



THE BUTLER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2014

No. 38

The Butler Society in the Internet Age

The Virtual Society

Once upon a time, The Butler Society was a social club that organised a tri-annual gathering, "the rally", and shared personal histories and other stories through the Journal. We had a web site early on (1997 in fact!) thanks to John Dunboyne who had the ingenuity and passion to hack a site on a word processor. Fortunately John never wanted our society to lose its personal touch and the website was simple, functional and stable. It even had some extra features like protected pages and a forum for correspondence.

Nowadays the Internet rules our lives. "Media devices" are an extension of ourselves. If you are under 25, you might even speak "text". Lol, :-) . . .

but we don't. Some members wanted to upgrade our site while others didn't even use it, so we have tried to maintain a website which serves the original purpose without becoming the society or taking us beyond the community of amity that founded the Society.

The website is still really just a brochure to let people know what we do, but there are some welcome features like the gallery of photos and videos. We have electronic PDF versions of our Journals and they are all in the members' section for you to enjoy (Thanks to David Butler who organised the scanning.) We even have an [on-line shop](#) offering merchandise with our crest, like this shot glass.



The web can also help keep costs down, and some administration can be done through the virtual part of the society. There is a Paypal payment facility for Rallies and membership (operational soon), and the newsletter is now distributed by e-mail. Taking over the website from John Dunboyne has been a new experience. We discuss its role regularly, hoping it can help communications without detracting from the personal feeling. Our family society has eschewed commercial shine in favour of an amateur, personal approach, which we all felt from people like John who welcomed me on every occasion. If you have any queries about the website, emails, and so on, please get in touch with the committee.

Triennial Rally 2015

The next rally has been set for August of 2015. While the detailed agenda is still being worked out, it will commence on the evening of Tuesday 18th August at Kilkenny Castle and run until Sunday the 23rd. A full programme will be sent later this year.

Administration

Like a lot of people over the past few years, our committee members have found themselves under more and more work pressure in their day jobs. Of course, it goes without saying that the impact of the sad deaths of two of the mainstays of the Society, (Melo Lennox Conyngham and John Duboyne) has been profound indeed. In short, we have been struggling to continue.

Naturally, all of this has had impacted committee members in different ways and it has affected the level of responsiveness to queries etc. from the wider membership. While the Internet and modern technologies have gone some way towards alleviating pressure, Tom Butler, our webmaster, continues to explore ways in which we can exploit technology to improve the quality of service that we offer, taking care to maintain the intimacy and family character of the Society, which has been the bedrock of its success.

The website is constantly under review and changes will continue to be made to improve the level of 'service' that members receive. But we would urge you to be patient because it is a time-consuming process.

Butler Society Papers

Since the last Rally, the committee has decided to vest the society's papers in the care of Kilkenny Archives Ltd. at their HQ in St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny. At the request of the Society, John Kirwan, archivist and committee member, has now fully catalogued the material for The Butler Society. The collection remains the property of the Society.

The Ormonde Charters

The original loan agreement between the Office of Public Works (OPW) and the Society came to an end last December when we were made aware that they had largely been taken down at Carrick-on-Suir. They were given on loan in 1981-2 when Hubert Butler and the then committee placed them with the OPW. While they are currently in safekeeping, the committee hopes that a new loan agreement can be reached to have them on display at Kilkenny Castle. In the meantime, The Heritage Council of Ireland has agreed to put them on display at its Kilkenny headquarters, and expect to have them in place for "Heritage Week" at the end of August 2014.

Journal of The Butler Society

Journal editor David Butler is working on No. 2 of volume 5 with publication expected in November 2014 and a launch being mooted for either Kilkenny Castle or Ormonde Castle in Carrick-on-Suir. Further details will be issued later.

We understand from David that the forthcoming journal is full. However, as ever, he continues to welcome articles for the next edition. In due course an invitation will be issued to all members for this event.

A Life in Postcards

"A Life in Postcards" is a collection of writings by Melosina Lenox-Conygham, edited by Melo's niece, Sophia Grene, and published by Lilliput Press, 2013. The first edition, underwritten by the The Butler Society, sold out very quickly and a second edition was published last December. Copies of this book are available from committee member John Kirwan at the retail cost of €15.00, which includes post & packaging. Copies can be purchased through the office of Hon. Secretary or you may write direct to John at The Square, Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny. Paypal is perhaps best for payment.

Subscriptions

If you have not already paid your Annual Subscription (January to December 2014), it is now due. The subscription rates for 2014 are as follows:

EURO€15
STG£10
AUS\$25
CAN\$25
US\$20

Options for payment are:

1. Paypal to reade @ clubi . ie - please identify who is making the payment in the message line of the optional email (see "enter personal message for the recipient") so we can allocate the payment to the correct member and confirm receipt
2. Cheques in any of the above currencies only - please do not send subscriptions in any other currency, as we are no longer able cash

them at our bank. Cheques should be made payable to “The Butler Society”

3. Please ensure that Euro cheques are drawn on an Irish bank, as the charges against Euro cheques drawn on non-Irish banks are prohibitive
4. Paypal is our preferred method of payment, as bank charges in Ireland have become excessive

Cheques should be sent to:

Mark Reade, Hon. Treasurer
THE BUTLER SOCIETY
c/o Ballyvolan
Newcastle
Greystones
Co Wicklow, Ireland

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____