



# THE BUTLER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2002

Newsletter No. 19

### Coming Attractions

#### Gathering in Madrid

The annual 'Madrid Luncheon' will take place on Saturday, **16th November 2002**, at 14.00 hours in the "patio" and hospitality room of the British Embassy Church, calle de Núñez Balboa 43 (at the junction of streets Núñez de Balboa and Hermosilla). The charge per person has been kept to 20, thanks to the in-house, "in-Butler" catering team, and it is payable on the day. You need to confirm your attendance before 12th of November to **DAVID BUTLER, ORENSE 46- 5J, 28020 MADRID, SPAIN.**

For accommodation, David recommends Hotel Casón del Tormes, calle Río 28013 Madrid ( 100 per night per double room), or Hostal Felipe V, Gran Vía 15-4D, 28013 Madrid ( 50 euros per night per double room). We hope that you can come to this very enjoyable annual event.

#### 13th Triennial Rally in Ireland

The Committee are beavering away on the programme for the 13th Triennial Rally in Ireland to take place from **Tuesday 9th September - Sunday 14th September 2003.** The preliminary programme is at the end of the newsletter.

#### Looking for BSAs

No, not the oily old motorbikes. We are looking for 'Butler Society Activities' around the world, including Ireland, so that members can network and participate in shared 'cultural' experiences. But we need to identify volunteers who will organize them, as it is just not possible to arrange them from Kilkenny – we know Melo is fantastic but she finds it difficult to perform miracles some of the time. It doesn't have to be a monthly event, just an occasional outing or soirée to bring people together. So, any volunteers can let us know at [melosina@hotmail.com](mailto:melosina@hotmail.com)

#### On 'Kew' in London

For example, there's been talk of having a day at Kew in Spring 2003, possibly to include a visit to the Public Record Office. But we need somebody in London to make the arrangements, like bookings and to flesh out a small programme for the event. If you're stuck for advise on how it's done, we would be delighted to be of assistance again at [melosina@hotmail.com](mailto:melosina@hotmail.com)

#### News from New Zealand

In Auckland nine brave Butlers, including Rosalind Butler, attended a 'tea'. The obvious success of the event means that they will be holding another one in six months time. So, if anybody is interested in swelling the numbers you can contact Rosalind at [rosbutler@ihug.co.nz](mailto:rosbutler@ihug.co.nz).

The New Zealand Butler Society are having a committee meeting on 10th November, 2002.

## **The Jerpoint Picnic**

The unseasonal rain and low temperatures didn't dampen the spirits or cool the ardour of the 'usual Butler Society suspects' who turned up at Jerpoint Abbey in County Kilkenny on the last day of June this year for a 'cultural picnic'. Dr. Albert Jordan, who in the Summer of 2001 led members on an interesting expedition around medieval castles and tower houses in and about Kilkenny, sacrificed another of his precious Sundays to reveal some of the colour and history of Jerpoint, Kells Priory and Kilree early Church.

At Jerpoint, Albert spoke about the significance of the Abbey as a medieval town centre where the segregation of choir monks and lay brothers was reflected in the contrasting quality of the different parts of the complex which they used or occupied. Albert related how (when he was a tour guide at Jerpoint in his student days) an American tourist, on hearing the main Dublin Waterford train trundling along in the background, commented that it was unfortunate indeed for the Cistercians to have built such a splendid Abbey so close to the railway line! Albert also revealed that the tomb of St. Nicholas (yes, Santa Claus himself) is in the abandoned medieval town, Newtown Jerpoint, just beside the Abbey and yet to be excavated – the town, not the tomb!

Following the visit to Jerpoint, the cold and wet pilgrims adjourned to the warmth and relative comfort of the Old Mill at nearby Kells for their 'picnic'. Once again Albert pulled a rabbit out of the hat and treated us to a talk and slide show on medieval monastic settlements. A visit afterwards to the vast Kells Priory revealed just how extensive these places were as centres of civilisation or early urbanisation.

At Kilree, an early church, we saw some interesting examples of tomb sculpture and an almost perfect round tower. It was at this point that chaos descended on the party as Melo's dog, Inca, decided to go on a solo tour of the area. While Melo eventually prevailed on the weary pilgrims to make their way to Lavistown for tea and 'reflection', she herself remained to search out Inca ('Rabbits comme je trouve' is Inca's motto!).

Happily, Inca turned up safe and well and brought a very happy end to a most interesting day. If any of our members has a suggestion for other similar outings – not necessarily involving a canine treasure hunt – feel free to make contact at melosina@hotmail.com.

## **Deaths**

It is with a deep sense of loss that we report the deaths of two of our vice-presidents - **the Vicomte de Butler** from Ker-Maria in France and **Noel Butler** of Melbourne, Australia. Both of them have attended many of the Rallies. Members will recall the **Vicomte de Butler** at the Oxford Rally in 1986 as well in Kilkenny. He took a great interest in the Society.

**Noel Butler** founded the South Cross Region of the Society in 1977 and was its President until 1987 when he became the very hard-working secretary and then a member of the Committee until his death. He came halfway round the world very often to be with us at the Rallies - The last one we saw him at was in 1998 in Germany. – I wish I had been at the picnics that he organized in Melbourne and The Great Butler Round Up. The help and advice of both these vice-presidents will be much missed by the Society.

We are also saddened by the death of Jim Butler-Kearney of Alton, Hants, England. His family came from Kilkenny and he was related to the Butlers of Paulstown. He had been a keen member of the Society since its formation.

## **Publications**

### **Centenary Celebration of Hubert Butler**

The proceedings of the Centenary Celebration of Hubert Butler, one of the founders of the Society, are being published in association with the Butler Society. This prestigious publication will include the talks given by Roy Foster, (Carroll Professor Irish History at Oxford), John Casey (Professor of English at the University of Virginia, USA), John Banville (novelist), Neal Ascherson (columnist with the Observer), Terence Brown (Professor of Modern English Literature at Trinity College, Dublin), and Edna Longley (Professor of English at Queens University, Belfast). **A copy will be sent to each paid-up member of the Society.**

## **The Journal**

The editors are working on the next Journal and the latest date for receipt of articles for inclusion is December 15th. In future, articles will only be accepted either in disc form or by e-mail at johnpkirwan@hotmail.com.

## **Gazeta Buteler**

The Society has received the most generous gift from René de Buteler of a complete set of Gazeta Buteler. René, our Vice President from Argentina, edited 12 numbers of the Gazeta Buteler from 1991. Members who read Spanish now have the opportunity of doing research in La Gazeta de Los Buteler. Réne has done a general introduction with summaries of the history of Butelers relating to Argentina.

## Letters of Mehitabel Canning

“Mehitabel Canning, a redoubtable woman” - Family letters edited by Giles Hunt. The Cottage, Fairstead, Clay-next-the Sea, Holt, Norfolk NR25 7RJ England. Giles Hunt is descended from Emma Butler, granddaughter of Mehitabel Canning who married William J. Butler, Dean of Lincoln.

In the 19th century, the Cannings played an influential role in English foreign policy. George Canning was Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister. Stratford Canning, ambassador in Constantinople during the Crimean War and Charles Canning was viceroy of India. These letters give an interesting and amusing background to the life of a merchant family who had moved from Dublin and were about to enter public life.

## The Butler Society web site

The Butler Society web site is [www.butler-soc.org](http://www.butler-soc.org). The members only password is <ancestor>

## **Butler ties**

A blue silk tie with the Butler Society Emblem is for sale at 21.59; £17 Sterling; US\$30/ CAN AUS NZ \$40 Price includes postage from The Butler Society, Lavistown, Kilkenny Ireland.

# **The Thirteenth International Butler Rally in Kilkenny**

**Tuesday 9th September to Sunday 14th September 2003**

*Preliminary Outline Programme*

Tuesday 9th September 2003 – Dublin

- Registration at the Heraldic Museum, 2 Kildare Street Dublin 2.
- A tour of the Royal Irish Academy.
- Lunch.
- A visit to The Royal Hospital and garden at Kilmainham

Wednesday 10th September – Carlow & Kilkenny

- Coach leaves Dublin, visit the beautiful gardens at Altamont, County Carlow.
- Lunch with Lord and Lady Rathdonnell at Lisnavagh.
- Reception in Rothe House after booking into hotels in Kilkenny.

#### Thursday 11th September – Kilkenny

- Official opening of the Rally at Kilkenny Castle.
- Triennial General Meeting.
- Own arrangements for lunch.
- Visit to Maidenhall, the home of the late Hubert Butler who was one of the founders of the Society.
- Irish music and dancing in the evening.

#### Friday 12th September - Tipperary

- Coach tour to Tipperary including the newly restored Old Guard in Clonmel.
- Visit Cahir Castle and the Swiss Cottage

#### Saturday 13th September – Kilkenny

- Genealogical forum and talks.
- Tour of Kilkenny City.
- Society dinner in Kilkenny Castle.

#### Sunday 14th September – Kilkenny

- Combined church services.
- Reception in Kilkenny Castle followed by lunch.
- The coach will depart from Kilkenny and arrive in Dublin approx 19.00

Information from : **Melosina Lenox-Conyngham Lavistown, Kilkenny Ireland**

Telephone/fax 056-21545 e-mail <melosina@hotmail.com>

Trains on Sunday leave Kilkenny at: 10.09 arrive Dublin 12.02

15.19 “ “ 17.10

19.20 “ “ 21.18

#### **Accommodation**

##### **Dublin**

We suggest Trinity College, Dublin. (It is student accommodation)

Their web: <http://www2.tcd.ie/Accom> e-mail:- Reservations@tcd.ie Fax:-353-1-6711267

Tel:- 353-1-6081177

##### **Kilkenny**

The Club House is offering a special rate of per night, per person sharing B &B. 5 nights 300 pps; 4 nights 260 pps. Singles are 5 nights 337.50 4 nights 290 3 nights Fax:- 056-71920 Tel:-056-21994 e-mail: clubhouse@iol.ie

Butler House has a B&B rate for Butlers of 155 single; 85 -100 per person sharing. Tel: 056-65707

Fax: 056-65626 e-mail: Res@butler.ie

Many more hotels and B & Bs are available in Kilkenny than in previous years. For information about Kilkenny accommodation <[www.southeastireland.com](http://www.southeastireland.com)> and click on Kilkenny or call the Kilkenny Tourist Office, Tel:056-51500 Fax:056-63955 - Ref: Butler Society