

Volume 1, Issue 137

May 2026

Ó Máille



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights....

- Get that last minute trip to Clare booked!
- Share your stories with the O'Malley Clan!
- Grace O'Malley-Kumar's family tell of their ongoing loss, 3 years on.
- The New Grace O'Malley Festival in Achill— all the details for the festival this May
- Claire O'Malley wins big with her fabulous artwork.
- Michael Duane with some Gathering memories from 2004
- The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2026
- The O'Malley Clan crossword,.
- The O'Malley Clan Association Needs You! Join Today!!

Get that last minute trip to Clare booked!

Ok, you've put it on the long finger. You'll book your trip and event spots at the Annual Gathering when you get a chance. Well that time has arrived!

Not long to go now to our fabulous Annual Gathering, this year in Ennis, County Clare, in Ireland's mid west. Check out the details on the "events" page on our website, and plan your trip today. There's no time to lose. Get that trip sorted out today! Clare is a beautiful county, and not to be missed. (click on the image)



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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Grace O'Malley-Kumar's family tell us about their ongoing loss

Grace O'Malley-Kumar, killed in Nottingham attacks, 'was too good to be true', say parents

Teenage Irish citizen from well-known Dublin medical family was killed in the Nottingham attacks but had lived a joyous life before that

The hand-drawn poster represented everything about her, and all she would later lose. After Grace O'Malley-Kumar (19) was killed in the Nottingham stabbing attacks of 2023,

her Dublin mother, Dr Sinead O'Malley-Kumar, found a jigsaw piece-shaped montage Grace had made aged about seven: a poster of who she was.

Its centrepiece was an outline of her little hand, with "½ Irish & ½ Indian" in the neat writing of a conscientious child. There was an Irish Tricolour – Grace was born in England, but she was also a child of Ireland, a proud citizen, even then.

There was a flag of England, birthplace also of her toddler brother James and their father, Dr Sanjoy Kumar. Grace also drew the flag of India, where her father's parents were born.

She adorned it all with notes on things she loved: art, music, animals, science. Grace was already showing sporting prowess, and drew a hockey stick and cricket ball – years later she'd represent England at hockey and Essex at county cricket.

The poster her mother shows me also included a drawing of a stethoscope and a note saying that, like her parents and grandparents before her, she wanted to become a "docter".



Grace O'Malley-Kumar's family tell us about their ongoing loss

The cute misspelling was a sign of the young girl's precious innocence, but also a harbinger of her determination. Grace would have become a doctor if her future had not been taken in a brutal knife attack. The star pupil was a medical student when she died.

Sitting in a London hotel this week after another gruelling day at the public inquiry into the Nottingham attacks, which killed Grace and two others and seriously injured three more, her parents swirl their drinks and smile at memories of their precious girl. Both have Grace's signature tattooed on their wrists.

Grace had worn Irish rugby jerseys since she was a baby. She sang loudly when she took a shower. She helped her father with DIY. She played cricket in the garden. A popular girl, Grace always fought for her friends, including in the moments before her death.

"What breaks my heart is that the next year, she was going to play hockey for Ireland," says Sanjoy, the calm of his soft voice belying the pain inside.

"She had already spoken to the Irish coaches," says Sinead. "She was going to join the Irish under-21s. The coaches had said they were expecting her."

Sanjoy says this would have made her so proud.

Grace had always joked she was a "properly mixed-up kid, a blend of British, Irish and Indian. She was beautiful".

"There was balance in all she did," says Sinead, her eyes flitting down to the table, then out into the middle distance. Her grief today seems to come in little sighs, but often, she says, it comes in tears. Sometimes grief also comes in anger.

"We used to say to each other that our daughter was too good to be true," says Sinead.

Everything changed when Grace encountered Valdo Calocane (34) in June 2023 in Nottingham.

A paranoid schizophrenic with a history of violence and run-ins with police, he stabbed her and her friend Barnaby Webber (19) to death in an unprovoked attack as they walked home from a student night out. Grace had just finished her first year of medicine at Nottingham University.



Dr Sinead O'Malley and Dr Sanjoy Kumar: 'We used to say to each other that our daughter was too good to be true.'

Grace O'Malley-Kumar's family tell us about their ongoing loss



Ian Coates (65), Barnaby Webber (19) and Grace O'Malley-Kumar

An hour later across the city, Calocane stabbed to death school caretaker Ian Coates (65), stole his van and used it to ram Wayne Birkett, Sharon Miller and Marcin Gawronski at a bus stop in the city centre. They were badly injured.

Initially, Calocane was charged with murder. Five months after the attack he pleaded guilty to manslaughter due to diminished responsibility, sparking fury from victims' families who thought he would face a murder trial. He received an indefinite hospital order.

His attack was well planned. Later investigations revealed a litany of failures by police, and also doctors treating Calocane. Chances to stop him were missed. When he committed the attacks, there was already a warrant out for his arrest for other incidents.

Two days after the June 13th tragedy, I went to Nottingham for a [huge vigil](#) in Old Market Square in the city centre. The crowd was bathed in the golden sunlight of a warm summer's evening, but shock and sorrow filled the air. People hugged each other and cried.

As well as dignitaries, the victim's families addressed the crowd. It was almost unbearable to watch a devastated Sanjoy and his tearful wife Sinead clutching their remaining child James, then 16. "We were four and now we are three," said Sanjoy.

Afterwards, I was one of many hundreds to shake his hand. James collected flowers and laid them out behind. I heard Irish accents nearby: Sinead's Dublin family, also bereft at the senseless loss, were reading out messages. Almost three years on, I sit with Grace's parents at the London hotel. They have just come from the inquiry, ongoing since the end of February. Hearings are due to end in June. They are weary, but not yet spent.

They need to decompress. Sanjoy and I swig bottles of beer while Sinead sips a glass of wine, as they tell me the story of Grace and her place in the centre of their lives.

Grace O'Malley-Kumar's family tell us about their ongoing loss

"She was caring and she always wanted to do medicine," says Sanjoy. "I don't even remember discussing it with her. She just presumed it. She took to medicine with no coaxing. We are a very medical family on both sides."

Sanjoy is a GP in a practice near Chingford, northeast London, not far from the family home close to Woodford Green on the Essex border. He is a former forensic medical examiner for police. He once saved three teenagers who were stabbed in 2009. He was known for accepting violent patients. His mother and brother are also doctors.

Meanwhile, Sinead comes from one of the most eminent medical families in Ireland. She worked as a consultant anaesthetist in the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, although she has been unable to return to her role as a clinician since Grace's death.

"We all have to deal with our own personal trauma," she says.

Grace was the eldest of 10 grandchildren for Sinead's parents. "They were delighted when she decided to become a doctor too."

Sinead's sister is an anaesthetist in St James's Hospital in Dublin. Their mother is a psychiatrist. Their father, Grace's grandfather, is Prof Kevin O'Malley, a brilliant doctor and pharmacologist who was also registrar/chief executive of the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. Later, he established RCSI in Bahrain.

Kevin O'Malley's father was also a doctor. So were his uncles. Another ancestor, Sarah Joyce O'Malley, was the first Irish head of the Association of Anaesthetists in the 1930s.

"Her name was Sarah but they called her Sally," says Sinead. "God, that's so long ago."

Sinead studied at the RCSI in Dublin, where she first met fellow student Sanjoy in her year. She

had been to school at the hockey bastion of Alexandra College in Milltown. Sanjoy was also a hockey nut.

"We got together in third year on a hockey tour of Malaysia and Singapore. I was with the men's team and Sinead was with the ladies team," says Sanjoy.

"I was actually the captain of the ladies team," she says, quick as a flash, shooting her husband a facetious half-grin. He grins right back at her, cocks his head and swigs his beer. Sanjoy jokingly admits it was "brave" to take up with the registrar's daughter at RCSI.

Later they married and moved to his home country of England. Grace was born a few years after that.

Sinead's parents have a holiday home in Faul, near Clifden in Connemara. While on a visit to Ireland's west coast, Sanjoy once heard the story of Granuaile (Grace O'Malley), the 16th century pirate queen from Mayo and head of the ancient O'Malley clan. "After I heard that, there was only going to be one name we would call our daughter. She is named after Granuaile."



Flowers on the steps of Nottingham Council House after the attack in 2023

Grace O'Malley-Kumar's family tell us about their ongoing loss

James was born three years later. He was always close to his sister.

"Grace would set the bar and then James would jump right over it," says Sinead.

The children excelled at sports as they grew up. They both played underage hockey for England. They were bright. The family seemed to live a near-perfect, comfortable home life in Woodford Green, regularly visiting Sinead's family around Rathgar in Dublin.

"Every Christmas of Graces's life was spent in Ireland apart from during Covid," says Sinead. "Ireland was very much her second home."

Sanjoy says she had an "Irish edge" to her humour. Grace and Sinead would wear the green jersey and cheer on Ireland against England in rugby. James and Sanjoy would wear England tops.

"That created a lovely tension in our house on match days," says Sanjoy, smiling. Sanjoy coached his children at hockey. Grace was a goalscoring forward and would practise for hours. She played for England at under 16 and under 18.

"When she got her first international cap, it was against Ireland and she scored," says Sinead. "My parents came over to watch." "But the big thing was that she wanted to win that Ireland cap," says Sanjoy. "She wanted to wear the green jersey for real." Grace's mother says she was a "real leader" of her Irish cousins. The day after we meet in the hotel, Sinead texts me some reflections from her father, Kevin O'Malley.

One time, the extended family including all the cousins all went out to Clare Island in Clew Bay, from where the pirate queen Grace O'Malley had ruled. Kevin O'Malley held a quiz for the children on the history of their ancient ancestor.

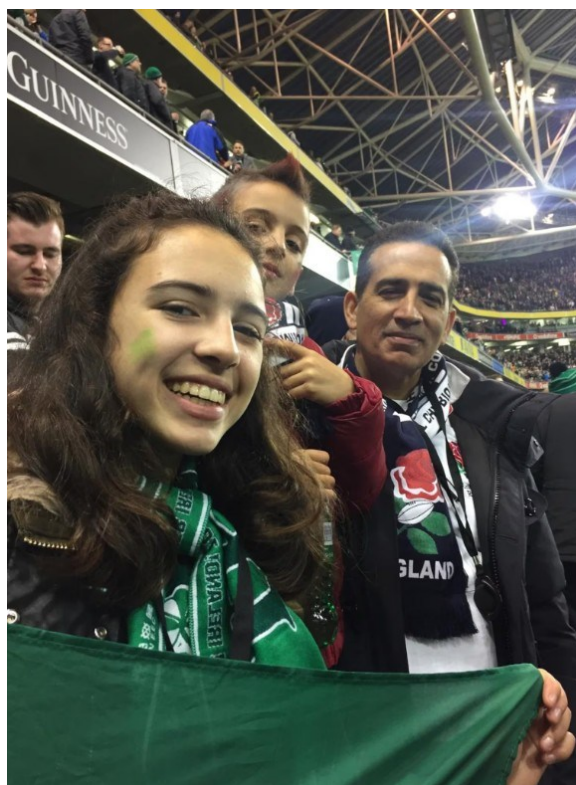
"Such happy days. Such fond memories of Ireland, so integral to Grace's upbringing," says her mother.

Later, when Grace reached college age, she visited Dublin with her parents to go to some of their old haunts from their time as RCSI students. She and her father had a pint in Sheehan's Pub off Grafton Street. Grace marched out of the bar carrying a pint of Guinness to bring to her mother in their accommodation nearby, so they could all have a pint together.



Above: Grace O'Malley-Kumar with her grandfather, Prof Kevin O'Malley.

Below: Grace O'Malley Kumar and her Dad in the Aviva Stadium, Dublin.



Grace O'Malley-Kumar's family tell us about their ongoing loss

They also visited the Swan on the corner of Aungier Street, an old RCSI pub. "She wanted to walk where we had walked," says Sanjoy.

Grace applied to study medicine in Dublin, before eventually accepting a spot in Nottingham as it was the highest ranked medical school in Britain with a good hockey team.

Her path in life was nudging inexorably towards the old East Midlands city, roughly two hours north of London. Grace's trajectory was also taking her closer to an early, violent death.

While Grace was on her path, Calocane was on his. He was originally from Guinea-Bissau in West Africa. His religious, Christian family moved to Portugal when he was three, then to Britain when he was 16, settling in Wales.

Calocane went to Nottingham University in 2019 as a mature student to study mechanical engineering. His mental health issues began around this time. He broke into neighbours' apartments. He assaulted flatmates. He was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia in 2020 and was sectioned four times over the next two years. He thought the British government controlled his mind. He assaulted a police officer. He often refused to take antipsychotic medication. One doctor warned Calocane might "kill someone".

Others, an investigation found, were lax about his treatment. Calocane was allowed slip between the cracks, by medical teams and police. It appears he later plotted the Nottingham attacks carefully, buying weapons and bringing changes of clothes.

Grace and Barnaby had been among a group of friends on an end of year night out on June 12th. Earlier that day, Grace had exchanged messages with her mother.



"It was really hot. I told her to put lots of factor on," says Sinead. "She said: 'I'll be out late tonight, I won't be able to talk to you later.' She sent me a photo of her holding a sunscreen bottle, and that was the last communication we had."

Grace and Barnaby ran into Calocane at 4am on the 13th on Ilkeston Road, near The White Horse pub. Barnaby was stabbed first and died quickly. Grace fought to protect him but was stabbed too. She died nearby. Calocane continued on his rampage.

The O'Malley-Kumars heard about an attack on the news next morning. They panicked when they couldn't

Grace O'Malley-Kumar's family tell us about their ongoing loss

reach Grace by phone. They called hospitals, police. They were told nothing. A friend of Grace's rang to say Barnaby was dead and Grace had been with him.

They drove to Nottingham. They weren't formally told of their daughter's death until 2pm, a full 10 hours afterwards. It has since been alleged that police badly handled the operation to stop Calocane that day. Some officers later also inappropriately accessed bodycam footage of the victims.

The O'Malley-Kumars, understandably, aren't keen to dwell on the pain. But, as I look at them, their stress easily perceptible, it is obvious the pain dwells on them.

I ask about James. He is now as old as his sister was, yet she will always be frozen at 19 in his memories.

"He says he never wanted to be an only child," says Sanjoy. "That just breaks my heart. It makes me feel bad for not having more children, if I'm honest. It strikes right to the core of you when you hear something like that."

The O'Malley-Kumar family is angry. At the NHS and police for the way they handled Calocane. At police over the investigation and circumstances around charging. Over how they were treated on the day. Over the way officers handled sensitive images of their daughter. At the Crown Prosecution Service. At complaints bodies. At every step, they say, they were treated badly as victims by almost every institution.

They are also upset with the Irish Government. Grace was an Irish citizen. She loved this country. They say the Irish State gave them no help when they asked for it while campaigning for an inquiry.

"On two occasions I emailed the Taoiseach's office when we were campaigning for a statutory public inquiry," says Sinead. Fine Gael leader Simon Harris, now Tánaiste, was taoiseach at the time. They say they got only a basic acknowledgment in response.

"After that, nothing," she says. "No help, no advice."

A spokesman for Harris said this week that the Tánaiste "extends his deepest sympathies to the O'Malley-Kumar family on the loss of Grace. We are following up on this matter".

It has been announced that Grace is to posthumously receive the George Medal for bravery, one of the highest civilian honours in Britain, for trying to save her friend Barnaby Webber. The formal investiture has been put off until after the inquiry.

Sanjoy says he is "profoundly disappointed" the Irish Government, through its embassy in London, has not been in touch to acknowledge this honour for Grace, a teenage Irish citizen. "I think that is an absolute misfire," he says.

The Department of Foreign Affairs told The Irish Times Grace's killing was "awful". It said the embassy and department have "closely followed this deeply tragic case. This includes Grace's family's calls for a public inquiry".

The department noted the inquiry is now under way.

It also said the George Medal is a tribute to Grace's "incredible courage" and the embassy "would be open to marking this award to Grace when the time comes," while noting that the investiture has not yet taken place.

The embassy said it is available for "any support possible" for the family.

Sanjoy and Sinead are campaigning for improvements to be made to the wider medical and police system to eliminate "mental health homicide," killings by those under mental health treatment who may, for example, have stopped taking meds.

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"We have got to reduce it to zero. I believe it is absolutely possible," says Sanjoy.

They also don't want just boilerplate "lessons learned" from the inquiry.

"Everything is achievable through full accountability. That is what we want," says Sanjoy.

"Accountability for all the people who just didn't do their jobs properly," says Sinead.

"Once you start to hold people properly accountable in this country, that is how you get real system change," says Sanjoy.

And what about Grace's grieving parents, bruised and battered by all that has befallen them? When will they rest? Can they ever heal and leave the campaigning behind?

"That is an interesting question," says Sinead after a short pause. "You have to think what drives you forward and gives you purpose. Doing something in Grace's name will always give us purpose, don't you think, Sanjoy?" He responds that "for whatever days God gives me" he will campaign to improve the system to combat mental health homicide.

"And that is what I am going to do in the name of Grace."

Mark Paul, The Irish Times

Check out the Grace O'Malley-Kumar Foundation
By clicking on the image below



The New Grace O'Malley Festival in Achill 22nd to 24th May

First ever Grace O'Malley Festival welcomes Mayo's Pirate Queen home

Grace O'Malley Festival will include live music and outdoor events in Westport and Achill Island in May



The Grace O'Malley Festival launches this May, (22nd to 24th) in Grace's home county of Mayo with live music and outdoor events among the attractions on offer.

At a time when *Grace O'Malley's life* is attracting global attention, with Hollywood films and rumoured Netflix documentaries in development, the Festival roots the Pirate Queen in place and authenticity.

Festival director Dea Birkett sees Grace as urgently relevant today: "Grace wasn't some wispy long haired goddess, she was a real woman fighting for her family and her country, just as so many women now," she says. "She shouldn't be celebrated as a legendary beauty, but for her courage, her ferocity and her determined fight for freedom. We can't all aspire to be goddesses, but we can look to Granauile. Women today can follow in her wake."

This spirit runs through the Grace O'Malley Festival, which blends astounding circus, live music, giant outdoor art, lively talks, family workshops and entrancing storytelling. Festival highlights include the commission of a beach-sized sand art portrait of Grace O'Malley by artist Seán Corcoran, concert by renowned Irish singer Camille O'Sullivan, and evening Pirate Queen Cabaret - a bold and irreverent show inspired by Grace's life.

At the heart of the Festival is Circus250's spectacular aerial circus show *Grace: The Story of a Pirate Queen* with original music and live storytelling. This all-female international production features performers from Ireland, Brazil, Italy and Russia whose own lives reflect migration, resilience and determination. The Festival isn't just about honouring the past, but looking forward to a better future.

As Grace O'Malley's story finds new global audiences, the Grace O'Malley Festival anchors her legacy where it began on the west coast of Ireland, among women who continue to tell their stories and fight for what matters.

The Grace O'Malley Festival will take place in Westport and Achill Island from May 22 to 24, 2026.

The New Grace O'Malley Festival in Achill 22nd to 24th May

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME 2026

Friday 22 May Saturday 23 May Sunday 24 May

HISTORY, MYTH & CABARET




Photo credit: Alison Laredo


3pm – For Fierce Families – Swashbuckling Stories of Wild Women

A family storytelling session with Sorcha Hegarty of Candlelit Tales. Hear stirring stories about the powerful women of the West.

Admission: Age 5+. Free. Booking essential, spaces limited.

Westport Library
The Crescent
Westport
F28 HE26

[Book Tickets](#)



5pm – For History Lovers – “Grace O'Malley: Maritime Icon” with Anne Chambers

A fascinating talk from **Anne Chambers** (Grace's renowned biographer) about what sets Grace apart from every other female leader in history... the sea. Prepare to hear incredible true stories of the Pirate Queen's remarkable sea voyages from Ireland's biggest Grace O'Malley expert.

Plus, festival Artist in Residence **Sean Corcoran** discusses research around what Grace looked like, in preparation for his giant sand portrait.

Clew Bay Hotel
Westport
F28 WD66

Admission: Tickets 10€ (both talks included)

[Book Tickets](#)




Photo credit: Marcin Lewandowski

8pm – For Daring Dames and their Courageous Crewmates – Pirate Queen Cabaret

A bold, high-energy mix of music, circus and storytelling to make your timbers shiver!

Join an all-female cast for a fast-paced circus show inspired by Grace O'Malley's extraordinary life. You'll meet Grace the acrobat, her son Tibbott the contortionist, the Spanish Armada pole dancer and Queen Elizabeth I as you've never seen her before – all brought to life through live performance, original harp music and plenty of laughs.

This is not a history lesson. It's a celebration of bravery, womanhood and pure pirate energy.

Westport Town Hall
Octagon Cahernamart
Westport
F28 R240

Admission: Tickets 20€/18€ Concessions

[Book Tickets](#)

The New Grace O'Malley Festival in Achill 22nd to 24th May

Friday 22 May

Saturday 23 May

Sunday 24 May

SEA, SAND & SPECTACLE



Photo credit: Alison Laredo

11am – For Crafty Pirates

Join Grace's crew. Make your own pirate hat or patch at this family friendly workshop. All materials provided. Don't forget to wear your new pirate gear to the rest of the festival events.

The Strand Hotel
Dugort
Achill Island
F28 NY97

Admission: 5€ suggested donation on door. No booking required.



1:30pm – For Big Laughs

🚩 World Premiere

Too Late is a clown show starring leading female clown and one of Achill's favourite performers **Angelica Santander**. Laugh along as she juggles the struggles of modern life in her never-seen-before relatable and ridiculous new show for all ages.

The Strand Hotel
Dugort
Achill Island
F28 NY97

Admission: 10€ suggested donation on the door. No booking required.



2:30pm – Daring Debuts First Look

Don't miss these brand new circus performances from rising artistes. Expect bold, sassy circus acts to make you laugh, gasp and say, "How did they do that?!" Stay tuned for the full line up, coming soon.

Silver Strand
Dugort
Achill Island
F28 P273

Admission: Free. No booking required.

The New Grace O'Malley Festival in Achill 22nd to 24th May



Photo credit: Alison Laredo



Celebrate Grace O'Malley's Triumphant Return to the West Coast

A fun-filled afternoon celebrating the Pirate Queen on Dugort's beautiful Silver Strand beach. Discover Grace's incredible story (with a circus twist!) in our aerial spectacular circus show and marvel as she washes up in the waves, reimagined in a giant Grace sand portrait by our festival Artist in Residence.

4pm – For Everyone – Grace. The Story of a Pirate Queen

Don't miss Circus250's outdoor aerial spectacular show inspired by the life of the Pirate Queen, with live music and storytelling. From stormy seas to royal courts, join Gráinne Mhaol on a remarkable voyage across history.

Created on the wild Atlantic shores of Achill Island, this unforgettable show celebrates bravery, imagination and the power of standing tall (or swinging high) in the face of impossible odds.

Please bring your own picnic blankets or camping chairs.

5:30pm – For Spectacle Seekers – Grace Giant Sand Portrait

Watch her rise from the waves! Our Artist in Residence Sean Corcoran will share his giant sand portrait of the Pirate Queen and we'll celebrate with circus and spectacle.

Silver Strand

Dugort

Achill Island

F28 P273

Admission: Free. No booking required.



8:30pm – Camille O'Sullivan Live

An unforgettable evening with Ireland's most mesmerising storytelling songstress on Achill Island for the first time.

A love letter in song, Camille celebrates dear friends Shane MacGowan, Sinéad O'Connor, David Bowie, Radiohead, Brel, Nick Cave and more. Chameleon-like on stage, each song has a different character with a story to tell.

With long-time collaborator Feargal Murray, Camille has created an intimate, heartfelt show with a little bit of joyful, mad chaos as her life unravels, capturing the honest response to those much loved and lost.

The Wavecrest Achill

Dooagh

F28 RR64

Admission: Tickets €22. Doors & bar open at 8pm. Limited, unallocated seating, booking essential.

[Book Tickets](#)

The New Grace O'Malley Festival in Achill 22nd to 24th May

Friday 22 May

Saturday 23 May

Sunday 24 May

CIRCUS, DEBATE & DARING



6am- For Arty Adults – Sunrise Sand Art Session

A chance to create your own mini-masterpiece on the beach, led by Artist in Residence Sean Corcoran

Silver Strand
Dugort
Achill Island
F28 P273

Admission: Free. Booking required.

[Book Tickets](#)



For Circus Folk & Curious Minds

A morning of industry events, talks and networking for performers, producers and lovers of circus. All welcome.

11am – Am I Too Old to Run Away to the Circus?

An all-female panel on ageing boldly. With Becky Truman, aerial director Shaena Brandel, International clown Angelica Santander and chaired by historian of popular entertainment Professor Vanessa Toulmin.

12:30pm – The First Female Catcher – A Talk with Aerial Legend Becky Truman

Ted's Bar and Restaurant Cashel
Achill Island
F28 AX57

Admission: Free. No booking required.

The New Grace O'Malley Festival in Achill 22nd to 24th May



3pm – Grace. The Story of a Pirate Queen

Another chance to see our gravity defying circus show in this stunning outdoor setting. *Grace. The Story of a Pirate Queen* brings history vividly to life with aerial performance, live music and storytelling.

Don't forget to wear your pirate hats!

Please bring your own picnic blankets or camping chairs.

Silver Strand
Dugort
Achill Island
F28 P273

Admission: **Free. No booking required.**



4pm – For Everyone – Giant Sand Sculpture Workshop

Come join our Artist in Residence **Sean Corcoran** to create a giant collaborative sand artwork. The biggest ever mermaid? The world's largest sand octopus? All tools provided, but you're welcome to bring your own too.

Silver Strand
Dugort
Achill Island
F28 P273

Admission: **Free. No booking required.**



7pm – Pirate Pub Quiz, Pizza & Movie Night

An evening of food, fun and film to close the festival.

Gather your crewmates and test your pirate prowess with a pirate quiz packed with curious questions, tall tales and a splash of nautical nonsense. From the high seas to hidden histories, only the sharpest crews will claim victory.

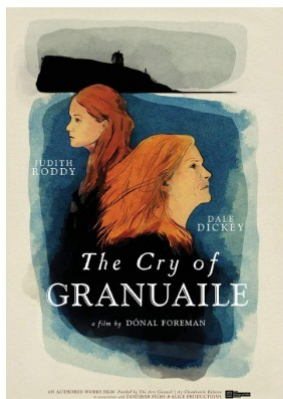
Then settle in for *The Cry of Granuaile* – the Mayo premiere of Donal Foreman's award-winning, genre-defying film exploring the Pirate Queen's legacy. With powerful performances and a dreamy orchestral score, it's a movie that blurs the lines between history and myth.

You'll dine on delicious pizza while enjoying the quiz and the film.

Pure Magic
Sievemore Road
Dugort
F28 HN27

Admission: **€20 per person** (includes pizza, quiz & movie, drinks available to purchase separately). **Booking essential.**

[Book Tickets](#)



Claire O'Malley wins big with her artwork!

Young Limerick artists have received national recognition as part of the 2026 Texaco Children's Art Competition

Limerick's young artistic talent has been recognised at the 72nd National Texaco Children's Art Competition, following the announcement of this year's winners at the annual ceremony in Dublin.

'The Amazing Tinks' by 16-year-old Claire O'Malley, a Catherine McAuley School student, claimed first prize in Category G of the competition, a section reserved for artists with additional needs.

The Amazing Tinks secured the top award in the category, claiming a top prize of €1,500 and the artwork was praised by judges for its creativity and originality.

Claire's impressive artwork was described by Irish visual artist, curator and educator Pauline O'Connell, who was final adjudicator, as "an acrylic paint and wool collage combined in a confident and imaginative work. The dog, rendered in soft chenille wool, introduces a rich tactile quality, while its proud stance and turned head bring personality and presence to the composition."



Claire O'Malley with her prize winning piece "The Amazing Tinks"



Claire O'Malley with her family at the award ceremony

Memories of the 2004 O'Malley Clan Rally– Michael Duane

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2004 O'MALLEY CLAN RALLY

(Or our fortuitous trip
to Clare Island)

by Michael O. Duane

We travel often to visit my Dad's mother's family in West Inch on the Dingle Peninsula. Because of its beauty and historic sites we rarely venture further than across Dingle Bay to visit Cahirsiveen where my mother's people are from. One of the most memorable experiences on my first visit to Ireland



in 1972 was meeting one of my Dad, James Duane's, first cousins. Except for the Wellingtons and tweed cap and jacket, he could have been my Dad's twin brother! Thus I was surprised when my brother Jim called me one night in 1997. He was reading our father's legal papers, and he asked me, "Do you think Dad was adopted"? I knew that was not possible in light of his close family resemblance to his cousins in Inch. My brother said that he had found legal papers which referred to our parents (James and Dorothy Duane) as James and Dorothy O'Malley! I told him that our Nana (Bridget O'Donnell Duane) had a sister Julia O'Donnell who had married a man named O'Malley, but I was always told by Dad that Julia had "died in child birth".

Hence began the unfolding of the O'Malley tale. In the early 1900s six of the eight O'Donnell sisters, including my Nana Bridget, and their one brother left Inch for America. Leaving behind their parents and two sisters. The sisters settled in Massachusetts, married, and raised families in a new land. Growing up in Fitchburg, Massachusetts my brother and I were part of a large extended family of O'Donnell cousins.

As we began to uncover the mystery of Julia O'Donnell O'Malley we learned that Julia had married a man named Patrick Michael O'Malley in Leominster, Massachusetts. That Patrick O'Malley had died of the Great Spanish Flu epidemic in 1918 at the age of 27, and that Patrick and Julia had given birth to a son James. We learned that when Patrick died, poor Julia took her own life in despair (God rest her soul) leaving their 6-month old baby James O'Malley as an orphan. Julia's sister Bridget and her husband James Duane (from Claremorris) took the baby in, raised him as their own, and he was known thereafter as James "Duane" (our father).

Grampy James and Nana Bridget Duane were wonderful parents and grandparents, who lovingly raised their "son" James. Likewise, during his later years my Grampy came to live and be cared by us until his death.

Probably because of our many questions about his "aunt Julia", Dad told my brother and me the true story of his biological parents Patrick and Julia O'Malley just before his death in 2000. Children and grandchildren of Patrick's siblings had come to our Dad's wake in 2000, and we soon learned more of the history of the O'Malley family in central Massachusetts. We soon discovered that Patrick O'Malley had

Memories of the 2004 O'Malley Clan Rally- Michael Duane

come to America along with two sisters and one brother and they settled in Clinton and Leominster, Massachusetts. While visiting with my Dad's biological O'Malley first cousins we also learned that it was mostly my brother and me who had been kept in the dark about our O'Malley grandparents. We learned that many of our friends and family in central Massachusetts knew about my Dad's real O'Malley family background. We all surmised that it was the tragedy of Julia's death, the infancy of our Dad, and out of a respect for James and Bridget Duane that the O'Malley story was kept a family secret to my brother and me.



My father himself did not know that he was an O'Malley until he was married in 1944 and obtained his real birth certificate. In fact, when he became the guardian of his father James Duane in 1964 he and my mother had to have their names legally changed from James and Dorothy O'Malley to James and Dorothy Duane, as Dad had not been formally adopted by his parents. My brother and I were also to have our names changed from O'Malley to Duane, but because the name "Duane" was on our birth certificates, "Duane" was our legal name. Through many strange coincidences we soon came to meet many more of the children and grandchildren of the four O'Malley siblings. Many of them lived in the same neighborhood as we did in Fitchburg, knew who we were, and we all attended the same church!!

We found we had yet a third family of extended O'Malley cousins. Since our Dad's death in 2000 the O'Malley's have warmly invited us into their homes to share wonderful memories of the O'Malleys who came to central Massachusetts. Sadly, in addition to my grandfather Patrick his sister Norah O'Malley (Manning) also died of the Spanish flu in 1918 within weeks of Patrick's death, leaving her own three children to be raised by their father.

Our O'Malley cousins told us that the four children including my grandfather who came to America were born on a place called Clare Island off the coast of County Mayo. The children came to America leaving their parents and one sister behind in Ireland. Eventually my great-grandparents Arthur and Ann (Lavalle) O'Malley and their daughter Mary left Clare Island in 1897 for Askelene near Louisburg. Mary married Pat Durkin in Louisburg and had 11 children some of whom are now living in Drummin.

When my wife Ellen and I were preparing for a 2004 trip to Inch and the Dingle Peninsula we thought it would be interesting to travel to Westport and Clare Island to see where my grandfather was born. Thinking that a boat trip to an island off the northwest coast of Ireland would be an adventure, and having never been to County Mayo, we decided to go. We had read that Clare Island was still populated, that there was an O'Malley castle and church on the island, that a ferry could be had from Louisburg and that Westport was a nice town to visit. Our 19-year old son Will wanted to come with us so we decided to leave for Ireland on June 24, 2004 and to journey to Mayo after landing in Shannon.

We arrived in Shannon on Friday, June 25th and headed north to Westport. We strolled around this lovely town, and happened upon the office of the O'Malley ferry service to Clare Island. The forecast was fair weather for Saturday, so we made a reservation for the 11:00 ferry from Roonah Quay thinking it would give us some time in the morning to walk around Westport, drive to Roonah and be able to spend a few hours on Clare Island.

We arrived at the pier at Roonah at the appointed hour of 11:00 on Saturday, June 26th. At that mo-

Memories of the 2004 O'Malley Clan Rally- Michael Duane

ment the mysteries of the Gael, family spirits and pre-destination descended upon us. As we went to get our tickets for the ferry to Clare Island we were immediately met by a crowd of arriving people who said, "You must be here for the Rally!" "What 'Rally' "?, said we. "The O'Malley Clan Rally" was the response, "you Yanks might call it a "reunion' ". "We're here to take the ferry to Clare Island to see where my grandfather was born" said I, "what is the O'Malley Clan Rally?" In the midst of the confusion, excitement and disbelief we befriended Ann, Grace and Joan who explained the O'Malley Clan Rally to us on the ferry ride out to Clare Island. There were O'Malleys from Galway, Dublin, Westport, Louisburg, Chicago, Castlebar, a lovely couple from Scotland, Philadelphia, St. Louis and now East Montpelier, Vermont! We were warmly welcomed by all including Bridget O'Malley who told me that it was not an accident or coincidence, but destiny, that we arrived at the precise day and at the precise time and at the precise place on our journey to find the birthplace of my grandfather and to appear in the midst of the 2004 O'Malley Clan Rally.

It was a glorious day as we landed on Clare Island at the castle. Ellen O'Malley Dunlop was a welcoming host. My wife Ellen and son Will and I rented bicycles and rode along the south coast out to the abbey where we were all treated with the private family tour of the restoration which was enjoyed by everyone. We then rode our bicycles up through the mountain pass and out to the lighthouse. The weather was warm, the sky was blue and the sea was green around us. (We later learned that the remains of my grandfather's home are on the left side of the road to the lighthouse after the junction.) The view from the lighthouse was spectacular. We had a picnic lunch on the cliffs, and were joined by other O'Malleys who arrived by van. After lunch we rode our bicycles down the east side of Clare Island with Croagh Patrick before us and back to the harbour where we sat on the strand, explored the castle and shared stories with our long-lost O'Malley relatives while we waited for the ferry to take us back to the mainland.

We were invited (it was insisted) that we attend the meeting and the gathering at the Atlantic Hotel that evening for the election of the Chieftain.

On Sunday we traveled to Drummin to meet my father's first cousins. We were warmly greeted with open arms by Ann, Norah, Mary and Arthur (O'Malley) Durkin. We spent the afternoon reviving 80 years of lost family relationships, and stories of Clare Island and America. The Durkins told us that their late mother Mary O'Malley Durkin had heard of my Dad's visit to Ireland in 1945 to visit the O'Donnells on Dingle, and that she wondered why "Pat's boy" had not come to visit her. We all sadly concluded that it came to pass in our visit to them 60 years later.

That evening Ellen, Will and I tearfully left Drummin and drove around the mountain to Murisk. Being drawn by the mountain we climbed Croagh Patrick which Will, being a true O'Malley, climbed barefooted. It was a gloriously beautiful evening as we descended Croagh Patrick at 10:00 p.m. and watched the late June sun setting over Clare Island and into the broad Atlantic, bringing to an end for us an unforgettable trip to County Mayo, the island birthplace of my grandfather, and the 2004 O'Malley Clan Rally.

The next day, we were off to Kerry.



Michael's son Will and wife Ellen heading back to the harbour on Clare Island on their bikes

The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2026, Ennis, County Clare

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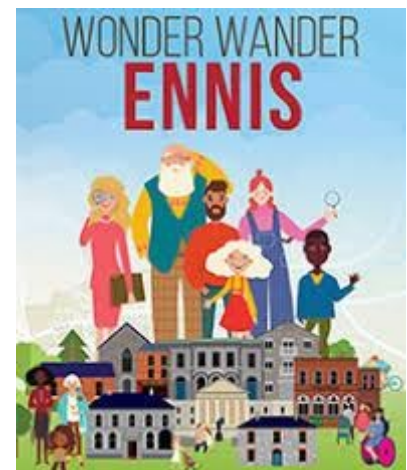
Friday 26th June

Wonder Wander Walking Tour

Start & Finish at The O'Malley Clan Shop at The Temple Gate Hotel

3pm to 5pm

Self-guided walking tour of Ennis with Map (supplied), for Children accompanied by a Parent or Guardian. Find all sites, take a photo of each site and the first family home wins a prize. Just book a place for the children! Please state the age of your child in the comments section or after their name



Chieftain's Reception

The Great Hall, Temple Gate Hotel

5pm to 11pm

A welcome to the launch of the 2026 O'Malley Gathering from Chieftain Denise O'Malley Kelly. Held for the first time in her native Co Clare, this will be a chance to meet old friends and new.

Starting with a drinks reception at 5:00 pm, there will be a talk at 5:30 pm by Clare historian Dick Cronin on 'The Historical Sites of Clare'. Then at 6:45 Dr Maurice Gleeson will talk about the genealogy of the O'Malleys, with a particular focus on how genetic genealogy (DNA testing) can be combined with studying historical records to take your family tree back to earlier times. The "Finding Grace" project aims to identify the genetic signature of Grace O'Malley's branch of the family. Find out how to check how closely related you may be to the famous 'Pirate Queen'.

When the speakers are done, stay and chat or adjourn to dine in the hotel or one of the many local restaurants and return for the Ceili starting at 9:00 pm. Featuring traditional Irish music by the Spraoi Celi band, experience a night of Ceol agus Craic from the very best of Clare's Irish Traditional Musicians!



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2026, Ennis, County Clare

Saturday 27th June

North Clare Bus Tour

Departs from and Returns to The Temple Gate Hotel

9:15am to 4:30pm

Tour the spectacular countryside of North Clare, with stops at the famous Cliffs of Moher, through the amazing landscape of the Burren to the stone age Poul nabrone Dolmen and Dysert O'Dea Castle. Lunch in Liscannor is included. Please state any food allergies in the comments section of your booking.



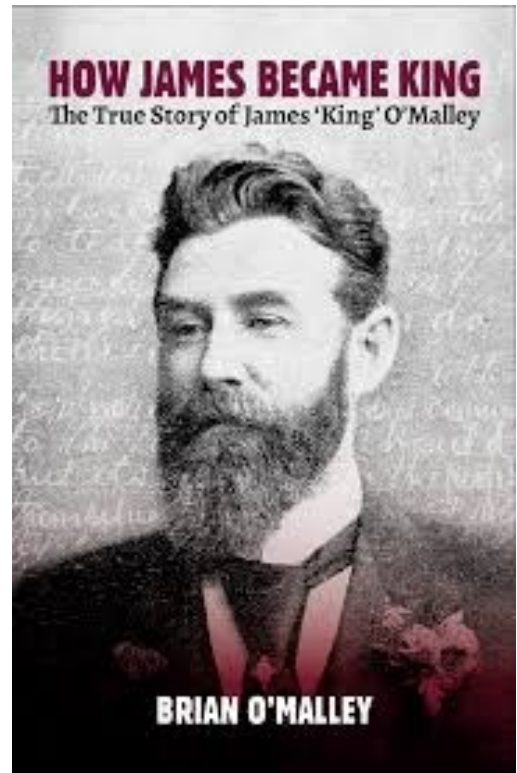
The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2026, Ennis, County Clare

How James Became King – Author Brian O'Malley on his controversial book.

Foyer Room, (off the Great Hall), The Temple Gate Hotel

6pm to 7:15pm

Author Brian O'Malley has spent years researching the extraordinary career of James Malley from New Haven, Connecticut. In a story spanning the USA from east coast to west and on to Australia, hear about how James changed his identity and rose to prominence as King O'Malley, Australian cabinet minister and crusading reformer.



Chieftain's Gala Dinner

The Great Hall, Temple Gate Hotel

7:30pm to 11pm

Chieftain's Gala Dinner, followed by music by a band especially formed to play for our event. They are the very best of what Clare has to offer. Please state any food allergies in the comments section.



The O'Malley Clan Gathering 2026, Ennis, County Clare

Sunday 28th June

**Annual O'Malley Clan Mass
Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul,
Ennis**

11:30am to 12:15pm

A celebration of our weekend together, through music and prayer.



Annual General Meeting of The O'Malley Clan Association

Foyer Room, (off the Great Hall), The Temple Gate Hotel

12:30am to 1:15pm

Our Clan AGM, chaired by the Guardian Chieftain Brendan, is open to all O'Malleys attending the Gathering, although only registered members may vote. The AGM elects the new Tánaiste from those nominated and discusses any motions or issues of the day. Hear our Guardian Chieftain, Chieftain, Secretary, Treasurer and Members Officer report on their activities throughout the year.

Annual Clan Luncheon

The Great Hall, Temple Gate Hotel

1:30pm to 4pm

Sit and enjoy a lunch together as our weekend comes to a close. Please specify any food allergies in the comment section.

Inauguration of our New Chieftain for 2026-2027

Courtyard, Temple Gate Hotel

4pm

Gather around the circle of Chieftains and witness our new Chieftain Don O'Malley being inaugurated.



Test your brain with a crossword on Rivers of the World!

Across

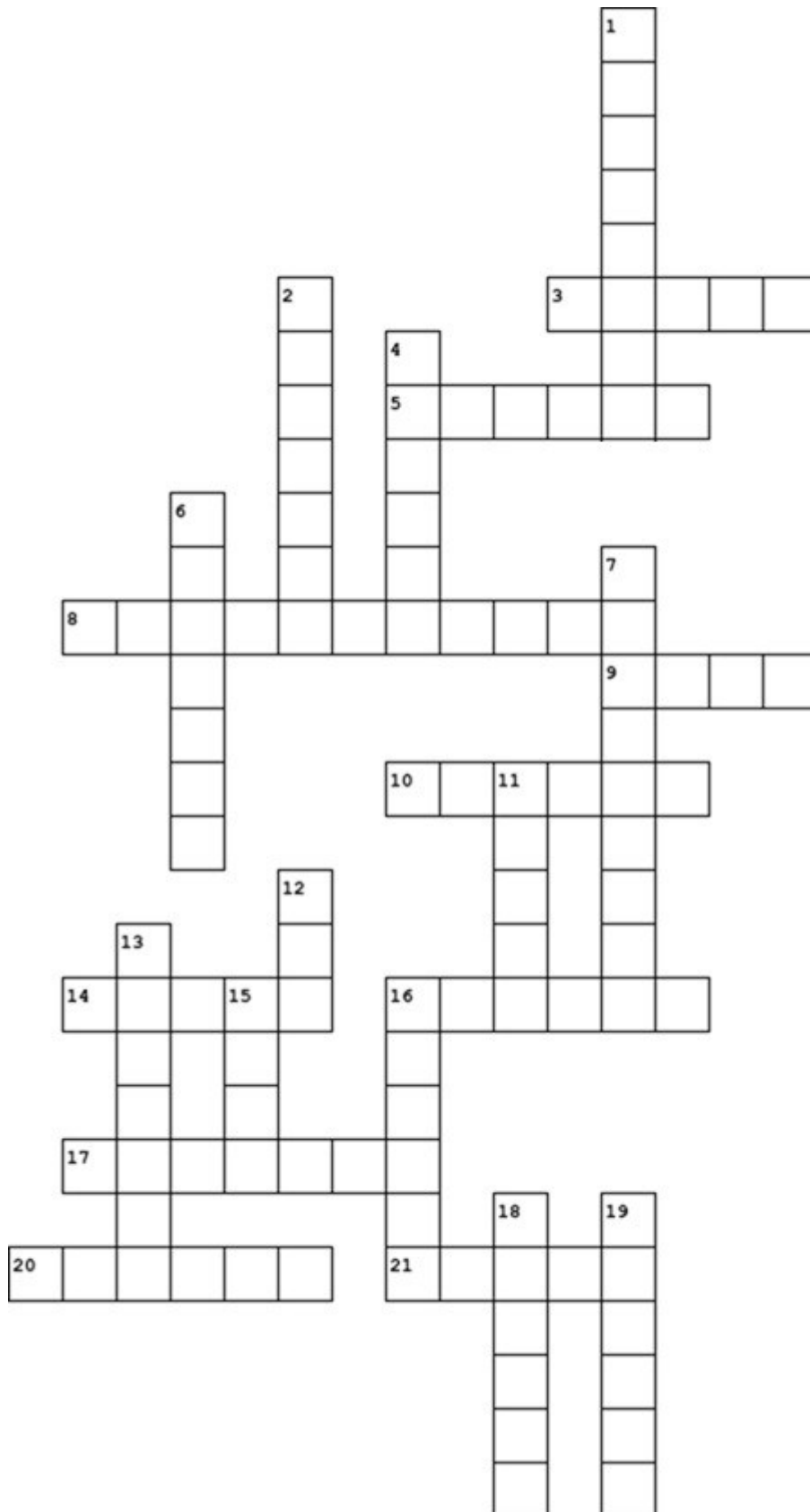
3. River flowing through Belfast,
5. Big river that flows through the rainforest,
8. River flowing through New Orleans
9. A big river in the USA, also a state,
10. Longest river in Britain,
14. Big river flowing through Germany,
16. River flowing through London,
17. River flowing through Kyiv, Ukraine.
20. River that flows through Vienna and Budapest,
21. River that flows through Paris,

Down

1. River famous for it's Grand Canyon,
2. River in Africa, famous for Victoria Falls,
4. Sacred river in India,
6. River flowing through Warsaw,
7. River forming part of the Mexico - US Border,
11. Russian river flowing into the Caspian Sea,
12. River flowing through Cork, ...
13. Longest river in Ireland,
15. Long river that flows through Egypt,
16. River flowing through Baghdad,
18. River flowing through Dublin,
19. River flowing through Vietnam and Cambodia,

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS: **ACROSS**, 2 STOCKHOLM, 4 MELBOURNE, 5 MUNICH 9 PARIS, 13 STLOUIS 14 MONTREAL, 15 TOKYO 17 LONDON 19 BARCELONA, 21. BEIJING 22 ANTWERP **DOWN**, 1 LOSANGELES, 3 MEXICOCITY 5 AMSTERDAM 7 MOSCOW 8 HELSINKI, 10 SYDNEY, 11. BERLIN 12 ATLANTA 15 SEOUL, 18 RIODEJANERO, 20 ATHENS.

Test your brain with a crossword on Rivers of the World!





@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 over 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'Malleys ! We need you! Join Today!



**Support
the Clan,
Be a part
of it**

**The O'Malley Clan
Association Needs You!**

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