true femininity. Despite the 'male' orientation of her career by land and by sea, she never felt compelled to have to jettison her sexuality in order to compete and succeed in what was considered a male-dominated environment. On the contrary, she used the qualities and assets, unique to her sex, to overcome the obstacles she encountered. What her story has to say about women competing in a male-only preserve, about breaking boundaries imposed on women by society, about marriage, motherhood, love and family relationships as well as the challenges posed by female ageing, are issues that relate to women everywhere today,"



Above: Abbey where Grace O'Malley is said to be buried

Below: Crypt thought to be that of Grace O'Malley



A Forbes Magazine feature on The O'Malley Clan

Anne Chambers also told me she's written a screenplay for a TV series based on the true story of Grace O'Malley, presently in development with LA based Oscar-nominated director, Kirsten Sheridan and associates.

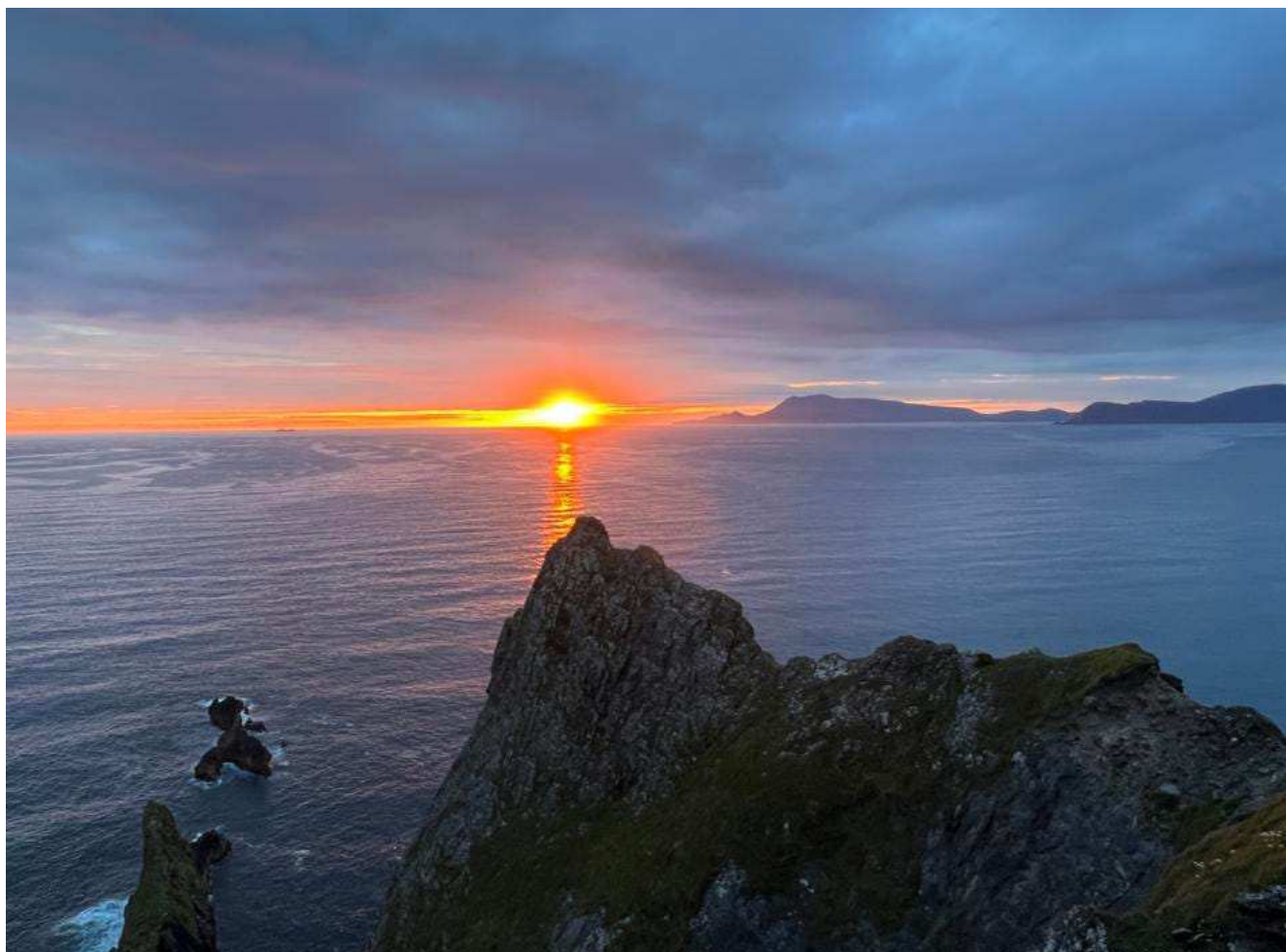
I still couldn't get Grace O'Malley out of my head, so I contacted the [O'Malley Clan Association](#) which has been going strong for 80 years, promoting this Gaelic clan's rich heritage and history.

The Chieftain for 2023, Martin O'Malley (former Governor of Baltimore from 2007-2016) told me, "We call her the Pirate Queen too, even as we acknowledge that she was labeled a 'Pirate' by the British for merely doing what they themselves did in their own waters and harbors, which was to charge merchants a fee for protection and the privilege to trade in goods at her docks. We aim to highlight the importance of genetic heritage, attract the O'Malley diaspora to their ancestral home, and draw further attention to the incredible human being who was Grace O'Malley. There will be some top-notch Irish musicians, games for kids, and a beach bonfire. If you've never made an O'Malley Gathering, this would sure be a good one to catch."

I thought about it. Maybe I'll just change my name to O'Malley, tag along with the clan this June, and celebrate the fierce, feminine, fearless *Granuaile*.

(For more information on Clare Island and all of Ireland, visit [Tourism Ireland](#).)

Below: Sunset from the Lighthouse Inn, Clare Island



“From Rake to Radical” the new book from Anne Chambers

From Rake to Radical: An Irish Abolitionist

From Westport to the West Indies, and everywhere in between, Howe Peter Browne, 2nd Marquess of Sligo (1788–1845), an 8th great-grandson in descent from Grace O’Malley – Ireland’s Pirate Queen, lived life to the absolute limits.

Privileged, compassionate, charismatic and flawed, intrepid traveller, intimate of kings, emperors and despots, father of fourteen children, the range and diversity of Sligo’s life is truly breathtaking.

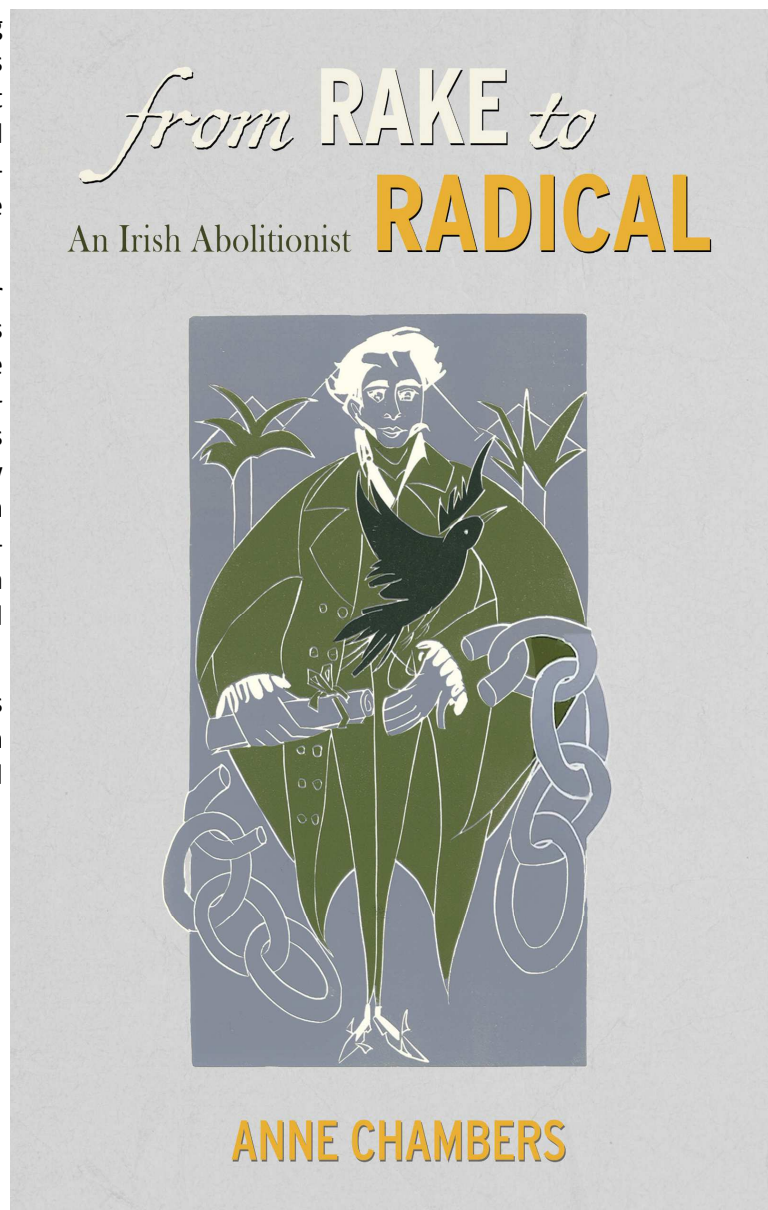
From a youth of hedonistic self-indulgence in Regency England Sligo matured into a reforming, responsible legislator and landlord in Ireland. On his appointment in 1834 as Governor General of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands he took the side of the black population against their masters becoming enshrined in the history of Jamaica as ‘Champion of the Slaves’ and where the first free slave village in the world, Sligoville, still bears his name. On his recall he became actively involved in the emancipation struggle both in Britain and America.

Sourced by author Anne Chambers from over 15,000 primary contemporary manuscripts and documents from archives around the world *FROM RAKE TO RADICAL: An Irish Abolitionist* introduces one of the 19th century’s remarkable emancipators and also sheds new light on significant historical events and on the people who shaped them in Ireland, England, Europe and the West Indies during a period of momentous political turbulence and change.

The evocative cover for Anne’s biography was designed by Westport-based artist, Sheelyn Browne, a great-great granddaughter of Lord Sligo.

From Rake to Radical: An Irish Abolitionist by Anne Chambers (New Island 2022)

www.newisland.ie also available from amazonbooks.com



Right: The cover of “From Rake to Radical”

Jigs and Reels with the O'Malleys in Bristol

The O'Malley School of Irish Dance was founded by Kate O'Malley in 2007 in Bristol, South West England. As part of the largest Irish Dancing organisation in the world, the school has competed at national and international levels as well as providing displays and performances across the region and leading the St Patrick's Day celebrations in the area. Kate O'Malley grew up in Manchester, as part of a large O'Malley Clan heralded from Mayo. Since moving to Bristol, Kate set up her school and teaches children and adults traditional Irish Dance alongside the more



Above: A happy group of O'Malley Irish Dancers!

competitive side of the genre. The school has reached an impressive 9 World Championships and have won several titles including Regional and Great Britain Champions (Junior Mixed Ceili), British National Champions (Under 13 Girls Ceili) and Regional Champions (Junior and Senior 4-hand). Kate is totally committed to furthering the enjoyment of the art form and of Irish culture in the area. She's also part of the Irish Society.

As with many activities, Covid hit hard and although the school continued to run classes via zoom and the dancers remained committed to doing what they love; the fundraising opportunities disappeared. There were no events to perform at, no supermarket bag-packing etc. With the current cost of living situation, parents are finding it hard to afford classes, let alone dresses, shoes and trips to attend a feis etc.

With a goal to raise enough money to buy new team costumes for all of the dancers, Kate and the parents are hoping to reach out to interested businesses to help. They are looking to the World Championships in 2024 to compete with teams and solo dancers. After a hugely successful regional championships this weekend, the dancers are well on their way and the sky is the limit !!

Reaching out to fellow O'Malleys, Kate would love to work with anyone who may be able to donate, or is from a business who could sponsor her school. In return, the school can incorporate business logos on new dance kit and promote any sponsors via the dance schools social media etc. "This is a great opportunity to promote the O'Malley name and heritage as well as offering much needed support to a community group who are dedicated to keeping Irish dancing and culture alive."

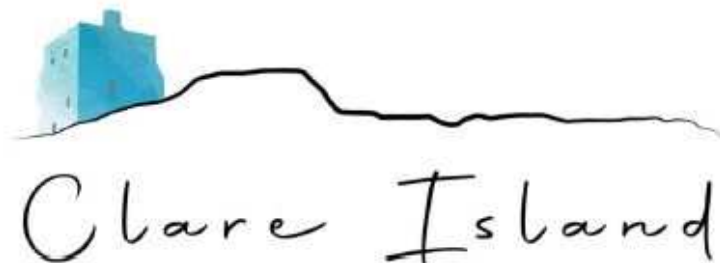
Please do get in touch with Kate at omalleyirishdance@hotmail.co.uk to find out more.



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 23-25 June 2023



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



Clare Island

The O'Malley Clan Gathering 23-25 June 2023

NOTE: Details of events below are the best information available at time of publication and are subject to change.

Chieftain Martin O'Malley and the O'Malley Clan Association invite you to join us for the 67th Annual Clan Gathering in Co Mayo from the 23rd to 25th June, 2023

Note: All event bookings should be made at <https://www.ireland101.com/booking/book/omalley> only. Please do not contact the venues looking for tickets as they do not have them.



Friday 23rd June

Afternoon. (Exact time and Venue to be announced later) Annual General Meeting

Guardian Chieftain Ellen O'Malley Dunlop will chair the AGM.

6:00 p.m. Chieftain's Reception at Westport House

Welcome to the 67th annual O'Malley Gathering from Chieftain Martin O'Malley. Special guest Anne Chambers, biographer of Grace O'Malley.



8:00 p.m. Gala Concert at Holy Trinity Church, Westport

Shaun Davy, Rita Connolly Donal Lunny, David Brophy and Cora Venus Lunny will perform extracts from Shaun Davy's renowned Granuaile suite, portraying episodes in the life of Grace O'Malley, Ireland's Pirate Queen.

The O'Malley Clan Gathering 23-25 June 2023

Saturday 24th June

10:00 a.m. Update on Clan Projects. Venue to be announced later

Among other updates, Dr Maurice Gleeson will update us on the exciting Finding Grace's DNA project. We're trying to track down her genetic signature, so that O'Malleys everywhere can check and see how closely they may be related to the famous Pirate Queen.



11:30 a.m. Travel to Clare Island

Buses from the Octagon, Westport outside the Town Hall Theatre will take you to Roonagh, to catch a ferry to Clare Island. If you wish to make your own way to Roonagh and Clare Island, ferry tickets may be booked directly from the ferry companies at

<https://www.omalleyferries.com/> and

<https://www.clareislandferry.com/>. Ferries may also be available from Kildavnet pier, Achill Island. Check with the ferry companies.

1:00 p.m. Saturday Festivities on Clare Island

On arrival at Clare Island harbour, overlooked by Grace O'Malley's castle, walk to the Community Centre for a light lunch. Use the early afternoon as you wish - rent a bike to explore the island or go on a guided Famine Walk. You could go for a swim at the beach or just relax with drink and enjoy the scenery. There will be games and events for our younger visitors. Then assemble at Sailors Bar for an evening of music and dancing. We'll have some famous and not-so-



famous performers, and a chance to join in the Céili. Eat at the barbecue and drink at the bar (not included in your ticket)

as you wish. Weather permitting, we'll sit around a bonfire and sing a song or two before departing to catch the ferry and bus back to Westport.



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 23-25 June 2023

Sunday 25th June

9:30 a.m. Travel to Clare Island

Buses from the Octagon, Westport outside the Town Hall Theatre will take you to Roonagh, to catch a ferry to Clare Island. As on Saturday, if you wish to make your own way to Roonagh and Clare Island, ferry tickets may be booked directly from the ferry companies at <https://www.omalleyferries.com/> and <https://www.clareislandferry.com/>. Ferries may also be available from Kildavnet pier, Achill Island. Check with the ferry companies.



11:00 Arrive on Clare Island

Walk/cycle/minibus to Clare Island Abbey. It takes about 40 minutes to walk to the abbey from the pier

11:45 Mass at Clare Island Abbey

Saint Bridget's Cistercian Abbey was founded in the 12th/13th century. It was rebuilt around 1460 and contains numerous O'Malley tombs. Tradition claims it as the site of the baptism, marriages and burial of Grace O'Malley.



1:30 p.m. Clan Lunch at Clare Island Community Centre

The formal heart of the O'Malley Clan Gathering. After a sit down lunch Chieftain Martin will review his year in office and recognise contributors to the O'Malley Clan.

3:00 p.m. (approx.) Inauguration of new Chieftain Nano O'Malley MacMahon

After the inauguration and the singing of Óro Sé do Bheatha 'Bhaile, relax and enjoy the company until it's time to say farewell and catch the ferry back to the mainland.



@clanomalley

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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 almost 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.

O'Malley Clan Association HELP SPREAD THE MESSAGE!

How can I help spread the message of the O'Malley Clan Association to everyone else with connections to this famous historic Irish Clan I hear you ask?

The Clan Association is very active on Social Media, and if you see a post, like it, share it, comment on it, share your feedback in comments, retweet if you're on Twitter, share our stories on Instagram and posts on Facebook.

EVERY BIT HELPS!

TAG THE O'MALLEY CLAN ASSOCIATION IN POSTS AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO

There are O'Malleys, Malleys, Melias, Maleys, out there that still don't know about the Clan Association and its efforts to connect O'Malleys all around the world, so lets try and spread the word

All interactions, (Likes/Shares/Retweets etc), get us onto more peoples feeds on their phones, laptops, and tablets, so get clicking!

Thanks for the Help