

THE IRISH SOCIETY NEWS

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The Irish Society
www.TheIrishSociety.org
P.O. Box 820010
Houston, Texas 77282

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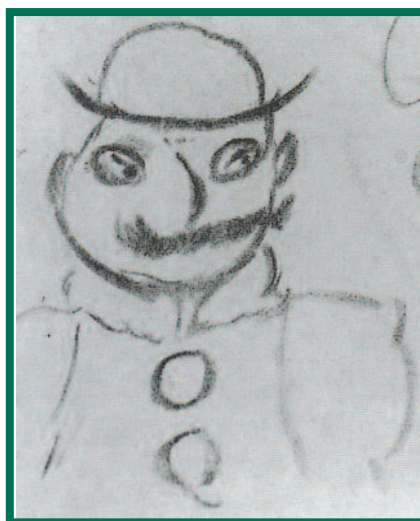
IN MEMORIAM

ANN C. IVINS

MADELINE O'BRIEN

SUMMER ISSUE

BLOOMSDAY



June is here and the Irish Society invites you and a friend to join us for one of Ireland's most popular literary holidays...Bloomsday. This day, June 16th, celebrates a day in the life of Leopold Bloom, the main character in James Joyce's Ulysses. In Ireland, as well as many other parts of the world, it is celebrated with all day and night readings of the book, as well as festive

gatherings in period costumes representing events in a day in the Dublin life of Leopold and his wife Molly. Here in Houston, we will spare you the long winded literary dissertations and instead treat you to the music of Tomfooligans, Irish Dancing from the Cass-Barrington School of Dance and delicious dinner from our host Tommy Reilly. This years event will be held at the Bull and Bear Tavern | 1980 Westheimer (77077), just outside the beltway behind the Specs, with plenty of parking for all.

The fun starts at 6PM with appetizers for the early birds while enjoying the music, then dancers at 7 and dinner to be served after that. We will have door prizes, 50/50 raffle and free Irish Society T-shirts to all who join that evening. We encourage all members to make an effort to join us and bring along a friend and introduce them to the Irish Society...And remember...first drink is on us...See you on Bloomsday, Tuesday, June 16th!

We look forward to seeing all our members on BLOOMSDAY!

THE HOUSTON GAEL'S

January of 2015 marked the beginning of the fourth season of the Houston Gaels Gaelic Athletic Club in the bayou city. Excitement has been at fever pitch all season with many new faces coming to practice of varying nationalities. As such the standard of competition for places on the pitch as well as the camaraderie off the pitch has been brilliant all year proving that the club is going from strength to strength.

ON THE PITCH- Men's Junior "A" It has been a mixed year for the top tier team in the city with one victory (a large home win against San Antonio) and two losses against a strong Austin team in their home patch and a narrow defeat against Dallas here in Houston. This means that Houston Men's Junior "A" team qualifies for the Breckenridge Brewery 2015 Texas Gaelic Football Championship "A" Shield Final against San Antonio this weekend in Dallas. Men's Junior "B" What a fantastic year it has been for the development squad here in Houston with the team winning two and only narrowly losing to Dallas in their third game. This means that in Dallas this weekend the Houston Gaels Men's Junior "B" team challenges for their first trophy in the 2015 Texas Gaelic Football Championship "B" Cup Final versus Dallas Fionn MacCumhaill's. **Ladies Football** We have had a magnificent showing from our Houston Gaels Ladies Players which has resulted in us forming an alliance with Dallas Ladies to play Ladies Junior "B" Football! **OFF THE PITCH** Whilst there have been many exciting nights and events organized this year to date the focus has been mainly on the sporting aspect of the club as we are in the middle of our season in the Texas League. Next week we will conduct a summer camp in League City with kids aged between 6-12 years old. This is the first such event we have held and marks another significant chapter in the community aspect of this club. We will look to organize many new social events for the summer outside of said sporting events and mainly through our associations with the Irish Network and the Irish Society. Look out for many social events in the summer including nights out, picnics and pub league games on our Facebook page Houston Gaelic Athletic Club, our website www.houstongaels.com as well as instagram and twitter @houstongaels.

Finally a note on our Texas Rose of Tralee candidate Siobhan Thompson daughter to the Houston Gaels Manager Martin Thompson and his wife Mary. Siobhan was sponsored by the Houston Gaels and won the Texas Rose of Tralee event held in Dallas. She competed in a qualifier for the main Rose of Tralee competition in Ireland last weekend and got through! Siobhan will now be representing Texas and Houston in Tralee, Co. Kerry in Ireland in August to become the International Rose of Tralee. Well done Siobhan we are all proud of you! Gaels Abu!



Please visit our Website www.TheIrishSociety.org for regular updates.

TRIPS TO IRELAND IN 2015

Trip # 1 - The Blaggards Ireland Tour July 11-19, 2015

• Round trip airfare from HOUSTON* to Ireland (flight schedule announced 90 days prior to departure) • Deluxe motorcoach vehicle throughout your tour, including all transfers and sightseeing • Services of professional Irish driver and guide. • SEVEN (7) nights first class accommodations as follows or similar: • Dublin 1 - 1 night *** • Cork - 2 nights • Limerick - 1 night • Galway - 1 night • Dublin - 2 nights • Admission to Guinness Storehouse & Cliffs of Moher • Fully escorted sightseeing as per itinerary • And Best of all.....PERFORMANCES BY BLAGGARDS! Hurry only a few spaces left...HAMMOND TOURS 34 WEDGEWOOD LANE VOORHEESVILLE, NY 12186 TEL: 518-765-2056 TEL: 866-486-8772 (TOLL FREE) Email: jwasserbach@hammondtrips.com for more information.

Trip # 2 - The Greater Houston Partnership is excited to announce the return of our World Discovery Tours! World Discovery Tours are designed to provide Partnership members and non-members an opportunity to tour the world and network with like-minded business professionals. This year, we will be traveling to Ireland September 30 - October 9, 2015.

Enjoy the very best of Ireland on this perfectly-paced tour that will highlight Ireland's top sights! Begin in Dublin and become familiar with this "Fair City" before working your way south and then west, taking-in Ireland's most fabled and spectacular sights along the way. Travel the Ring of Kerry, one of the world's most beautiful coastal routes. Enjoy a rousing night of traditional Irish entertainment accompanied by a hearty dinner. Meet an Irish family and sample homemade tea and scones while they explain everyday life on an Irish farm. Behold the spectacular beauty of the Cliffs of Moher. And of course, no visit to Ireland would be complete without an overnight stay on the regal grounds of Cabra Castle. Highlights: Dublin, Irish Evening, Kilkenny, Waterford Crystal, Blarney Castle, Ring of Kerry, Killarney, Limerick, Cliffs of Moher, and Galway. For additional trip information go to www.gatewaygocollette.com.

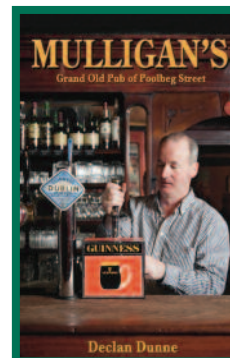
DON'T MISS OUT! Double: \$3499 | Single: \$3999 | Triple: \$3469 - Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Houston Intl, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel, Transfers, and Select Meals.

Please visit our Website www.TheIrishSociety.org for regular updates.

THE MULLIGAN PUB/BOOK - A BILLY CARR STORY



If you are looking for a good summer read, then pick up Mulligan's: Grand Old Pub of Poolbeg Street, in paperback or for your kindle. This fascinating book captures the atmosphere and essence of a Dublin institution loved by both natives and tourists



alike. It is tale of the unique and colorful history of the Pub spanning over two hundred years and has hosted the famous including Judy Garland, Seamus Heaney, Cob Houlihan, James Joyce and John F. Kennedy to name a few.

For decades, the performers from the Theatre Royal were regulars along with Dublin's press corps whose office is just around the corner. The ashes of our own Billy Carr are interred in a clock behind the bar where locals and visiting Texans hear his story and are invited to have a drink with Billy, who is mentioned extensively. People come in and ask 'to have a drink with Billy' and they place a box on the bar! His brothers Mike and David and friend Doc Dougherty were recently in Dublin for the books launch party; where else, but Mulligans.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP BRENDAN CAHILL



Congratulations to Brendan Cahill for being named Bishop! We are proud to call you a lifetime member of the Irish Society and we are proud to call you our friend.

Pope Francis has named Father Brendan Cahill, 51, a priest of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, as bishop of Victoria, Texas. Cahill was born November 28, 1963, in Coral Gables, Florida. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master of divinity from the University of St. Thomas in 1985 and 1990, respectively.

Bishop Cahill is being honored by UST's William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies on November 6, 2015. Please contact Lori Gallagher 713-525-3592.

SANDY SMITH'S HOLE-IN-ONE

Did I hear you right, Sandy Smith used a Five Wood on the 17th 137yd Par 3? Yes! Sandy Smith, a member of the Irish Society, achieved the holy grail in golf - a Hole-In-One! "I watched the ball go over the water, bounce twice and roll right into the cup," said witness, Gregory Horan.

Sandy Smith was playing at the Riverbend Country Club in the Dan's House of Hope Golf Tournament. Congratulations!

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I took a peek on Saturday (5/30) at the Irish Open at Royal County Down in Newcastle, County Down, Northern Ireland to see if Ireland was enjoying better weather than our stormy hometown. It turns out the Irish summer weather in County Down on Saturday was as miserable as Houston's weather, i.e. it was cloudy, cold and the wind was blowing at a constant 25 mph. Needless to say, the conditions were less than ideal for the golfers, but it was impressive to see how many hearty Irish spectators came out in that weather to watch the Irish Open. Once again it demonstrated to me that the Irish are a tough clan. Unfortunately, a Dane named Soren Kjeldner won the tournament and the local favorites like Rory McElroy were well down the list of contenders.

Although you won't have to brave cold and windy Irish weather, I hope all of you will make an attempt to attend this year's Bloomsday festivities on Tuesday, June 16th, to celebrate our Irish culture.

This year's Bloomsday party will be held at The Bull and Bear, 11980 Westheimer (just west of Kirkwood) from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. . As always, the first drink for Irish Society members is on us!

Bloomsday is the annual Irish commemoration and celebration of the life of James Joyce and his classic novel, Ulysses (which is set on June 16, 1904). As many of you know, Bloomsday derives its name from Leopold Bloom, the protagonist of Ulysses. We won't be reading excerpts from Ulysses, but we will be raising a pint or two to our Irish brethren. It will be a fun Irish party, and I encourage you to make our Bloomsday party an annual Irish outing on your social calendar. I look forward to seeing each of you at The Bull and Bear on Bloomsday.

The Irish Society looks forward to providing its members with Irish related activities throughout the year. If you have any suggestions for Irish events which would be appealing to our membership, please forward your ideas to me. In addition, please remember to regularly check The Irish Society's webpage (www.theirishsociety.org) for a current and accurate listing of Irish events in Houston.

THANK YOU TO LYN BROGAN AND DAVID O'KEEFE

If you have received a newsletter in the past 13 years from the Irish Society, it was courtesy of Lyn Brogan and David O'Keefe. They are responsible for all the memories captured, events covered and great human interest stories of the Irish Society and community.

We thank these two men for all the hours spent keeping us in touch with members, sponsors and the greater Irish community. We will keep on Newslettering it on!

