
WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER

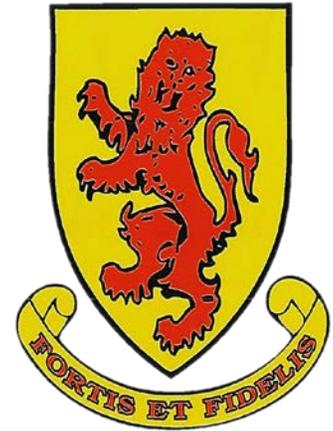
Ó Leathlobhair Clan

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Ó Leathlobhair



CHIEFTAIN'S MESSAGE – FERGAL LALOR

I was honoured to become Chieftain of the Ó Leathlobhair Clan at the recent Annual gathering in July 2017.

A little about myself. I am married to Susan Mooney and we live with our three children in the Curragh, Co. Kildare. I am a Chartered Civil Engineer by profession.

I am the only son of Fintan and Brigid Lalor (Nee Meaney) and have two sisters Sinead and Aisling. We grew up in Myshall, Co. Carlow. I am the first cousin of Maeve Lalor the outgoing Chieftain. My aunt Áine Lalor Ó Cathasaigh and uncle Eamon Lalor are also past Chieftains.

My family and I have returned two years ago from living in Canada for almost 5 years, in fact our youngest daughter is Canadian.

I hope to represent you all well as Chieftain and hope to have the opportunity to meet some of you at some point in the coming years.

I hope that we have the opportunity to meet at the Christmas party on Friday 8th December. For those whom we do not get to see on that night, may my family and I wish you a very happy Christmas and peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Fergal Lalor

UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 CHRISTMAS PARTY
8TH DEC 2017 - CARLOW

2018 CLAN RALLY - ABBEYLEIX
13/14/15TH JUL 2018



2017-18 O'Leathlobhair Clan Chieftain and family
Left to right: Fintan, Sophie, Fergal, Lauren Lalor and Susan Mooney

Lalor Clan Chieftain, Maeve Lalor welcomed clan members to their 2017 annual gathering which was held in the Manor Hotel, Abbeyleix on July 21st, 22nd and 23rd July 2017. There was a very good attendance and proceedings got under way on Friday, July 21 when the delegates were welcomed to the annual general meeting by Clan Chairman, Kevin-Lalor Fitzpatrick.

The proceeding opened with secretary Annie Lalor reading the minutes of the 2016 AGM which were agreed as a true and accurate account of events. Various other reports were then presented by Assistant Secretary Mary O'Mahony; Computer Secretary, Mary Carmody; Social Media, Web and Facebook Operator, Stuart Lawlor; Chairperson and PRO, Kevin Lalor-Fitzpatrick; Treasurer, Paddy Lalor; Representative to the Clans of Ireland Association, Áine Ó Cathasaigh and Clan Chieftain, Maeve Lalor.

The election of officers for 2017-18 resulted in the following: Chairperson/PRO-Kevin Lalor-Fitzpatrick; Vice- Chairperson, Tom Lawlor; Minute Secretary, Annie Lalor; Correspondence



Trudy and Michael Duggan

Secretary, Mary O'Mahony; Computer Secretary, Mary Carmody; Web and Facebook Operator, Stuart Lawlor; Treasurer, Paddy Lalor; Assist.do., Eamonn Lalor; Clans of Ireland Delegates, Áine Ó Cathasaigh, Maeve Lalor, Margot Coogan and the new Clan Chieftain, Fergal Lalor; Committee, P.J. Lalor, Bridget Lawlor, Michael Lalor and Margot Coogan.



Paddy Lalor

Abbeyleix, Mary Lalor, The Heath, David Lawlor, Killeigh, Ursula Lawlor, Killeigh, Michael Lalor, Camross, Josie Dunne, Abbeyleix, and Kevin Lalor-Fitzpatrick, Raheen

Votes of Sympathy were extended to all Clan families who lost loved ones during the past year.



Joe and Breda Coogan

Following the AGM light refreshments were served and this was followed by a sketch "The Operation" written by Paddy Lalor and performed by the Portlaoise Active Retirement Group. Participating were Paddy Lalor, Pat Nealon, Finian Finlay and Andy McQuillen. Trudy Nealon provided the sound and the evening concluded with music and song provided by Joe Coogan.



*Secretaries at work:
Annie Lalor and Mary O'Mahony*



John and Mary O'Rourke

HISTORICAL TOUR

In keeping with tradition Saturday was the day of the annual historical tour and this year Clan Chieftain, Maeve Lalor pulled out all the stops as she brought the members to County Carlow to the tune of “Follow Me Up to Carlow”.

The first stop on the tour was at Maeve’s parents, Pat and Margaret Lalor’s farm at Ballykealy, near Ballon. And what a welcome they got there. Pat, playing the uilleann pipes and Maeve’s nieces and nephews and family members proudly holding up a *Céad Míle Fáilte* banner applauded as Maeve, dressed in the clan regalia, led in the visitors.

The group were presented with beautiful scones and tea and coffee and were brought on a tour where they viewed an array of vintage tractors and farm machinery. Two of Maeve’s nephews were delighted to introduce themselves as James Fintan and Fintan, the latter being the proud possessor of a vintage grey Ferguson 20 tractor which had been presented to him by Pat Lalor of Ballykealy Farm.



Breda Lalor, Brigid and Tom Lawlor and Paul O’Toole

The group bade farewell to the Lalors of Ballykealy having been thanked by Kevin Lalor-Fitzpatrick for their hospitality, and the next venue was Adelaide Memorial Church in Myshall and this was followed by a break for lunch in O’Shea’s of Borris.



Maeve Lalor (Outgoing Chieftain and Incoming Chieftain, Fergal Lalor

The tour later continued and took in Graiguenamanagh and Duiske Abbey when Diarmuid O’Cathasaigh gave a history of this ancient abbey. St. Mullins was the next venue where it was discovered that the residents were preparing for the annual Pattern Day which was to take place the following day.

CLAN BANQUET

One of the highlights of the weekend is the annual Clan Banquet and this took place on the Saturday night in the Manor Hotel when guests enjoyed a delicious meal and danced and enjoyed themselves to the music of Solitaire. On view throughout the night was a very comprehensive record and photographs of events of the clan down through the years which has been compiled and maintained by Mary Mahony. Many of the guests contributed party pieces which added to the enjoyment of the occasion. There were a number of draws for spot prizes which had been generously donated.

A great night was had by all and in the course of the evening the new Chieftain was announced as Fergal Lalor a native of County Carlow and now living in Suncroft, Co. Kildare with his wife and family. Clan Piper, Pat Lalor had the honour of piping Fergal in to the banqueting



Pauline Lalor Bennett

hall to a standing ovation. He was followed by the outgoing Chieftain Maeve Lalor who was paid glowing tributes for her work for the Clan in the preceding year to which Maeve responded that she had enjoyed her year of office.

In his inaugural address, Fergal said it was a proud moment for himself and his wife and family and also for his very proud mother who was in attendance at the event. Fergal also remembered and paid tribute to his late father, Fintan.

Fergal's first official function was to present Maeve with her Clan Certificate as outgoing Chieftain.



Frances Lalor Fleming

Sunday, July 23rd was the final day of the Clan Weekend which was marked by an Ecumenical Service conducted by Fr. Eddie Lalor with organist Laura Kelly. Readings were by Clan Chieftain, Fergal Lalor, Maeve Lalor, Declan Carroll, Áine Ó Cathasaigh, Eamon Lalor, Tom Lawlor and Kevin Lalor-Fitzpatrick. There was a special thanks from the Clan to Fr. Ger Ahern, PP for the use of the church and to Nora Tobin, Sacristan. Best wishes were extended to Fr. Ahern in his new parish in Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow.



Stuart and Sheila Lawlor



Members of the 2017-18 Ó Leathlobhair Clan Committee with 2017-18 Chieftain, Fergal Lalor

2017 JAMES FINTAN LALOR AUTUMN SCHOOL

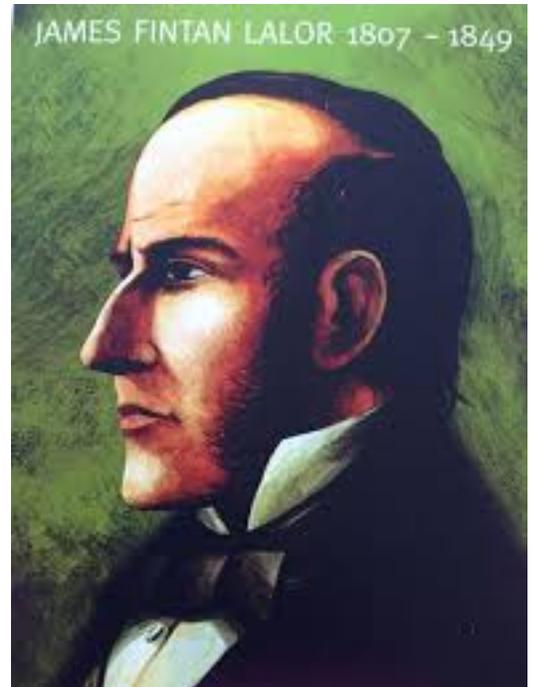
The annual James Fintan Lalor Autumn School 2017 took place on Saturday 18 November in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise.

There was a line up of impressive speakers. The event was organised by Laois Heritage Society and opened by Charles Flanagan, TD, Minister for Justice and the MC was Kathleen Culliton, Chairperson, JFLAS Sub-Committee. Cllr. Pdraig Fleming Chairperson of Laois County Council welcomed the delegates and speakers to the event.

Among the participants were Diarmuid Ferriter, Irish Historian, University Professor and Historian; Senator David Norris, Independent member of the Oireachtas, Gay and Civil Rights Activist, former Lecturer and James Joyce Scholar; Seamus Hosey, Broadcaster and former RTE Radio Producer, Muiris O'Suilleabhain, Author and Professor Emeritus of Archaeology, UCD, Patricia King, Trade Unionist and General Secretary ICTU, and Jane Maxwell, Principal Curator of Manuscripts and Research Library, TCD.

Other contributors included Kevin Meyers, Journalist and broadcaster, Claire O'Brien, Freelance Journalist Broadcaster, Eoghan Harris, Journalist, Lecturer, Screenwriter and Columnist, Robert Ballagh, Artist, Designer and Political Activist, Michael Foley, Journalist and Lecturer in Journalism and Marie Louise O'Donnell, Senator, Broadcaster and Journalist.

Entertainment was provided by Mountmellick and Portlaoise Comhaltas members and the closing remarks were contributed by Teddy Fennelly, President of the Laois Heritage Society.



OBITUARIES & VOTES OF SYMPATHY

JOE JACOB, R.I.P.

A very short time after The Clan Gathering we heard the sad news of the sudden passing of Joe Jacob. Joe attended many Clan weekends with his late wife Maureen until her sad passing in 2007. After a lapse of a few years, everyone was delighted to welcome him with his daughter and son-in law to the 2017 banquet. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Lalor and Jacob families. May they rest in peace.



VOTES OF SYMPATHY

Votes of sympathy were expressed for the families of the following:

Millie Lalor Fitzpatrick, mother of Kevin
Paddy Lalor, first Clan Chieftain and first chairman
Ann Rowney, sister of Mary Lalor, Ballycarroll
Michael Lalor, Ballycarnan
Mary Lalor Walsh, sister of Michael Lalor
Philomena Keyes, mother of Jimmy Lalor Fitzpatrick.
Maura Lalor Henry, sister of Paddy Lalor

May they all rest in peace.

Tuesday, August 22nd was a red-letter day for the Tenakill Lalor House, Raheen Committee, when, in conjunction with the National Heritage Council, an Open Day was hosted by Kevin and Mary Lalor-Fitzpatrick and the committee. Attending the event were Pdraig Fleming, Chairperson, Laois County Council, Sean Fleming TD., Brian Stanley, TD, Cllr. Jerry Lodge, Cllr. Caroline Stanley, John Mulholland, CEO Laois County Council, Michael Parsons, Chairperson, National Heritage Committee, Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer, Laois County Council and Fergal Lalor, Chieftain of the Lalor Clan.

Kevin Lalor-Fitzpatrick welcomed the guests and formally announced that the work had commenced on the conservation and eventual restoration of the building. He said that a remarkable family had been born in the house and members of that family made valuable contributions to the development of Ireland, Australia, Spain and other countries. He said that the objective of the committee was to ultimately restore the house to become a tourism venue, a repository of the works of Honest Pat Lalor, MP and his sons James Fintan, Richard MP and Peter, Speaker of the House of Parliament in Victoria, Australia.

John Mulholland congratulated the committee on their initiative and said that the County Council would support the project. Deputy Sean Fleming stressed the importance of the preservation of such an historic building and said its restoration would be of great value through tourism and for research purposes. Michael Parsons also congratulated the committee and wished them well in the undertaking and said the restoration of the house would be a great tribute to the Lalor family who had given so much to Ireland and Australia. Pdraig Fleming said that it was important that the contributions and sacrifices which people in the past had made had helped to shape the country in which we now live. It is important that their contribution be marked and remembered. Deputy Brian Stanley also recalled the contribution of the Lalors and particularly that of James Fintan whose writings had influenced some of the 1916 leaders.

Clan Chief, Fergal Lalor said it was a great honour for him to attend the function and wished the committee well in their endeavours and said the restored house would be a great asset not only to Laois but to Ireland and further afield.

Kevin Lalor-Fitzpatrick said that as a direct descendant of Honest Pat Lalor it gave him and his wife Mary, a great sense of satisfaction to see the house being restored. He congratulated Fintan Brennan, a native of the area, and a student at Heywood Community College, Ballinakill, for the marvellous scaled model of the house which he had constructed and which was on display on the day. Kevin said the day marked the commencement of the restoration project and to paraphrase one prominent politician it was an opportunity “to make Tenakill great again”.



*Some of the speakers and dignitaries at the Open Day at Tenakill House on 22nd August 2017.
Left to Right: Kevin Lalor Fitzpatrick; John Mulholland, Fergal Lalor, Michael Parsons and Sean Fleming TD.*

RESTORATION WORK COMMENCES ON TENAKILL HOUSE



It is a case of third time lucky as the current Tenakill House Restoration Committee has succeeded in getting the restoration process under way. On Monday 9th October 2017, a crew from Smith Demolition Limited, Demolition and Environmental Contractors, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, pulled onto the forecourt of Tenakill House.

For the next seven days, the crew worked flat out stressing doors and windows, removing vegetation which was covering the walls, cutting trees in the surround of the house which were threatening the exterior walls and generally making the structure safe. And what an opportune time it was for this work to be carried out as the country was battered a couple of days later by hurricane Ophelia which caused widespread damage to houses and buildings in general but Tenakill House stood

firm and no damage was suffered. The work carried out on the Georgian House, which was built, c1770, had the desired effect, and the storm failed to dislodge a brick.

Earlier in 2017 the committee had secured a grant from Laois County Council under “The Structures at Risk” category and this had to be matched by the committee funding. But as the committee, only in existence for a couple of months, had very limited funds a private source stepped forward and donated the bridging funding. This very generous gesture enabled the work to go ahead and secured the structure. The committee has retained the services of Richard McLoughlin, an architectural engineer and Austin Dennany, a structural engineer. “Our first concern was to make the structure safe and this we achieved. God only knows what could have happened if the work had not been completed prior to the arrival of Ophelia”, Richard added. And the good news is that the conservation work is to continue this year as a second grant has been acquired from the National Heritage Council and this will be used to undertake a complete survey of the structure to determine the exact condition of the house and the action needed to complete the restoration programme.

The house has a most unique history as it is here that Honest Pat Lalor MP, his sons James Fintan, Richard MP and Peter of Eureka fame, first saw the light of day. Their impact on the history of Ireland, Spain, Australia and America is immense and seldom has the influence of the members of a single family made such an impact on the politics of their adopted countries.



Kevin Lalor-Fitzpatrick, the current incumbent at Tenakill is delighted with the progress on the house and says now that a start has been made he hopes that people will rally to the cause. “Prior to the remedial work by Smiths the house was in a perilous state but now that it is structurally secure we intend to press ahead to complete the job”, commented Kevin. “The house is so unique, and restored, it would benefit the community greatly as it will prove to be a great tourist attraction. Since the open day, we have a regular flow of visitors to the house and no doubt this will increase when the house is finished. “We would hope to have the house as a venue for research as it is the intention to establish a library containing the writings of Honest Pat MP, James Fintan, Richard MP and of course Peter who had a very colourful career in Australia” added Kevin. He went on to say that the complete restoration will require substantial funding and a fundraising drive is currently being implemented.



- ☛ Communicate with all who bear the Ó Leathlobhair name and with those descended from them, including those who do not carry the name.
- ☛ Maintain a register of all who join the association.
- ☛ Hold an annual gathering of members and intending members.
- ☛ Foster and promote the rich heritage of the Clan.
- ☛ Help and encourage those abroad, so that they may know and be proud of their heritage.
- ☛ Gather information and distribute to all members.
- ☛ Promote our county and encourage others to visit it.
- ☛ The term of office for an Honorary Chieftain is one year. While a person may serve two or more times, they cannot serve in two consecutive years UNLESS, in the case where no valid nomination is received, then the outgoing Chieftain remains in office for another year.
- ☛ In the event of only one member allowing their name to go forward for the position of Chieftain, then that person is duly declared Chieftain. The position is never left vacant.
- ☛ Nine to ten committee meetings to be held each year.
- ☛ Temporary *ad hoc* committees may be formed for executing specific short-term tasks.
- ☛ A modest fee is charged for membership and is renewable annually. Any member who fails to pay their membership fee for two consecutive years are removed from the mailing list.
- ☛ Members have a right to vote and to receive regular bulletins.

TO REGISTER AS A CLAN MEMBER PLEASE CONTACT

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OR

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