



## O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

### This month's highlights

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- Padraig Pearse and his "legacy" in Connemara
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- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- New Membership structure for the O'Malley Clan Association!

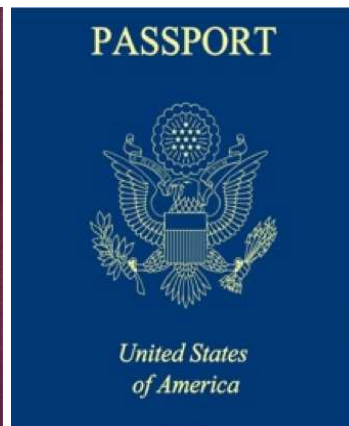
### Not long to go to The O'Malley Clan Gathering!

We hope you're all doing well out there and enjoying the spring weather.

Not long to go to the, long awaited, in-person, O'Malley Clan Gathering in Newport, County Mayo, in June. We're looking forward to meeting you all for a lovely weekend.

Just a reminder, Many of us haven't travelled in a long time, so be sure to double check that your passport hasn't expired. With 5 weeks to go, you'd have time to get a new one if needed.

We don't want anyone to arrive to an airport and realise that there might be an issue, so just check that date today and make sure you're good to go



# 2022

O'MALLEY CLAN GATHERING  
24TH TO 26TH JUNE  
NEWPORT • IRELAND

Mark it in your diary, we look forward to meeting up



## O'MALLEY Ó MÁILLE

The Event Booking Link is on the clan website and LIVE, [www.omalleyclan.ie](http://www.omalleyclan.ie) It's time to plan that trip to Mayo at the end of June

## Padraig Pearse and his “legacy” in Connemara

### A glimpse into 1916 Leader Padraig Pearse's relationship with the Connemara Gaeltacht

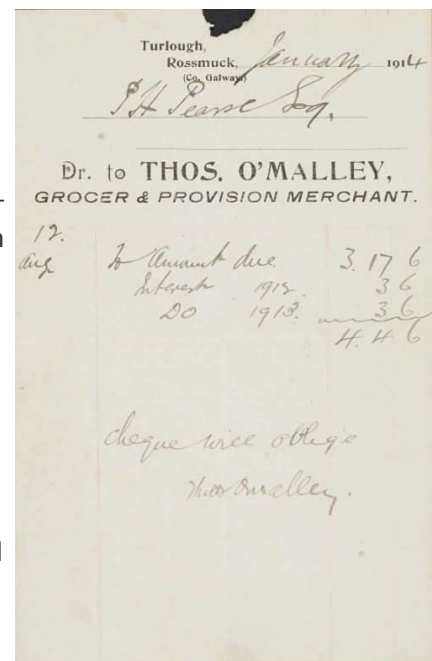
Residing in the collection of Padraig Pearse’s papers in the National Library of Ireland is this small slip of paper (image below right). Small though it is, this invoice from O’Malley’s Grocer & Provision Merchant reveals something of Pearse’s relationship with Connemara and with money, both of which were nearly as much a hallmark of Pearse’s personality as his revolutionary ideology. Before his fateful reading of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic in front of the General Post Office in Dublin on Easter Monday, 24 April 1916, Pearse had been an educator, an editor, and an examiner for Conradh na Gaeilge (the Gaelic League).



It was in his role as an Irish language examiner that he was first to come to Rosmuck in Galway’s Connemara Gaeltacht. In 1903 he was sent from Dublin to administer an exam for students to qualify as a teacher of Irish (you can read an account of his first encounter here: “The Stranger Standing at Maam Cross Station”). He would go on to visit the area every year for the rest of his short life and by 1910 had built here a three room cottage. This would serve as a refuge for him, and a precursor in a way of the modern student’s Gaeltacht immersive summers, as he brought students out for summer trips from St. Enda’s, the Rathfarnham school he founded.

It was to this sanctuary that he retreated in 1915 when asked by fellow revolutionary Tom Clarke to deliver a speech at the funeral of Fenian leader Jeremiah O’Donovan Rossa, whose remains returned to Ireland from the USA after his years in exile. Pearse’s friend Desmond Ryan, who along with Padraig’s brother Willie accompanied him, recounted this Connemara excursion in his own autobiography, *Remembering Sion*. He mentions that it was a member of the O’Malley family, “who were famous in those parts”, that picked them up at Maam Cross Station and drove them by side-car the nine miles to Rosmuck. We can see by the 1901 census return of our shopkeeper, that Thomas O’Malley had a number of sons, any of whom may potentially have been the driver.

These were not the only republicans to spend time in this cottage and encounter O’Malleys that summer, as Pearse extended an offer of the cottage to the siblings of fellow Proclamation signatory Joseph Mary Plunkett. Geraldine, Fiona, and Jack Plunkett would idyll here as well in 1915. From O’Malley’s they got eggs and cocoa and baskets of fish, as well as their post – which included a postcard from Pearse telling them not to mind any demand for rates, as he had no intention of paying (and every intention of the O’Malley’s seeing the message!) We can see by the invoice that Pearse has a history of owing money to O’Malley’s Grocers. The bill is for provisions from Thomas O’Malley Grocer & Provisions Merchant. What the goods purchased were is not specified, but the original purchase was made in 1912, and as of 1914 remained unpaid and accruing interest, the debt in today’s money



## Padraig Pearse and his “legacy” in Connemara

amounting to nearly €290.

And the O'Malley's were not the only ones in the area whom Pearse left out of pocket. It was put this way in the 1978 radio documentary aired on RTÉ: “Pearse was not a practical businessman, but he was never one to let lack of finances get in the way of his plans.” As related to Tim Robinson by Proinsias MacAonghusa in *Connemara: A Little Gaelic Kingdom*:

*“Probably he was not able to meet the bills; he was a man who always had very little money and faced heavy expenses in many places. He was summonsed for this in Oughterard court. I believe the bill had not yet been cleared when the British Government put him to death. But it is the man himself and his ideas and ways of life that impressed Ros Muc, not the thinness of his purse”*



*A Photograph of Michael & Mary O'Malley*

According to Robinson, the local tradespeople who built the cottage can still be named locally today (or could anyway when the book came out in 2012). Pearse's connection to the place has been little diminished by time and his absence. The locals understood he was not a wealthy man, only rich in ideals and intellect, and charged him accordingly or often let the debt ride. The esteem and goodwill with which he was held is evident in the fact that the O'Malleys continued to provide provisions to Pearse and his guests years later -- and Thomas O'Malley was still willing to take a cheque.

A poignant postscript to the story of the speech Pearse wrote in Connemara that did not make it into the final published version of *Remembering Sion* is that on that very evening after the electrifying graveside speech in 1915 at Rossa's funeral, having delivered the immortal words, “Ireland unfree shall never be at peace”, the penniless Pearse had to borrow ten shillings from Desmond Ryan.

*Thanks to Emer Gunter*



*Pearse's Cottage near Rossmuc*

## Niamh O'Malley-Representing Ireland in Venice

### Niamh O'Malley: Bringing a piece of Ireland to the Venice Biennale

The artist's installation is being housed at the island city's famous Arsenale

The Venice Biennale, or the International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, as it is officially titled, is the world's most prestigious showcase of the visual arts. Founded in 1895, it is, as its name suggests, usually staged every two years, though the Covid-19 pandemic saw the 2021 edition postponed to 2022.



*Niamh O'Malley at her studio in Temple Bar, Dublin*

The 59th edition of the Biennale, directed by the New York-based Italian curator Cecilia Alemani, and featuring work by 213 artists from 58 countries, opened this week and runs until November, under the title *The Milk of Dreams*. Alemani's selection has seen a radical shift in female representation at the Biennale: until recently, 90% of the invited artists were men; this year, 90% are women.

Ireland is represented by the sculptor and installation artist Niamh O'Malley, a native of Co Mayo who is now based in Dublin. Her exhibition, *Gather*, is curated by Clíodhna Shaffrey and Michael Hill of Temple Bar Gallery & Studios, Dublin, where O'Malley is currently artist-in-residence.

The three began work on the project in 2019. "Gather just came out of conversations we had about art," says O'Malley. "We were quite interested in a particular kind of sculptural practice that's coming out of Ireland. It's a quiet practice, that's coming mainly from a lot of female artists, and it's really interested in attention and stillness and materiality. We all felt like we'd like to shed a light on that kind of work, so that was really the basis of it.

"I also just wanted to work with a lot of local materials and craftspeople. With Venice, you're trying to say that what you do is relevant, that it can be seen as representative of Ireland, and of what's going on here now."

***A view of part of Niamh O'Malley's 'Gather' installation at the Arsenale, part of the Venice Biennale.***



## Niamh O'Malley-Representing Ireland in Venice

The postponement of the 2021 Biennale meant that O'Malley and her team could not get out to Venice to investigate the space available for her exhibition until last September. The space is in the Arsenale, the old shipyards on the waterfront.

"It's in an old building, and highly protected, so it's really impractical in some ways. We couldn't touch most of the walls or the ceiling. Essentially, we've had to build our own exhibition area, with plasterboard walls on metal struts, and even our own lighting rig."

O'Malley liaised with a local crew to install her work. "I've made some very heavy pieces, in Kilkenny limestone with big steel bases. All of it has had transported by boat, and hoisted into position."

O'Malley's installation encompasses video, as well as glass, steel and stone. "I was thinking a lot about support structures in the cityscape, and making forms that suggest they have a use or a purpose, so there's a piece called Shelter; a steel canopy with a beautiful big twist on it, with privacy glass that you might find in a bathroom or a porch in a house. And there's also a number of 'drains'; I decided to make these out of limestone as it's the most absurd material I could think of; three of them sit in a block facing the windows."

O'Malley's exhibition will be on view in Venice until 27th November. Already, arrangements have been made for it to tour Ireland throughout 2023. "The work will be shown in the Temple Bar Gallery in Dublin, the Model in Sligo and the Golden Thread Gallery in Belfast. They're all radically different spaces, and I'd hope to have a genuine engagement with each; I'll probably add new pieces or show an older work in each location."

Beyond that, she has already found homes for some of her sculptures. "The OPW have come on board as a partner and they've supported us by pre-purchasing one of the pieces, which has been amazing.

"There's another piece going to Lismore Castle Arts in Co Waterford. They were already commissioning something from me, and we came to an arrangement that I'd show it in Venice first, and it would then go back to them. They're making a sculpture yard at the stables in Lismore, and it will probably go there. As for the rest, I'll have a large storage bill, I'm afraid."

Representing Ireland at Venice brings massive exposure, but O'Malley has no idea yet how it may benefit her practice. In terms of further sales or commissions, there are no certainties. For now, she will return to her residency at Temple Bar, and begin developing her next body of work. "I have the use of the studio for another year, but I honestly don't know where I'll be after that," she says.



***Ireland's Venice 2022 team: Clíodhna Shaffrey, director of Temple Bar Gallery & Studios; Niamh O'Malley, artist; Michael Hill, programme curator.***

## Some Childhood Memories of Clare Island



*Aisling and Bébhinn O'Malley off on their island adventures in the late 1980s.*

### Motherhood on Clare Island: A freedom suburban parents can only dream of

It was a time of flowery aprons, hairnets and rhubarb tarts, writes Áine Ryan

He'd probably be jailed for it these days but the ex used to tie the princesses on top of the bags of turf on the bucket of the Davy Brown tractor after a day in the bog. The return journey across the bumpy byways and boreens was an equally important part of the long summer days' adventures, even if the midges had been worse than a plague of locusts.

The smoke from the smouldering fire – where tea you could trot an island ass on had been made earlier – helped to repel those swarms of little feckers whose addiction to the carbon dioxide excreted from humans should never be underestimated.

So as the final footing and clamping of the day was completed, the two older girls, Aisling and Bébhinn, would help Daddy fill the old grain bags, once bulging with winter feed, with loaves of dried peat. Then, the Barbies and Kens, flittered teddies and fluffy bunnies, would be gathered from a maze of nooks and crannies across the blancmange bog. It had been transformed into boutique bog hotels with the aid of lego edifices for the day. The dedication to the daily construction and disassembling process would have impressed any architect, even Dermot Bannon.

While the tractor bucket was being filled, Grandad Austy Bob would pull his pipe out of his back pocket and prop himself lightly against a clamp of turf with the peak of his cap a parasol from the glare of the setting sun. After shaking out the dottle, he would fill the bowl with tobacco, concentrating like a great artist making a masterpiece.

Soon afterwards there would be shouts of "bye, bye, grandad."

His response being: "Don't let the midges eat ye alive."

Then, in his mid-80s, he would jump up on Jack, the horse, with the alacrity of a jockey. Bareback and sideways, he headed off home through the middle of the island along the old Green Road. The plume of

## Some Childhood Memories of Clare Island

pipe smoke would follow him out under Leic and up past the old east school in Faungloss and if, indeed, there was a brisk wind off across Clew Bay to merge with the clouds on the peak of Croagh Patrick. Such memories are magical over 30 years later now that I am a granny – well Gaggy – of two mini munchkins. The dedicated playgrounds and fairy gardens of west Cork – where Ada (2) and Ellen (10 months) live – are certainly more civilised than the wild island playgrounds where my three daughters were raised.

These were still the days when life on Clare Island was a world apart. The past dominated the present and the exotic treasures of the future – smart televisions, mobile phones, iPads and iPods, YouTube and Netflix, Spotify and Soundcloud – were still a long way from global domination.

The poetry of sowing and hoeing, saving and reaping, salting and drying, churning and baking, praying and playing polkas, dancing to reels, singing old songs, was central to daily life.

It was a time still when grannies wore flowery aprons and hairnets. Their rosary beads were the only internet devices they needed while their colourful curses more often than not left the Child of Prague blushing.

They baked soda bread and scones, porter cakes and rhubarb tarts while whooshing small feet away from the Wellstood range. Other than marathon games of 25, when neighbours gathered around the kitchen table on the dark winter nights, Mass was the big social occasion of the week.

Afterwards, the men would lean against the old stone wall and talk about world affairs or study the bay and its particular mood that day. The women would gather in clusters across the graveyard whilst the children played hide-and-seek in the old Cistercian Abbey, the reputed burial place of a pirate queen who ensured the O'Malley name still predominates.



*'Gaggy' Áine saying goodbye at Cork Kent station after a recent week of adventures with Ada and Ellen*

Even though the 1980s brought a plethora of changes to island life – mains electricity, a modern telephone system, longer piers, bigger boats – its essential quality of life pedigree remains intact to this day. These days there is a dedicated island playground now for the children to enjoy. Importantly, however, they can still get there by shank's mare and get lost among the many Narnias along the way. It is a freedom most metropolitan and suburban mummies and daddies can only dream about.



*'Grandchildren Ada and Ellen Morrissey sitting in the garden of their home outside Bandon, west Cork.*

## O'Malleys Helping to Keep Regina, Canada Clean

# Small but mighty White Pony Lodge team tackles 'gross' littering in Regina alleys

Board chair Leah O'Malley says community deserves a clean neighbourhood



*Leah O'Malley is the board chair for the White Pony Lodge and one of the volunteers helping with a spring cleanup the organization is piloting.*

A small team of four gather on a Thursday afternoon, picking up loose garbage, needles and a discarded couch littering an alley in North Central Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

White Pony Lodge is known for its safety patrols, needle-pick-ups and meal programs. Now the Regina non-profit community organization has started a spring clean up pilot project that runs Thursday evenings in the North Central neighbourhood.

"When you're walking around and you see a bunch of garbage, it's pretty gross," says Leah O'Malley, a volunteer for the clean-up and the board chair for the organization.

"When you think about people and animals having to deal with that [garbage], it really, really pulls on you that this is a very human problem, and so humans have to come up with a solution for it."

Garbage littering Heritage and North Central has been raised as an issue in Regina, with city council passing a clean communities motion that will increase city-led litter pickups and also includes stricter

## O'Malleys Helping to Keep Regina, Canada Clean

enforcement for illegal dumping, excessive litter and unsightly yards.

O'Malley says she wants people who live in North Central to know it's a community worth caring about.

"We all deserve a great community atmosphere, and part of that is helping clean up," she says, explaining the group targets alleys that have a lot of garbage piling up, getting garbage in bins and ensuring the bins are pulled out and ready for pickup.

Some passersby see O'Malley and her fellow volunteers picking up trash and stop to ask about their work.

"There's young kids that are playing around in the alley, that gotta play around this. And how many people that are parents care about it?" one man says, looking at the piles of garbage.

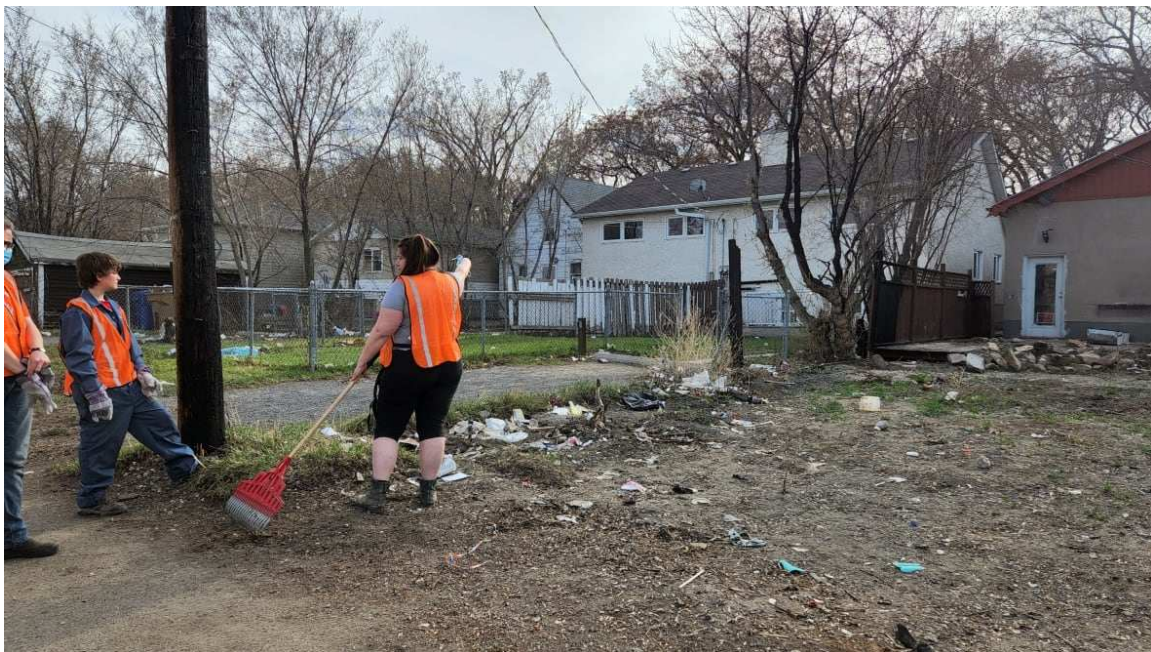
O'Malley agrees with him.

"We want people to see that we care, and there are people who care. I live down here, too," O'Malley tells him.

While recent city council meetings have included discussion on whether all city neighbourhoods should get extended litter pickups in the spring and fall, O'Malley says she feels some neighbourhoods may need special solutions. For instance, households with more people living in them may generate more trash and struggle to keep up with their current garbage pickup schedules.

"I couldn't say I know how to fix this. I mean, we don't know how to fix it," she says, but adds that White Pony volunteers are focusing on the small contributions they can make as individuals. The group is starting small, but hopes others will join them in volunteering to clean up Regina's most littered alleys.

"I think if we all lead by example as much as possible, then we're going to start changing the way that people react to things, and also maybe the way that kids look at their own neighborhood."



*Four volunteers comb through garbage in back alleys on a Thursday afternoon, picking up and bagging trash.*

## Powerful On The Land As Well As The Sea, The O'Malleys and Tug of War

MULCAIR Tug of War Club coach Eddie O'Malley has been elected for a second two-year term as Chairman of the board of Tug of War Ireland.

Since the Cappamore native's first term as Chairman 2019, the organisation has been rebranded as Tug of War Ireland (TOWI) and has created a five year strategy for the development of the sport from 2021 to 2025.

"It is a hugely marketable sport that can be enjoyed by everyone - eight to eighty! There is an opportunity now to sell the sport to Irish people for all the benefits that come with it. Social, mental, physical, enjoyment. There is also the opportunity on a higher competitive level, to take international and national titles home," Eddie said.

The sport nationally has achieved compliance with Sport Ireland Code of Governance for Sport, which provides opportunities to have a properly resourced sport in terms of funding and governance. The challenge now is to create a link between tug of war and the general public, in order to allow the sport to reposition itself centrally in communities - a place it occupied so solidly in previous generations. This is the board's focus now.

In December, the inaugural Limerick Tug of War Championships took place in Garryowen Rugby club. This event was important in terms of giving fledgling clubs the opportunity to compete for the first time.

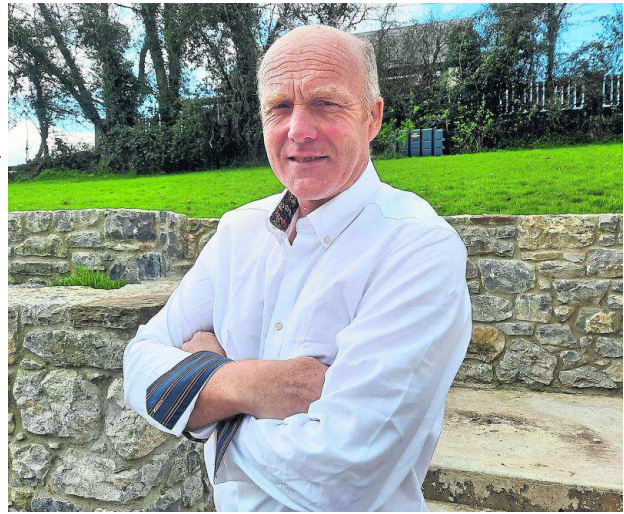
This is one of the steps taken to reintroduce tug of war at community level in an effort to offset the decline in festival pulling. This decline relates to insurance issues. Happily this is being resolved now by the board of TOWI as, going forward, insurance for community events under supervision of TOWI has been secured.

TOWI has also turned to schools in a bid to develop the sport in that sector. School Development officers have been hugely successful in the Schools Development Programme, culminating in the first Post Primary Schools National Championships which is due to take place this year.

Eddie O'Malley's connection with the sport can be traced to his very early, formative years. "As a child, I remember walking down the road, to the crossroads in Dromkeen on a Saturday night watching a weekly extravaganza as local tug of war teams took part. It was a great sporting occasion". He continues, "It was so enjoyable to watch, with huge crowds there. There was such a sense of community spirit".

Many years later in 2005. Eddie, his brother John and a number of fellow rope enthusiasts, formed a team to participate in a local summer festival. O'Malley is nostalgic about those early years, "At that stage, festival tug of war was a very popular thing to do. Every summer Sunday, that group of friends travelled to TOW events up and down the country."

After ten years, the team was registered with the Irish Tug of War Association and Eddie himself became very active in the governing aspect of the sport during this time. These hardy boys, whimsically referred to these days as 'The Original 8', were the beginnings of the now highly successful Mulcair Tug of War Club, with members going on to win British & Irish medals as well as a number of national titles.



*Eddie O'Malley, Re-appointed as Chair of Tug of War Ireland*

## Powerful On The Land As Well As The Sea, The O'Malleys and Tug of War

Currently, Mulcair TOW Club, based in Cappamore, is a 20-strong club, with men's, women's and mixed teams. At present, the squad is preparing for international competitions such as the Felton Eccles International Event in May in Bristol, the British and Irish Championships in Wales in August and the European Championships in September, as well as numerous national events over the summer season.

"We, in Tug of War Ireland, are looking forward to welcoming new members and new clubs to the Tug of War community. We are also looking forward to exciting and rejuvenating times for the sport".

So, it would appear that tug of war is not just about the elite levels; club, schools and community events are all vital to Tug of War Ireland and the development of the sport.

For further information on any of the above, message the Mulcair Tug of War Club Facebook page, or visit [www.tugofwarireland.com](http://www.tugofwarireland.com)



*Mulcair Tug of War team, taking the strain!*



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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 over 60 years now.*

*We hope with our new 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!**

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

O'Malley Clan Association