



THE BUTLER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2017

No. 42

Dear Members,

The Butler Society Golden Jubilee Mini-Rally at Kilkenny Castle **Friday 4th to Monday 7th August 2017**

This event commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Butler Society in 1967 has now been booked with Kilkenny Castle. It will commence on the evening of Friday 4th August 2017 at Kilkenny Castle and run until lunchtime on Monday 7th August 2017.

Draft Programme 50th Anniversary Rally 4 – 7 August 2017

| Day | Time | Activity |
|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Friday 4 August | 6.00pm | Registration of Attendees, Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle |
| | 7.00pm | Reception and introductory talks in Tower (principally Tom Crampton, our webmaster, demonstrating the new website capabilities), perhaps others |
| Saturday 5 August | 9.30 - 10.30am | Depart by coach from The Parade, Kilkenny to Carrick-on-Suir to visit Ormonde Castle Tea/coffee on arrival, followed by talk on recent renovation works at the Castle |
| | 1- 1.30pm | Coach to Kilcash for lunch (via Carrigbeg Bridge built in 1447 by Sir Edmund MacRichard Butler). Catered lunch in Community Hall, Kilcash with talks, followed by visit to restored Kilcash Castle grounds. |
| | 5.00pm | Arrival back at The Parade, Kilkenny |
| | 7.00pm | Drinks Reception in the Picture Gallery of Kilkenny Castle |
| | 8.00pm | Golden Jubilee Gala Dinner in The Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle – Black Tie or Lounge suit |

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| Sunday 6 August | 10.00 – 10.30am | Coach from The Parade to Sunday Service at 11am in Ennisnag Church of Ireland, where Hubert/Peggy Butler & Melosina Lenox-Conyngham are buried. Wreath laying. |
| | 12.00 – 12.30pm | Coach to Mount Juliet Estate via Thomastown for lunch from 1.30pm, including short talk on the Butler Earls of Carrick, who built the house |
| | 3.00 – 3.30pm | Transfer (30 mins) to Maidenhall, home of the Hubert Butler family, for tea/coffee and a talk on the history of the house and the Butler residency |
| | 5.30pm | Arrive back at The Parade, Kilkenny |
| | 7.00 pm | Documentary: ‘Hubert Butler: Witness to the Future’ will be shown, at The Set Theatre, Langton House Hotel, John Street, Kilkenny (duration 98 mins), followed by a discussion. Wine and canapés reception. |
| Monday 7 August | 10.00am | Unveiling of updated Marquesses of Ormonde memorial tablet in St Canice’s Cathedral by Ormonde family. Three vignettes from Rally stalwarts on Rallies past. |
| | 1.00pm | Farewell lunch in Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle |

Note: The anticipated cost per head for visitors to the 50th Anniversary Rally in Kilkenny will be €280.00 including a non-refundable registration fee of €50. The cost for the Gala Dinner only will be €100.00 per person. Payment for the Rally can be made to treasurer@butler-soc.org via paypal and should be made as soon as possible to reserve a place.

Current Schedules for Trains from Heuston Station, Dublin to MacDonagh Station, Kilkenny are listed below (please also see www.irishrail.ie/timetables/timetable-pdfs for up-to-date schedules).

Departing from Dublin Friday 4th August

Dep 7:25 am - Arr 9:01 am
 Dep 10:15 am – Arr 11:40 am
 Dep 13:15 pm – Arr 14:41 pm
 Dep 15:10 pm – Arr 16:36 pm
 Dep 16:40 pm – Arr 18:17 pm
 Dep 17:35 pm – Arr 19:06 pm

Returning to Dublin on Monday 7th August

Dep 15:30 pm – Arr 17:06 pm
 Dep 19:02 pm – Arr 20:40 pm

We have listed below some suggestions for accommodation in Kilkenny. However, it is up to you to make arrangements directly with the hotels.

Mention that you are attending the Butler Rally when booking, and be sure it is within easy walking distance of the Castle or look on the Internet for special deals.



The Ormonde Hotel, Tel: 00-353-56-7750200;
email: info@kilkennyormonde.com; Website: www.kilkennyormonde.com

Kilkenny Inn (This is about a ten minute walk from the Castle)
Tel: 00-353-56-7772828;
email: info@kilkennyinn.com; Website: www.kilkennyinn.com

Hibernian House (formerly Berkeley House), Tel: 00-353-56-7764848;
email: info@hibernianhousekilkenny.com;
Website: hibernianhousekilkenny.com

Kilkenny River Court Hotel, Tel: 00-353-56-7723388;
email: reservations@rivercourthotel.com; Website: www.rivercourthotel.com

The Club House, Tel: 00-353-56-7721 994;
email: info@clubhousehotel.com; Website: www.clubhousehotel.com

The Hibernian Hotel, Tel: 00-353-56-7771888;
Email: info@kilkennyhibernianhotel.com; Website: www.kilkennyhibernianhotel.com

Butler House, Tel: 00-353-56-7722828;
Email: res@butler.ie; Website: www.butler.ie

There are lots of B&Bs around also, or call the **Kilkenny Tourist Office**,
Tel: 00-353 -56-7751500, Fax: 00-353-56-7763955; Email: kilkenny@failteireland.ie;
www.visitkilkenny.ie

North American Butler 50th Anniversary Commemoration – Chicago, Illinois

Friday, 21 April 2017

People arriving in Chicago Friday afternoon and evening will gather at a place TBD for informal drinks and visiting. Drinks will be at your own expense.

Saturday, 22 April 2017

Mid-morning, people will gather at the Irish American Heritage Center for coffee and an official welcome.

The morning will include a tour of the Irish-American museum, archive and library at the center.

After lunch, there will be a couple of presentations about the Irish in Chicago and American Butlers.

Mid-afternoon, participants will return to their hotels to freshen up.

In the evening they will meet at The Curragh Irish Pub for dinner which will include welcoming remarks, the dinner and dessert, after dinner coffee or tea and remarks by the Lord Dunboyne.

Sunday, 23 April 2017

For those traveling later in the day, there will be an informal gathering TBD.

We are still firming up some of the final costs for ground transportation, room rental and setup, etc. We estimate the cost will be between \$60.00 and \$70.00. Travel to Chicago and hotels are, of course, left to individuals.

Please contact Craig Foster at lcraigfoster@comcast.net for further details.

A Message from Spain

David Butler from Spain writes “It has come to my notice that Manuel Butler Halter, the son of the late Colonel Eduardo Butler who was a Vice-President of the Butler Society, has been appointed this month as Director General of Tourism, a senior post in the Spanish civil service and of immense importance bearing in mind Spain's role in the world as a tourist destination.

Manuel Butler's career as a diplomat has taken him to reside in many places outside Spain: in Germany and in the USA among other destinations. In recent years, he broke away from the structured career of diplomacy and consular service and he refreshed his outlook with a spell in the management of a leading hotel chain. He is considered expert in aspects of tourist promotion at all levels and proclaims his love and admiration for Spain, its landscape, its customs and its peoples. Naval Architecture was his field of study initially and he was awarded his degree and obtained his doctorate as a naval architect.”

The obituary of Colonel Eduardo Butler, Manuel's father, appears in volume 4 Number 4 of The Journal of the Butler Society).

Notes from the Southern Cross Region

A member from Australia, Jacqui Rutten writes “My great, great, grandmother Mary Butler was born in Cill Chainnigh (Kilkenny) in 1838. While in Ireland in 2014, to speak at an international music conference, I visited Kilkenny Castle, and they told me about the Butler Family History book which I purchased and then joined the Butler Society in the hope of ascertaining whether our Mary Butler was in any way related to the Castle Butlers. Rothe House in Kilkenny helped research local records for a fee. I visited Kilkenny again in August this year, as I was granted a Composing Residency in Ireland. When I went to Rothe House, Mary Flood gave me a map showing where my ancestors had lived. My grandfather, Arthur Knights, also had a grandmother from Kilkenny and he is engraved on the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance”.

Following her brother Michael who arrived in Melbourne on 14th January 1858, Mary Butler arrived in Melbourne on 30th May 1860 on the ship “Atalanta”. She was 22 and went to work as a general servant for W. H. Smith, Cecil Street, Emerald Hill for £18.0.0. per annum. A further 2 sisters also emigrated to Australia. Mary married Edward Lawlor (born in 1841 in Kilkenny) in late December 1865 in Geelong, Victoria. Over the next 18 years Mary gave birth to 3 sons and 5 daughters at Mount



Prospect, Victoria. Mary died in 1906 some 6 years after the death of her daughter, Catherine. She was survived by her husband who lived a further 6 years.

A taxi driver told Jacqui there were still Butlers living in Johnswell, so she hopes to contact Johnswell church soon. She wrote these words in the hope that some readers might know something of the Butlers of Johnswell, just outside Kilkenny. If you do, please contact her at: info@sacredstage.com.au or 4 Hayes Place, Belgrave, 3160 Australia.

Famine was a regular feature of 18th and 19th century life in the British Isles. In fact there were 14 partial or complete famines between 1816 and 1845 in Kilkenny. In the autumn of 1845 blight struck the potato crop across Ireland which was the staple diet of some 50% of the population. In Kilkenny about one-third of the crop was affected, and up to one-half of the crop was destroyed in some parts of Ireland. This was a new type of blight in Ireland, *Phytophthora infestans*, an air-born fungus which turns both planted and stored potatoes into inedible rot. The winter of 1845 was mild but the spring of 1846 was wet. In mid-June, there was a heat wave and by early August the blight had spread to a point that 90% or more of the Irish potato crop of 1846 was destroyed. The new Prime Minister, Lord John Russell, followed a strict policy of laissez-faire, where the government would leave affairs to private enterprise.

In April 1847, the government decided to discontinue the public works schemes, and changed its policy of providing outdoor relief and food depots were set up to provide cooked food, mostly soup, to the destitute population and at a low price to others. Unfortunately, the establishment of soup kitchens took time and many people had already died. By July 1847, 3 million people in Ireland were provided for daily by soup kitchens. The blight brought starvation, disease and death on an enormous scale. Between 1841 and 1851, the population in Kilkenny declined by more than 43,600 of whom some 36,400 had died. From 1851 to 1856 a further 23,800 had emigrated, many like Mary Butler and Edward Lawlor to Australia.

Lunch and Lecture – Kildare Street and University Club

Saturday 26th November saw 18 of us assemble for a delicious lunch in the above club, situated in St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 followed by a most interesting lecture by Dr John Flood of the Department of English, University of Groningen, The Netherlands on "Women's history and Kilcash". It was hard for those of us who know the small Tipperary village of Kilcash to imagine its importance and that of its women in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Subscriptions

We would welcome subscriptions from those whose subscription year commenced 1st January 2017, i.e. those not on recurring Paypal subscriptions.

The subscription rates for January-December 2017 are:

Euro €15, Stg £10, US\$20, Canadian \$25

Options for payment are:

1. Paypal is our preferred method of payment, as bank charges have become excessive. You do not have to be registered with Paypal to use the credit/debit card payment processing system. Paypal is accessible via the members page here: <http://www.butler-soc.org/index.php/members#joining> or by sending a payment to treasurer@butler-soc.org

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 to cash them at the 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.

Cheques should be sent to:

Mark Reade, Hon. Treasurer

THE BUTLER SOCIETY

c/o Ballyvolan, Newcastle,

Greystones, Co. Wicklow, Ireland

Please include a note of your:

NAME, ADDRESS and EMAIL

February 2017

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