

# WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

## Ó Leathlobhair Clan

*Lawler / Lawlor / Lalor*

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# Ó Leathlobhair



### UPCOMING EVENTS

2018 CHRISTMAS PARTY  
14<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2018 - CARLOW

2019 CLAN RALLY - ABBEYLEIX  
5/6/7<sup>TH</sup> JUL 2019

*The 2019 Clan Gathering to will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Ó Leathlobhair Clan Gathering, so please come along and help us celebrate this special weekend of events.*

*More details nearer the time.....*



*Photos from the Tour to Lullymore during the 2018 Clan Gathering*



## CHIEFTAIN'S MESSAGE – MARY LALOR CARMODY

It has been a great honour for me to be elected chief of the Ó Leathlobhair Clan - a Clan which has members spread across the world. It is a Clan which has seen some of its members rise to great heights in politics - both at home and abroad - in olden times and in recent years. The Clan is the most active of the current Irish clan groups in the country and it is growing from strength to strength each year. With the resurgence of interest in the Tenakill House Restoration Project at home and abroad it would be a wonderful achievement to have a world gathering of Lalors in County Laois within the next couple of years. As the Tenakill project continues to grow so is the interest which it is generating worldwide, and it could be an opportune time for a committee to be formed to advance this project. I would be completely committed to such a project as it would create a worldwide interest in Laois, generate tourism and bring in much needed revenue to the county on a continual basis. The clan will be 25 years in existence in 2019 and this could be now got off the ground.



*Mary Lalor Carmody  
2018-19 Ó Leathlobhair Clan Chieftain*

The Ó Leathlobhair Clan is the most active of the clans in the country with its annual gathering and outing which has attracted clan members from all over the country and from abroad so let's give it a try to make the event a worldwide celebration.

Another project which I would like to see resurrected is the James Fintan Lalor Autumn School which had attracted historians, political commentators and academics from at home and abroad.

I am deeply interested in the history of Laois. I am a member of the Laois Writers Group and some of my writings have appeared in two anthologies which we have published. I am also Treasurer of the Tenakill Lalor House Restoration Committee which has just completed the second stage of the restoration of this historic house which will be celebrating its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. Interest in the restoration project has awakened the interests of Lalors in Australia and America and there have been a number of visitors from these continents. One visitor, a descendant of Peter Lalor of The Eureka Stockade fame, placed her hand on the hall door of Tenakill House and announced that she felt that she had at last come home, such was the emotional impact of her visit. In my tenure as Clan Chieftain I will do all in my power to expand and develop the Clan. I might even be convinced, if there is to be another re-enactment on the Rock of Dunamase, to allow myself to be unwillingly dragged in front of the Lord Chief Justice to sign away the Lalor Clan rights to their ancestral territories prior to being transplanted to Tarbert in Kerry. But only of course if there is the benefit of attracting more tourists to Laois, and particularly Lalors to their homeland.

Again, it is a great honour for me to be elected Clan Chieftain and I feel that with the added blood of the other Laois Septs in my veins, that of the McEvoy's, Kellys and Lalors I am very comfortable and at ease in that role and will do all this year to increase membership and raise the profile of the clan to a new height.

*Mary Lalor Carmody*

### 2018 AGM

There was a record attendance for the 2018 annual Ó Leathlobhair (Lalor, Lawler, Lawlor) clan gathering and AGM which took place between Friday, July 13 and Sunday, July 15, 2018 in the Manor Hotel, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois

Clan Chairman, Kevin Lalor-Fitzpatrick welcomed everyone, especially those attending their first Clan gathering. The first business of the weekend was clan secretary Annie Lalor reading the 2017 AGM minutes which were unanimously adopted. Assistant Secretary for correspondence, Mary O'Mahony also gave a very detailed report and both secretaries were complimented by Kevin for the detailed reports.

Mary Carmody, the Clan's social media secretary, gave details of enquiries from abroad regarding applying for membership and clan activities.

Kevin, as Chairperson and PRO thanked all the members for their help and co-operation throughout the year and said that it was that interest and commitment which made the Clan the most vibrant and active in the country. He thanked the press for their coverage of activities throughout the year and the management and staff of the Manor Hotel for their help each year with the annual rally.

Other reports read were from Treasurer, Paddy Lalor, who reported the finances in a healthy state; Stuart Lawlor, Clan Web Operator who kept the activities of the Clan before the members through Facebook and social media; Clans of Ireland Representative, Aine Ó Cathasaigh, Howth, Co. Dublin, and Clan Chieftain, Fergal Lalor.

The following officers were elected for 2018/2019: Chairperson and PRO: Kevin Lalor-Fitzpatrick; Vice-Chairperson: Tom Lawlor; Minutes Secretary: Annie Lalor; Asst. Secretary: Mary Mahony; Correspondence and Computer Secretary: Mary Carmody; Treasurer: Paddy Lalor; Asst. Treasurer: Eamonn Lalor; Facebook and Web Operator: Stuart Lawlor; Clans of Ireland Reps: New Chieftain 2018/2019, Aine Ó Cathasaigh and Margot Coogan; Committee: Fergal Lalor, Bridget Lawlor, P.J. Lalor, Maeve Lalor, Eamonn Lalor, Pat Lalor and Dan Carmody.



### LIFE MEMBERS

The following are Life Members of the Ó Leathlobhair Clan; Mary Lalor, The Heath; Tom Lawlor, Abbeyleix; David and Ursula Lalor, Killeigh; Josie Dunne, Shanahoe; Paddy Lalor, Ballycarroll; Michael Lalor, Camross; Annie Lalor, Camross; and Kevin Lalor-Fitzpatrick, Raheen.

Following the election of officers, an open-door discussion took place which gave everyone present an opportunity to speak and give their opinions. Many suggestions were put forward which will be considered and debated by the committee in the coming 12 months. Emphasis was put on the forthcoming 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations which take place next year. Kevin thanked everyone for their contributions and suggestions and that they should make the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations a memorable occasion.

Under any other business, The James Fintan Lalor Autumn School was discussed and was placed on the agenda for future discussion.

## TENAKILL HOUSE

Dan Carmody, Secretary of the Tenakill Lalor House Restoration Committee said phase 1 of the restoration project was completed in October 2017 and the building had been made safe. Phase 2 would be starting August/September 2018, and this would further strengthen the fabric of the structure and that Phase 3 would be undertaken in 2019.

An open day, in conjunction with National Heritage Day, Organised by the National Heritage Council was planned for August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. At that event an international fund-raising drive, The Sponsor a Slate Campaign, was launched. One of the highlights of the year was the visit of the Australian Ambassador, Richard Andrews to Tenakill House, on February 14, and despite the inclement conditions he thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

Among the many visitors to Tenakill House during the year was an 11-year-old boy Ethan Kelly who had completed a school project on Peter Lalor of Eureka fame. Kevin and Mary Lalor-Fitzpatrick welcomed Ethan, his younger brother Alex and their parents, Leann and Chris Kelly. Also in the group were Leann's parents, Fintan and Mary Hinch, Mountmellick.

## VOTES OF SYMPATHY

Votes of sympathy were extended to clan members who had lost a loved one in the past year.

## NOMINATIONS

The nominations for the Chieftainship for 2018/19 which had to be in by close of business of the AGM were Mary Carmody, Margot Coogan and Patrick Lalor. This concluded the formal business of the AGM and it was then on with the entertainment. Music and song were by the ever-popular Joe Coogan. A comedy sketch was provided by the Portlaoise Active Retirement Group featuring Paddy Lalor, Andy McQuillen, Fintan Finlay, Bernie Downey and John McAuliffe.

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## CLAN TOUR

The annual Clan tour for 2018 was a visit to the Bord na Mona Interpretative Centre at Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare. It was a beautiful Summer day and the group were given a detailed history of the ancient monastic settlement at Lullymore and of the activities of some of the locals during the 1798 rebellion.



There was a marvellous audio visual presentation on the historic past of the area augmented by commentary by very well-versed guides. Some of our visitors stepped back in time displaying their turf cutting skills and proved to be deft hands with the slane even though for some this particular version proved to be a little difficult to handle as it was a left-handed slane!

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## CLAN BANQUET

On Saturday evening it was back to the Manor Hotel for the annual banquet and the staff and management of the Manor Hotel really pulled out all the stops to make it a memorable occasion with a really delicious dinner.

Following the meal, the nominees for clan chieftainship were introduced and they were Mary Carmody, nee Lalor, Portlaoise and Pat Lalor, Moneenroe, Kilkenny. After the votes were collected and counted, overseen by outgoing Clan Chieftain, Fergal Lalor and Susan Mooney, the Clan Piper, Pat Lalor, Ballon, Co. Carlow, piped in the new Ó Leathlobhair Clan Chieftain 2018/19, Mary Carmody, to a standing ovation.

Mary thanked her proposer and seconder and those who voted for her and pledged to represent at all times the Clan with honour and distinction.

She added that during her tenure of office that it would be one of her aims to increase the membership of the Clan.

She said she was honoured to be elected Clan Chieftain because the Ó Leathlobhair Clan had produced many members who had distinguished themselves at home and abroad. Among them were Honest Pat Lalor, MP, a friend of Daniel O'Connell, and his sons, James Fintan, Richard MP and Peter of Eureka Stockade fame. Honest Pat secured his place in Irish history by being instrumental in starting the tithe war. His three sons, James Fintan, Richard and Peter were Young Irelanders and took part in the aborted uprising in Cashel, Co. Tipperary in 1849 for which James Fintan served six months in Jail. Richard later became an MP and Peter emigrated to Australia where he led the gold miners in the Eureka Stockade uprising.

Pat Lalor said it was a very proud moment for Mary and her family and he wished her well in her year and he vowed to return to battle another year.

Then it was on with the dancing and entertainment and the fabulous group Solitaire, as usual provided the music. Diarmuid O'Cathassaigh provided music and song and gave a wonderful rendition of the Ó Leathlobhair Anthem, Magillamaheer. The entire event was recorded on camera by James Carroll.



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## ECUMENICAL SERVICE



On Sunday morning the Clan members attended an Ecumenical Religious Service in Killermogh Church, Ballacolla where they received a very warm welcome from local members of the Church of Ireland Community and Canon Patrick Harvey who presided at the service. Clan Chieftain, Mary Carmody, read the Gospel.

After the service it was back to the Manor Hotel in Abbeyleix for a farewell lunch and there was universal agreement that it had been a very successful weekend.

### THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

*The support received from Laois Tourism and the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel for the Clan Gathering is acknowledged and greatly appreciated. Many Thanks.*

## THE SEVEN SEPTS RETURNED TO LAOIS

After almost four centuries, history was reversed when the Kerry exiled representatives of the Seven Septs of Laois returned to their ancestral home in a re-enactment staged on the picturesque Rock of Dunamase. The event was staged by the Irish Country Roads and Culture Trails group. It was staged in association with The Bulfin Heritage Cycle Rally which is based in Durrow, Co. Laois.

It was in 1607 Laois that the leaders of the Seven Septs of Laois, The O'Moores, The O'Lalors, The O'Dorans, The McEvoy's, The O'Dowlings, The O'Kellys and The O'Devoy's were brought by force to Lalors Mills, near Portlaoise, and forced into signing an agreement that they would transplant to Tarbert in County Kerry. It was the end of the ancient clan system in Laois and it paved the way for the English crown to bring in Planters from England who were awarded the clans traditional lands.

The event, which was held at the end of August this year was part of National Heritage Week. A large contingent from the Tarbert area of North Kerry travelled to Laois for the event. These were members of the Tarbert Historical Society and many of them could trace their lineage back to County Laois and they bore the traditional Laois names of the Laois Septs.

The script for the production was written by Michael Creagh from Rathdowney. Those taking part included Donal Ryan, Rathdowney (Lord Chief Justice), John Maguire, Galmoy (Patrick Crosbie, who organised the actual transplantation). Sean Conroy, Durrow and Mattie Doyle, Granstown, narrated the events while a lament was played by uilleann piper Diarmuid Meagher (Rathdowney) and his daughter Catherine on concertina.

For Mary Carmody in her first official function as newly elected Ó Leathlobhair Clan Chieftain, it was a harrowing experience as she was unceremoniously dragged before the Chief Justice by two soldiers and forced to sign away clan rights to their ancestral lands. But it all ended well when the contingent from Tarbert, led by drummer Hugh Sheppard from Durrow, arrived on the scene carrying seven torches of peace.

## TENAKILL HOUSE RESTORATION FUNDRAISER

August 22, 2018 was open day at Tenakill House, Raheen, held in conjunction with the National Heritage Council's Heritage Week and what a day it proved to be. Kevin and Mary Lalor-Fitzpatrick and the Tenakill House Restoration Committee pulled out all the stops to make it a memorable occasion. Mary acted as MC for the occasion.

There were spirited oral contributions from Dan Carmody, (Honest Pat Lalor, MP), Kevin Lalor-Fitzpatrick (Peter Lalor of Eureka Stockade fame), Eamonn Delaney (Richard Lalor MP) and James Murphy (James Fintan). All four were suitably attired in period costume which added colour to the backdrop of Tenakill House. But as in all these things there is a commercial element and it was the role of new clan Chieftain, Mary Carmody to announce details of the 'Sponsor a Slate fundraiser' to raise money for a new roof for Tenakill House which is in the process of being restored.

Phase two of the restoration was completed at the end of October 2018 and phase three will involve the clearing out of the debris inside the structure which is a very detailed and painstaking operation as there may be artefacts and mouldings which are invaluable as they are templates which can be used in internal restoration work.

The Sponsor a Slate campaign is what it says on the tin. The Tenakill Restoration Committee came up with a plan to sell slates for a new roof for Tenakill House. Slates are on sale €5 each, and there is no limit as to how many an individual can purchase. In return the purchaser will receive a commemorative signed certificate and their name will be recorded in the Roll of Honour which will be available for inspection when the house is restored. Slates can be purchased as presents and what a nice gift it would be this Christmas or for birthdays or anniversaries to purchase some slates in the names of relatives living abroad. Purchases can be made by placing your order with Kevin and Mary Lalor-Fitzpatrick, Tenakill, Raheen, Mountrath, Co Laois, Ireland or by Paypal: [Tenakillhouse restoration@gmail.com](mailto:Tenakillhouse restoration@gmail.com) or via bank account: Tenakill House Restoration Fund, Bank of Ireland, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, Ireland: A/C No:79166416: sort code 90 18 88.

### CLLR. JERRY LODGE

It is amazing how things happen by chance. It is amazing how a casual conversation can be the catalyst and have far reaching consequences as a result. And so it was that following a casual chat in 2016 with Mary Carmody, the 2018 Ó Leathlobhair Clan Chieftain, that Cllr. Jerry Lodge became interested in Tenakill House, Raheen. He visited the house and met Kevin and Mary Lalor Fitzpatrick in late 2016.

A committee was formed, The Tenakill Lalor House Restoration Committee and Gerry arranged meetings with Council Officials including Catherine Casey, Laois County Council Heritage Officer, who proved to be tremendously helpful. Grants were sourced and secured, and the work commenced on the restoration of the house. Two phases have now been completed and phase three (2018/19) will see the most extensive work to date being undertaken preparing the structure for a new roof in phase four in 2019/2020 which will be the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the house.

Jerry was a remarkable man in that he was the longest serving public representative in the country, 51 years, having been returned as a member of Portlaoise Town Commission in 1967. In all that time he never became cynical, he was “a half full glass” man to the end, he saw the good in everything, positivity, conviction and dedication were the hallmarks of his career. He did not entertain failure. The restoration of Tenakill House will be an enduring tribute to the spirit of Jerry because if it had not been for his “can do” outlook the present committee would not exist and would not be as far advanced in their plans for the restoration of the house.

Ní beag a leithead ann arís.

### MRS LILY LALOR M<sup>C</sup>KENNA

Lily Lalor McKenna passed away earlier this year. She was a lovely, quiet, gentle lady who endeared herself to all. She lived in Co. Cavan. She attended every event of the Clan weekends for many years while her health allowed. The Clan sends their deepest sympathy to her daughter Margaret, grand-daughter Sarah, nephew John and all family members.

"May Lily rest in peace "

### VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

Nora Lalor Kellegher, sister of Paddy.

Margaret Gomes, sister of Dan Carmody.

Phyllis Lalor, sister-in-law of Mary Lalor, Ballycarroll.

Jimmy Lalor Fitzpatrick, former committee member.

Micheal Lalor, son of Michael.

Esther Cantwell, sister of Annie.

Dan and Doris Lalor, Timahoe.

Eilis Lalor Maher, Clonaslee.

Andy Doogue, brother-in-law of Fr. Eddie and Eleanor.

Joe Jacob, brother-in-law of P.J.

Joan Mitchell, sister-in-law of Annie.

Julie Lalor Perry, sister of Pat Lalor, Moneenroe.

Kathleen, sister of Diarmuid.

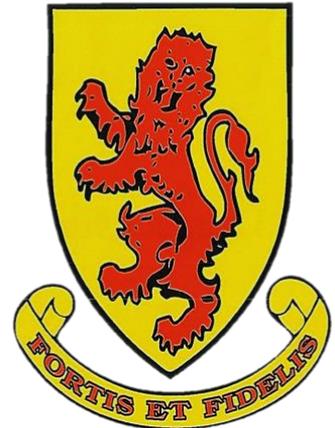
Mrs. Fitzgibbons, mother-in-law of John Lalor.

Madge McEvoy, mother-in-law of Jennifer.

Mary Seale, cousin of Kevin.

Peter Bennett, brother-in-law Margot.

*May they all rest in Peace.*



- ☞ 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.
- ☞ Up to six committee meeting 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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