



The Richmond Claddagh <http://richmondias.org/>

Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society

May 2008



TO ALL OUR IRISH MOTHERS EVERYWHERE

Lá Mháthair Shona Dhuit

God bless you on Mother's Day.



IAS General Meeting – Thursday, May 22nd - Trinity United Methodist Church, 309 Forest Avenue. Dan has a great Program set for the meeting. Tim Batten, Pipe Major and President of the **St. Andrew's Legion Pipe and Drums** and Jay Wells of the **Greater Richmond Pipes and Drums** and local Celtic Band **Albafaire** have a program scheduled on Bagpipes. Both the traditional Scottish pipes and the Uilleann or Irish pipes will be displayed and discussed including the history of each and the differences between the two. Could be a couple of tunes in store too! This will a great program with two very talented guys who are both steeped in the Celtic Tradition. Let's have a good turnout for our guests. There are directions on the last page of the newsletter under the calendar.

The Annual IAS Picnic

Sunday, June 8, starting at 1 pm at Pat and Helen Burke's farm in Amelia). Burgers, hot dogs and condiments are provided, but you are asked to please bring a side dish or dessert to share, beverages for you and yours, and lawn chairs. This is a wonderful way to get to know the other members, and it's a beautiful country setting and always one of our big turnout events.

Picnic Driving Directions:

Take 360 West out of Richmond. After crossing the Appomattox River into Amelia, go about 3-4 miles and you will see a billboard on your side of the road, a McDonald's billboard. (Only billboard in the county; you can't miss it if you are looking for billboards.) Slide over into the left lane and about a half mile further turn left onto 627, which is Cheatham's Road. (DON'T turn onto 628 which comes first-that's -not Cheatham's Road!) The Salvage Shed is at the corner of 627. Go about 3/4 of a mile down Cheatham's (627) and the picnic is at the two-story white house on the left. The number, 9943, is on the mailbox. If you have any problems, call 561-5778 or 366-6925. -Helen Warriner-Burke

The IAS Election This year the Elections for the IAS Board of Directors will take place at the Annual Summer picnic coming up in June. We need to fill several spots that will open for the upcoming term. Lisa Murphy, IAS Secretary, and Sonya Moore and Jim Bandeleon both Board Members At Large, have announced that they will not be able to continue in their positions in the upcoming year and are therefore leaving the Board at the end of their term in June. The IAS Board is the heart of the

organization - but happily - it only takes a little bit of one's time to serve on the Board. Board meetings are held on one Sunday evening during the month. Currently, all meetings are held at Gloria Cahen's home and generally only run from 60 to 90 minutes. But in that short amount of time, the business of the Irish American Society is addressed. All Board members bring and submit their ideas for activities, events, and always with the welfare and promotion of the Society at the heart of the discussions. These positions are of the "Unpaid, Unheralded" variety -but the benefits from the leadership of those serving on the Board are many and varied and much needed for the continuing success of our IAS.

If you can and are willing to participate in the "workings" of the Society, please give this request serious consideration. The IAS needs a strong foundation to continue growing and providing a positive model for Irish activities and the Irish community in the Richmond area. If you can help the IAS, please contact **Kathleen Petty at 804-379-9831 or by email at kathleen3791@verizon.net**. Thanks for your time and your consideration. Please don't assume that someone else has already volunteered. -

The April Pub Supper at O'Toole's:

Durn! Did you miss the April pub supper? To use a sometimes over-done phrase..."A Grand Time Was Had By All!" But in this case – it's true. It was really a fun night of good conversation and getting to know each other a little better. What a wonderful turnout we had. The food was tasty, the service was great, our waiter was SO much fun and the craic (Gaelic for fun and good times) – well it was all awesome! IAS thanks go to Ed Mayers for organizing another great evening and to each of our "Supper Partners". Those attending were Karon Bell, Bonnie Atwood, Dan Begley, Jim & Maureen Kelly, Tom & Sara Rupnik, Ann McGehee, Dick Harmon, Dick's friend, Beverly Creasy and Gloria, Cahen, Ed Kast & Kathy Donovan, Kathryn O'Meara, Winnie McHale, Jim Mahone & Patsy, Joan Finnegan, Larry David & Amy Goodman, Ed & Linda Mayers, Ray & Linda Gallagher, Mark & Leslie Gallaher and Nancy Emig.

Giant's Causeway in the Desert

Northern Ireland's most famous natural landmark—the Giant's Causeway—is to be rebuilt in Dubai. The hexagonal basalt columns are to be recreated in the Middle East as part of a project entitled "The World". The massive building project is replicating most of the countries in the world in about 300 islands in the Persian Gulf. It is the brainchild of Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Racial Maktoum. A consortium of Irish businessmen has bought the "island of Ireland" for 19 million euro and apartments and homes are being sold by Irish-based property company, Larionovo.

Developers Andrew Brett and Raymond Norton said the life-size replica of the Giant's Causeway would be an "irresistible draw" for tourists. Mr. Norton told the Belfast Telegraph newspaper: "The Giant's Causeway is a massive tourist attraction in Ireland anyway, so anyone who comes to this island is going to go and have a look at it." The important thing is that when they (tourists) get here they need to really see it—not something that looks like it." We need to recreate that." The World project is already well under way and is clearly visible through satellite pictures. Luxury suites on the Island of Ireland cost from 750,000 euros, rising to 2.8 million euros for a penthouse and stilted water homes. The project can be seen from space. There have been massive building programs ongoing in Dubai over the past decade. The Gulf Emirate—where harsh summer temperatures reach well above 40°C—now boasts the largest indoor snow park in the world. It also has the world's tallest building, a seven-star hotel in the shape of a giant sail and the first underwater. (And you thought the plane ride to Ireland was long!)

Good News from Charlottesville: A long time friend of the IAS, Kevin Donleavy from Charlottesville and his traditional Irish/Celtic band The King Golden Banshee play the 2nd Sunday of every month at Fellini's, a nifty restaurant in Charlottesville just off the Downtown Mall. (Click on the band name to hear a taste of their great music. There's no cover charge. The food is really very good, and they play 6-9 pm. So, an early night for listeners so, as Kevin says, "Richmonders could even be back home, ready for nighty-nite and jammies, by about 10 o'clock!" He's asked me to spread the word and I am delighted to do it and plan to take a drive up there for supper and some tunes! Kevin is a published author, traditional music historian, a fount of knowledge about the Irish in Virginia – and has taught classes at U of R on the subject. We're still trying to make the arrangements to get Kevin down for a program for the IAS.

From The Editor:

Here we are on the edge of summer – and great things are on the calendar for all us Irish folks. The IAS picnic is coming in June and also the election for new Board Members. Our Vice-President and Program Director, Dan Begley is busy lining up interesting programs for the IAS membership. In July we've got Box Seats at the Diamond

for a game between the Richmond Braves and the Pawtucket Red Sox. On the docket also are programs about **Celtic Saints** with Margaret Duckworth – the wonderful speaker who did two fantastic presentations on the Book of Kells. Later in the year a presentation on **The Ancient Celtic Nations** is scheduled with a professor from Longwood. There's even an attempt to secure IAS group tickets for the appearance of **Tony Blair at the Richmond Forum**. Pub Master Ed Mayers has more evenings planned in the coming months. More event and meeting topics are in the planning stage and all of it is done for you – the members. The purpose of the IAS is to promote our Irish heritage and also to bring together the members of our Irish community in friendship and camaraderie Please feel free to make suggestions on events or meeting topics or anything. This is **YOUR IAS** and your input and ideas help us grow. And remember, always check the calendar at the back of the newsletter or at the IAS website <http://www.richmondias.org/> - Yikes you don't want to miss out on any of the fun! Nancy

Murphy's Other Laws

Many thanks go out to IAS member Carol Rasnic for providing the newest additions to the age old Words of Wisdom that add to the basic Irish frame of mind –

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine
3. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
4. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
5. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
6. If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.
7. The things that come to those who wait will be the scraggly junk left by those who got there first.
8. The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
9. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
10. When you go into court, you are putting yourself into the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

There don't you feel wiser! I kind of feel that our members might even more that could be added to the list. The Claddagh will gratefully accept any more additions to Murphy's Law = that our members might have – as long as they are in good spirit and suitable for all. ☺ .

VACATION TIME IS COMING!!

Are you going to Ireland/Scotland/anywhere?? – Here's a Currency Converter that will work for any vacation destination to help you plan your funds.

<http://www.pittsburghirish.org/currency/converter.htm>

Well... If You're Going to Ireland... Here's A Place You Might Want to Spend some Time In - Drogheda Ireland –

The town is located close to the site of Newgrange; a burial mound constructed around 3200 BC. A trading post and settlement existed on the site of the town from Roman times and was known as Inver Colpa. The town itself was founded in 911 by the Danes and officially chartered as a town in 1194. The Irish Parliament moved to the town in 1494 and passed Poyning's Law a year later. The town was besieged twice during the Irish Confederate Wars (see the siege of Drogheda). On the second occasion it was taken by Oliver Cromwell in September 1649, as part of the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland. Drogheda was the site of an infamous massacre of the Royalist defenders. The Battle of the Boyne, 1690, occurred some 6 km (4 mi) west of the town, on the banks of the River Boyne, at Oldbridge.

Drogheda's coat of arms bears the star and crescent and has its origin with King Richard I (the Lionhearted), in whose reign Drogheda was granted its charter in 1194 by Hugh de Lacy (after whom the de Lacy bridge in Drogheda is named). Another Norman element on Drogheda's coat of arms is its centerpiece, St. Lawrence's Gate. The three lions which flank the Norman barbican are also taken from King Richard's coat of arms. On the other side of the barbican is a ship denoting Drogheda's status as an important port. The town's motto Deus praesidium, mercatura decus translates as "God our strength, merchandise our glory".



The Earldom of Drogheda was created in the Peerage of Ireland in 1661. In 1837 the population of Drogheda area was 17,365 of whom 15,138 lived in the town. In 1921 the shrunken head of Saint Oliver Plunkett, who was executed in London in 1681, was put on display in the cathedral. (For your Trivial Pursuit reference - The estate in the famous series "The Thorn Birds" was named after the town of Drogheda.

In 1845, the onset of the Great Irish Famine resulted in over 1,000,000 deaths. Ottoman Sultan Abdülmecid declared his intention to send 10,000 Sterling to Irish farmers but Queen Victoria requested that the Sultan send only 1,000 Sterling, because she had sent only 2,000 Sterling. The Sultan sent the 1,000 Sterling but also secretly sent 3 ships full of food. The English courts tried to block the ships, but the food arrived Drogheda harbor and was left there by Ottoman Sailors.

Due to this the Irish people, especially those in Drogheda, are friendly to the Turks. This event led to the appearance of Ottoman symbols on Drogheda United's emblem (source Wikipedia). (Note, in 1845, the 10000 pounds dedicated to the Irish from the Sultan would be worth approximately 800,000 pounds today, that is \$1,683,280 US Dollars. On the other hand, the Queen gave the equivalent of 160,000 pounds today or 336,656 US Dollars) (I have no idea if this is true!)

Odds and Ends -

- A switchboard operator at a small hotel in Co. Galway was making her morning alarm calls. At six o'clock she rang room 206, but, as a sleepy voice answered, she glanced at her list again and saw that the call for room 206 was down for eight o'clock. She said as sweetly as she could, "Good morning, Sir! You have two more hours to sleep."
- At Trinity Law School, the professor asked a student if he knew what the Roe vs. Wade decision was. He sat quietly, pondering this profound question. Finally, after giving it a lot of thought, he sighed and said, "I believe, sir, this was the decision George Washington made prior to crossing the Delaware."

Often, the best examples of Irish humor aren't jokes at all; the following are real excerpts from letters written by tenants to the landlord:

- "The toilet is blocked and we cannot bathe the children until it is cleared."
- "This is to let you know that there is a smell coming from the man next door."
- "I request your permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen."
- "Our lavatory seat is broken in half and is now in three pieces."
- "Will you please send a man to look at my water, it is a funny colour and not fit to drink."
- "Would you please send a man to repair my downspout. I am an old age pensioner and need it straight away."

Till next month,

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Click on links in calendar and you can hear song selections from the artists and ALWAYS click the link directly below to get the latest updates on upcoming events
<http://richmondias.org/index.php?content=upcoming>

May 1 st 8 15, 22, & 29 at - 7 pm	Turf Fire – IAS Members Mary Smith & John Robison at Dublin’s Irish Pub 7526 Mechanicsville Tpk. Mechanicsville 23111 Phone 804-723-5582
May 3 rd	The Havers*** 9:30 – Dublin’s Irish Pub - Mechanicsville
May 9 th	Albafaire 7 pm – Dublin’s Irish Pub - Mechanicsville
May 17 th	Press Gang ** 7pm – 9:30 Dublin’s Irish Pub – Mechanicsville
May 22nd Meeting starts at 7:00 but join us early for some socializing	IAS General Meeting – Trinity United Methodist Church, 309 Forest Avenue. Program – Tim Batten, <u>St. Andrew’s Legion Pipe and Drum</u> and Jay Wells of the <u>Greater Richmond Pipes and Drums</u> and local Celtic Band <u>Albafaire</u> have a program scheduled on Bagpipes. Both the traditional Scottish pipes and the Uilleann or Irish pipes will be discussed including the history of each and the differences between the two. Could be a couple of tunes in store too!
June 5, 12. 19. 26 th 7pm	Turf Fire – IAS Members Mary Smith & John Robison at Dublin’s Irish Pub 7526 Mechanicsville Tpk. Mechanicsville 23111 Phone 804-723-5582
June 7 th	The Havers*** – 9:30 pm Dublin’s Irish Pub - Mechanicsville
June 8 th	World Famous - IAS Summer Picnic – fun for the whole family. Watch the May newsletter for more details.
June 14 th	Potomac Celtic Festival Leesburg, VA, Morven Park http://www.potomaccelticfest.org/
June 21 st	Press Gang ** ** 7 pm – 9:30 Dublin’s Irish Pub - Mechanicsville

Remember – Send news of events and musical appearances to bearfan46@verizon.net

Directions - to the May Meeting at Trinity United Methodist Church

From the West

Take I-64 East and Take Exit 183, Glenside Road South
 At the end of the exit ramp, turn right at the traffic light onto Glenside Road
 Turn right at the next traffic light (0.1 miles) onto Forest Avenue
 Follow Forest Avenue for 2 miles (passing through five traffic lights)
 The church is on the left

From the East

Take I-64 West and Take Exit 183A, Glenside Road South
 Turn right at the next traffic light (0.1 miles) onto Forest Avenue
 Follow Forest Avenue for 2 miles (passing through five traffic lights)
 The church is on the left

From the South

Take Chippenham Parkway over the Willey Bridge.
 After crossing the bridge, there is a traffic light. continue straight on Parham Road for 1.7 miles to Patterson Avenue
 Turn right onto Patterson Avenue (Route 6).
 At the next traffic light (0.9 miles), turn right onto Forest Avenue
 Follow Forest Avenue for approximately 3 blocks (0.1 miles).
 The church is on the left