

# Hibernian

The official newsletter of the Colorado AOH

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Vol 2 Issue No 1—Jan–Feb 2012

## Upcoming Events

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 22 Jan Denver Gaels Hurling Parker Field House     | 5 Feb LOAH St Brigid Novena Sacred Heart Denver  |
| 23 Jan Denver Gaels Social and Recruiting Kickoff  | 7 Feb Michael Collins Div Meeting Celtic Tavern  |
| 28 Jan Fr Joseph Carrigan Officer Installation     | 7 Feb LAOH Meeting Knights of Columbus Denver    |
| 29 Jan AOH Sash Mass Our Lady of the Pines Conifer | 11 Feb AOH Samaritan House Service               |
| 29 Jan LOAH St Brigid Novena Sacred Heart Denver   | 25 Feb Michael Collins PB Parade Committee Event |



## What's Inside

The Colorado AOH Corner.....	2
Michael Collins News .....	4
Fr Joseph Carrigan News .....	5
Ladies' AOH News .....	6
Irish Network News.....	7
Teach Tábhairne Fógra.....	7–11
Michael Collins PB News .....	12
Denver Gaels News .....	12-13
Helping Hands .....	14
Acknowledgements .....	16

## Today in Irish History

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1 Jan</b>   | <b>1 Feb</b>   |
| 1892 Ellis Island opens. The first immigrant through the gates is Annie Moore, 15, of Co Cork  | 1994 The US Government allows Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams to make a speech in NYC  |
| 1801 The Act of Union between Ireland and Great Britain goes into effect   | <b>2 Feb</b>   |
| <b>6 Jan</b>   | 1880 Charles S. Parnell addresses the U.S. Congress  |
| 1839 The Night Of The Big Wind or Oíche na Gaoithe Móire. The most damaging storm in Irish history has winds of 130 m.p.h                            | 1882 James Joyce is born in Dublin   |
| <b>13 Jan</b>  | <b>3 Feb</b>   |
| 1941 James Joyce, Irish author (Ulysses, Finnegans Wake), dies.  | 1919 Harry Boland and Michael Collins break Éamon de Valera out of England's Lincoln Jail                                    |
| <b>13 Jan</b>  | <b>4 Feb</b>   |
| 1800 Daniel O'Connell makes his first public speech, to oppose union with England.   | 1775 Robert Emmett, Irish patriot is born in Dublin  |
| <b>15 Jan</b>  | <b>9 Feb</b>   |
| 1988 Sean MacBride, Irish nationalist and human rights activist, dies.   | 1923 Irish playwright Brendan Behan is born in Dublin  |
| <b>16 Jan</b>  | <b>10 Feb</b>  |
| 1822 Thomas Clarke Luby, co-founder of the Fenian Brotherhood, is born in Dublin.  | 2011 Six killed in a Manx2 airline crash at Cork airport.  |
| <b>20 Jan</b>  | <b>12 Feb</b>  |
| 1902 Kevin Barry, medical student and nationalist revolutionary, is born in Dublin.  | 1989 Bobby's Sands' solicitor Patrick Finucane is shot to death in front of his wife and children in his North Belfast home. |
| <b>28 Jan</b>  | <b>13 Feb</b>  |
| 1939 W.B. Yeats, Nobel Prize winning Irish writer, dies.   | 1689 William and Mary—daughter of James II—are proclaimed king and queen jointly   |
| <b>30 Jan</b>  | <b>20 Feb</b>  |
| 1972 Bloody Sunday. The British Army kills 13 civil rights demonstrators in the Bogside district of Derry. A 14th marcher later dies of his injuries | 1979 The Shankill Butchers are sentenced to life imprisonment for 112 offenses including 19 murders                          |
| 1984 Luke Kelly, lead vocalist and 5 string banjo member of the Dubliners, dies.   | <b>23 Feb</b>  |
|  | 1965 Roger Casement's body is re-interred at Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin  |
|  | <b>28 Feb</b>  |
|  | 1998 Dermot Morgan, who played Father Ted, dies in London at the age of 48   |



The  
Colorado  
AOH Corner

## Happy New Year!

by Bob Tiedemann

**H**appy New Year to everyone in the Colorado Irish Family.

It's now January 2012, the holidays are behind us and we hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas.

The Irish New Year celebration was an outstanding success. 2010 was the first year we put together the New Years Eve party, and attendance was around 200. This was the second year for the event and our numbers were better than 400 persons. Thank you to everyone who attended this year's event, especially to all our Irish network friends and entertainers.

Feedback from everyone attending the event was very positive, with so many wonderful comments about the musicians and the Irish Dancers—your help was what made this event such a draw and brought the Irish culture to life during such an incredible evening.

We did receive feedback from many who wanted fish and chips on the buffet line. We heard you, and please be assured that fish and chips will be back on the buffet for New Year's 2013.

Along with celebrating the New Year, we set a goal to raise funds for our local charity, the St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, as well as to collect needed food and clothing items for the Samaritan House of the Denver Catholic Charities. Our goals were reached by your attendance and your truly

gracious giving. We exceeded last year's contributions by almost two fold. In the coming weeks we will present a check to the Seminary for more than \$1,000.00, and we were able to deliver close to twenty large trash bags full of food and clothing to the Samaritan House. The staff at the Samaritan House was overwhelmed by the size of the donation and was extremely thankful for our efforts. Again, thanks to everyone who helped to make this year's event possible.

With such a tremendous attendance and such a huge success in donations we are excited about beginning the planning stages for next year's event, and making the Irish New Years Celebration a permanent addition to the annual Irish community calendar.



The primary organizers behind the Irish New Year's Event: Mike O'Toole and Bob Tiedemann (in sashes)

# More New Year's Eve Pics!



It never needs to be New Year's Eve to enjoy our own Michael Collins Pipe and Drum Band—but they certainly were one of the highlights of the evening's festivities!



An old County Cork tradition has it to drop a lampshade on the head of the wisest man present at midnight. AOH Member Ken Hannon Larson graciously consented to await the drop!

## New Year's Summary

Attending.....	≈450
Bags of Donated Clothing .....	20
Cash donated to St John Vianney .....	\$1,150
Performers.....	Michael Collins Pipe Band

**Irish Session Music and Celtic Friends**

**Moriarty-Moffitt School of Irish Dance**

**Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity**

# AOH News



## Michael Collins Division

The Michael Collins Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians held its Election of Officers 3 Jan, and the Installation of Officers 11 Jan 2012. The men selected to lead the Michael Collins Division for 2012 are:

- Peter Kirwin .....President
- Jeff Rodenberg..... Vice President
- Pat Tierney .....Treasurer
- Frank Nortnik.....Sentinal
- Bob Golden..... Financial Secretary
- Ed Roehre ..... Marshal
- Tim Sullivan ..... Recording Secretary
- Dennie McGoff..... Chairman of Standing Committee

### President Peter Kirwin

President Kirwin has been a member since 1997. He has served previously as Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Freedom for Ireland committee chairman. Peter is also a longtime Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee member & 15 year volunteer at the CUIS Festival.

### Vice President Jeff Rodenberg

A member since 2009, Jeff transferred from the Thomas Francis Meagher Division in Helena, Montana. This is Jeff's first Board position with the AOH.

### Financial Secretary-Robert Golden

Bob has been a member since 2007, and an Officer since 2010. Bob lives in Colorado Springs and attends St. Francis Assisi Parish.

### Treasurer Pat Tierney

Pat has been a long time AOH member & officer

### Recording Secretary Tim Sullivan

Tim has been a member of the AOH since 2010, and this is his first time serving as an Officer. He is married to Jenny, and is an avid lover of both horses and dogs.

### Sentinel Francis Nortnik

Frank is a long-tenured member of the AOH, and has served many years as an Officer.

### Marshall Ed Roehre

Ed has been a member of the AOH for ten years. He came to Michael Collins Division as a transfer from the Fr. Carrigan Division in Boulder, CO. Ed has held many officer positions including VP and Treasurer.

### Standing Committee Dennis McGoff

Dennis joined the AOH in 1993, and has served in multiple officer positions and committees including President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer of the Michael Collins, Bishop Evans, and Fr. Carrigan Divisions. Denny coaches multiple youth sports teams, including Assumption Catholic varsity basketball, Northglenn youth football and Thornton youth baseball.

---

The Michael Collins Division meets each first Tuesday of the month at The Celtic Tavern, 1801 Blake St, Denver. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Be sure to come early and enjoy supper and some fellowship!

Michael Collins Division welcomes all enquires and visitors. Come by the Celtic Tavern the first Tuesday of each month for our meetings, or see our website at <http://www.milehibernians.com> or send us an e-mail at [denveraoh@gmail.com](mailto:denveraoh@gmail.com).

# AOH News



## Fr Joseph Carrigan Division

**T**his is an exciting time for the Fr. Carrigan Division!

We will visit the St John Vianney Seminary to present them with the check that represents the fund-raising efforts from the New Year's Eve event. We also plan to tour the Seminary at that time, meet the staff and the seminar-ians. If you'd like to be part of that exciting event, please e-mail [aohdenver@gmail.com](mailto:aohdenver@gmail.com). The more men we have in attendance, the better!

If you attended the AOH New Year's Eve event, you saw the Carrigan men in sashes that may have looked unfamiliar. The one we've

chosen is the historical green sash, with shamrocks and AOH in gold on the front, and a Celtic cross on the back. They are truly beautiful and brought many positive remarks. We decided to go with the more traditional sashes to create our own identity as the Carrigan Division and they were well received during the New Year's Eve event. We have received applications from five new men for membership in the division, due in part to such a successful event, but also due to the visibility of the sashes.

We have created a calendar of events to start the Carrigan Divi-

sion off right. We will be attending the 10 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of the Pines in Conifer on Sunday 29 Jan for all members who wish to attend together. Please wear your sash if you have one, and for those without we do have a few extras. Following Mass we will all go to breakfast with our families to get everyone together as a meet and greet.

Every second Saturday from 4:15 to 7:00 p.m. the Carrigan Division will provide meal service at the Samaritan House. This will be a fantastic way to provide for those less fortunate and will again create a positive image of our new division. When our project is finished, we'll meet together at a nearby establishment to partake of refreshment and fellowship.

Happy New Years to all! 2012 will be a great new beginning for the Carrigan Division. The more we can do together the closer we will be as a brotherhood.

Visit our website at <http://www.milehibernians.com>, or send us an e-mail to [denveraoh@gmail.com](mailto:denveraoh@gmail.com)



(left) AOH Member Éamon Poplin models the Sash adopted by the Fr. Joseph Carrigan Division. This is modeled on the historic sash worn by members of the Order years ago.

# LAOH News



The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians held its Installation of Officers 6 Jan at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Downtown Denver. Sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to these fine Sisters for their service these past two years:

- President ..... Cheryl Lavan
- V.P. .... Laura Ellen Meskel
- Treasurer ..... Mary Duggan
- Financial Sec. .... Maureen Flanigan
- Recording Sec. .... Kathleen O'Shea
- Missions and Charities ..... Kirsten Herold
- Catholic Action ..... Martha Turner
- Irish Historian ..... Michele Altieri
- Mistress of Arms ..... Mary Moriarty
- Sentinel ..... Rachael Herol

These Sisters have been selected to lead the St Brigid Division for the next two years:

- President ..... Kerri Marshen
- V.P. .... Maureen Deutsch
- Treasurer ..... Mary Duggan
- Financial Sec. .... Marge Mallowney
- Recording Sec. .... Kirsten Herold
- Missions and Charities ..... Cheryl Lavan
- Catholic Action ..... Dolly Castle
- Irish Historian ..... Michele Altieri
- Mistress of Arms ..... Samantha Wallace
- Sentinel ..... Emily Dawson



### Feast of St. Brigid Mass

The LAOH would like to invite everyone to attend the Feast of St. Brigid Mass in February.

St. Brigid, a Patron Saint of Ireland, has her Feast Day on 1 Feb. The LAOH will celebrate it with a novena at the 11:45 a.m. Mass 29 Jan, at Sacred Heart Church, 2760 Larimer Street in Denver.

The LAOH will hold the novena again the following Sunday, 5 Feb, again at 11:45. Sacred Heart Church is the parish that the St. Brigid Division has adopted for the past ten years.

Thank you again for all your work this past year, and Happy New Year, everyone!

Visit our website at <http://laohdenver.homestead.com/> or send us an e-mail at [LAOHDenver@gmail.com](mailto:LAOHDenver@gmail.com)





## IRISH NETWORKS - USA

Across America twelve chapters of the Irish Network have already formed, with more in initial startup stages. Each one is self-funded and made up of members of Irish descent or “friends of Ireland” who wish to join together in a business and social network.

The Irish government has “encouraged” the Diaspora to do so, and yet it plays no part in the actual funding of each chapter. Members of these Chapters can also do business with each other across chapters.

Chapter members who are decision leaders for their companies, and who might be considering expanding into Europe - should consider

Ireland first and foremost. In Ireland tax laws favor new business growth, and the workforce is one of the best educated not only in Europe, but in the world.

So a wise person might ask the question - has not American companies invested previously in Ireland? The answer would be ‘yes’, but a follow up question might be - *have Irish American companies considered expansion into Ireland?* Answer: Probably not. Well then, no time like the present to do so.

Ireland’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade estimates 70 Million persons of Irish descent live in the Irish Diaspora while only 4.5 Million Irish actually live in the Irish Republic. Or to put it another way - **94% of all persons claiming Irish ancestry live throughout the world, not in Ireland herself.**

If Irish Americans or Irish ex-pats in your area wish to set up their own chapter, or to join an already operating chapter, please visit the following link for more information on how to do so.

<http://www.irishnetwork-usa.com/>



# Teach Tábhairne Fógara

## Pub Notice



The National Archives of Ireland

## TREATY EXHIBITION

### ANGLO - IRISH TREATY 6 DECEMBER 1921



Elizabeth McEvoy, Archivist & Treaty Manager, Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D., & Minister Jimmy Deenihan T.D. at the launching of the Treaty Online Exhibition

On the **90th Anniversary** of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, the **National Archives Of Ireland (NAI)** released online in digitized form the actual document signed by both treaty representatives of the Irish and the British.

The Treaty itself was found by an NAI official in 2002 in the records of the Taoiseach's Office. It was folded up in an envelope and sealed under wax seals. For **81 years** the document remained out of sight. Staples had begun to rust and discolor somewhat the pages but all in all it was in good condition. For the past nine years archivists at the National Archives have worked on the document to preserve it and digitize it for public view.

For 700 years the Irish had wanted their freedom and independence from Great Britain. Throughout the centuries there had been many rebellions, some small and others large, but all resulting in failure. So many rebellions and lost patriots that the **Garden Of Remembrance** in Dublin is dedicated to them all.

The Anglo-Irish War had begun in 1919, three years after the Easter Rising of 1916 and the execution of Pádraig Pearse, James Connolly and others. Michael Collins had played a small role in the Easter Rising and this time he was very much involved in the Anglo-Irish War. Some people in this world are visionaries and can see the future better than others. Some people are day-to-day and see only today's problems. Michael Collins explained it this way.

*"The course of life and labour reminds me of a long journey I once took on the railway. Suddenly, there was a breakdown ahead, and passengers took the event in various ways. Some of them sat still resignedly, and never said a word. Others again, went to sleep. But some of us leaped out of that train, and ran on ahead to clear the road of all obstructions." - - Michael Collins*

Michael Collins, Éamon de Valera, and a small circle of leaders knew that in October 1921 resources to continue the war were running short. The truth be known, they could continue for only a short time. Then suddenly came word from London that the British wished to negotiate a peace treaty

# Teach Tábhairne Fógra

## Pub Notice



The National Archives of Ireland

## TREATY EXHIBITION

Delegation of the Irish to Lloyd George  
 Austen Chamberlain  
 Michael Collins  
 Robert Barton  
 George Gavan Duffy  
 Éamon Duggan  
 Birkenhead  
 Laming Worthington-Evans  
 Hamar Greenwood  
 Gordon Hewart

Great Britain was the dominant world power at the time on both land and sea. The Irish had not defeated the British militarily (as Germany & Japan were in WW II), so why then did the British offer to negotiate a peace treaty with the Irish? Even more important by definition a **“Treaty” is an agreement between “Nations”** and to date the British had not considered Ireland an independent nation. What truly then was behind London’s motivation? The answer to these questions was obvious. In the *Court Of World Opinion* other nations had come to the conclusion that it was time for Britain to leave Ireland, to grant the Irish their independence. The world had witnessed the Easter Rising executions and just some seventy years earlier the *Great Hunger* in Ireland where some 1.5 Million Irish persons had died of starvation. By 1921, the nations of the world had seen more than enough hardship for the Irish people, and pushed a reluctant Great Britain into negotiating a peace treaty with the Irish.

Gathering their leaders Éamon de Valera chose Arthur Griffith (chairman), Michael Collins (deputy chairman), Robert Barton, George Gavan Duffy, and Éamon Duggan to go to London and negotiate a treaty. Collins did not really want to go and thought that de Valera should be the one to lead the team. De Valera was more the diplomat he thought, with Michael Collins seeing himself as the soldier.

*“To me the task is a loathsome one. I go, I go in the spirit of a soldier who acts against his best judgment at the orders of his superior.” - - Michael Collins  
 (on being sent to the Treaty negotiations by Éamon de Valera).*

The British team consisted of: David Lloyd George (Prime Minister), Winston Churchill, Austen Chamberlain, Lord Birkenhead, Laming Worthington-Evans, Hamar Greenwood, and Gordon Hewart. From the very beginning the Irish let it be known they were interested in a “free and independent republic”. The British delegation would not agree to an independent republic; but rather wanted to see a “dominion state” free to legislate its own laws, issue passports, fly its own flag, organize an army and navy - but all still under an oath of allegiance to the British Crown. Additionally, as a dominion state Ireland would be part of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

For two months the negotiations went back and forth. **The British delegation let it be known that if a peace treaty was not signed by the Irish - Britain would resume a state of war and declare martial law throughout the 32 counties.**

Then at 2:15 AM on the morning of 6 December 1921, the British delegation made their last proposal. At the top of the Anglo-Irish Treaty you will see the word “Proposed”, which later was crossed out when the Irish had signed the document.

No more talk, no more negotiations, it was now a take it or leave it proposal. Keep in mind the Irish had hoped for much more and yet this was an opportunity to get “partial” independence. All 32 counties were to be turned over to the “Irish Free State”, with those wishing to withdraw and remain a part of Britain given only 30 days to do so. Northern politicians would soon act quickly.

# Teach Tábhairne Fógra

## Pub Notice



The National Archives of Ireland

## TREATY EXHIBITION

Michael Collins had been one of Britain's greatest adversaries and yet here he was about to sign this treaty that included an oath of allegiance to the British Crown. Winston Churchill would later write about his observation of Collins as he signed.

**"Michael Collins rose looking as though he were going to shoot some one . . .  
In all my life I have never seen so much pain and suffering in restraint." - Winston Churchill**

Winston Churchill would state later that in a conversation with Michael Collins, he spoke these words:

*"I shall not last long; my life is forfeit, but I shall do my best.  
After I am gone it will be easier for others." - Michael Collins*

Michael Collins and the others were fully aware that the treaty would be unacceptable to many back in Ireland. Yet they also knew it gave "**partial independence**" to Ireland. It was a beginning to obtaining a "*free and independent republic*", not an end as some believed it to be at the time.

*"In my opinion it gives us freedom, not the ultimate freedom that all nations desire ...  
but the freedom to achieve it." - Michael Collins (at the treaty debates in the Dáil)*

By signing the treaty the Irish delegation kept Britain from declaring martial law and the further killing of innocents. The night after signing the treaty, Michael Collins took a walk through London's streets and would later write a letter to his friend John O'Kane back in Ireland. Part of which is below ...

*"When you have sweated, toiled, had mad dreams, hopeless nightmares,  
you find yourself in London's streets, cold and dank in the night air.*

***Think - what have I got for Ireland?***

***Something which she has wanted these past 700 years.***

*Will anyone be satisfied with the bargain? Will anyone? I tell you this -  
early this morning I signed my own death warrant." - Michael Collins*

Arthur Griffith would later die of a cerebral hemorrhage just 8 months after signing the Treaty. Michael Collins would be ambushed and killed just 6 days after Arthur Griffith's funeral. Then in 1937 the citizens of Ireland voted by referendum to change their constitution, drop the name 'Irish Free State' and became simply **Ireland** or **Éire**, establishing the Office of President. In 1948 the **Republic of Ireland Act** passed which took effect on **April 18, 1949**. On that day in April 1949, Ireland officially declared itself a "*free and independent republic*" ending any legal association with the monarchy & membership in the British Commonwealth. Michael Collins & Arthur Griffith would have been so proud.

To learn more, please visit the Treaty Exhibition at the National Archives of Ireland website:

<http://treaty.nationalarchives.ie/>

# Teach Tábhairne FÓGRA

## Pub Notice



Teach Tábhairne FÓGRA  
A PENNY AND FOUR PENCE  
WORTH OF THOUGHTS

### REFLECTIONS ON THE ANGLO - IRISH TREATY

After some nine decades of discussion and debate over the merits of the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921, we have today an opportunity to finally review the actual document ourselves. Opinions we learned earlier from our ancestors may be changed, or they may be hardened, after reviewing all the documents now made available by the *National Archives of Ireland*. If you do not afford yourself the opportunity to review the letters sent by the Irish delegation from London to Dublin, read the meeting minutes between the delegations and individuals, you will miss the important points in these negotiations.

Whether we are today members of the Irish Diaspora or citizens of Ireland, we all are assured that Ireland is today a *free and independent nation*. So we can sit back and review the “Treaty Exhibition” without the emotions that were felt in 1921-1922.

Miceal got Chamberlain to admit that the general feeling in England was for a settlement. He countered their arguments on defence etc. all the time. But they always fell back on the impossibility of peace except on acceptance of Crown.

We agreed to proceed on basis of settling all other points, leaving Crown to last.

© 2011 Treaty Exhibition, National Archives of Ireland

British Crown was first and foremost with the British delegation. Today Queen Elizabeth II is a mere figurehead in the Commonwealth of Nations. But King George V was the glue that held the original British Empire together in 1921. You soon realize that for Britain the main purpose of the treaty was **defense of Great Britain!** Upon reading this I was quickly reminded of the same defense issue raised by Henry VIII some 400 years earlier. Where Henry feared Ireland would be used as a staging area by both France and Spain against his kingdom, in 1921 Britain feared Germany would use Ireland as a “listening post”. British paranoia over Ireland’s proximity to Britain, had been a defensive concern for centuries.

I then passed on to Defence. I objected to Clause 6. on the ground that the word “exclusively” implied that we were not to take measures for raising coastal Defence forces. Mr. Lloyd George said that if I had the idea of building submarines they would not allow that. I said my objection was on the principle that we could build nothing.

© 2011 Treaty Exhibition, National Archives of Ireland

Here again we see Great Britain’s fear for its own existence. While Michael Collins’ concerns were that Ireland “*could build nothing*”.

Today, parents of students of Irish descent should make the “Treaty Exhibition” documents available to their children for discussion. It is after all - the history of how the *nation of Ireland (Éire)* came to be.

An excerpt from an **Oct. 24, 1921** letter from the Irish delegation **Chairman Arthur Griffith to Éamon de Valera** is on the left.

What is becoming more evident is that an oath of allegiance to the

On **Dec. 5, 1921** Michael Collins was asked to join Prime Minister David Lloyd George for private talks. Collins raised several points one of which was on defense of Ireland’s coastal waters. As you can read Michael Collins was told submarines would not be allowed.

Here again we see Great Britain’s

# MC Pipe Band News



Pipe Major Jay Leasure performing at the LAOH Installation

Our very own Michael Collins Pipe Band has no public events scheduled for January, but as the note on the website says, 'check back often!' You can find a current listing of gigs at <http://www.michaelcollinspb.com/gigs.php>.

In February, MCPB can be found at the Inn at Hudson Gardens, playing for the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee's Jubilee Event. The Inn at Hudson Gardens is at 6115 South Santa Fe Drive. The event starts at 5:30 and ends at 9—MCPB is up first!

Remember, MCPB took top honours for piping in last year's Parade, and sure we're all pulling for them to make it a repeat!

# Denver Gaels News



## Denver Gaels Celebrate Another Successful year

by Brian McCarthy

**Rookies and Veterans contribute in a monumental year for the club.**

On December 17th, the Denver Gaels held our annual banquet celebrating accomplishments of the club on and off the field. This year was as busy as any other in the club's fifteen-year history. We showcased our sports locally through exhibitions at Infinity Park, Youth Clinics, and Irish Festivals. We hosted our annual pub-crawl, golf tournament, and numerous other social events. We played in Seattle, Albuquerque, Kansas City, Denver, and San Francisco. Through it all, we spread culture, built friendships, and celebrated victories.

We appreciate the incredible efforts of all our club members and those who support us. We also are incredibly grateful for all of our sponsors; Guinness, The Celtic, The Fainting Goat, Dougherty's and Scruffy Murphy's. As we do every year we like to recognize the particularly special efforts of our teams and their members.

In Men's Football we had an incredibly special rookie class. We had 7 new American players pick up the sport and make huge contributions to our performances. However, two players stood out among the rest. Damien Borg was named rookie of the year. Through his incredible commitment and dedication the fullback improved more than any other player and became a stalwart in defense. For the player of the

year, Adam Johnson stood out for his tremendous play in multiple competitions. The former college soccer player took to the game quickly and brought tremendous athleticism and skill to the field. Both players performances helped lead us to our Midwest Championship and Nationals shield.

Hurling also had one of its largest rookie classes in recent memory, with 13 new players in 2011. The new players bolstered the energy and depth of the club and helped push the Jr. C team to a higher level in 2012. However it was a very surprising rookie who took to sport at the middle of the year who earned rookie of the year status. Joining on as a Dual Player from Football, Adam Kiefert made the sliotar and hurl his own,

See 'Gaels,' p 13  
Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

and wreaked havoc from the full forward line scoring goals like a machine. For Jr. C hurler of the year, John O'Neill lead the team as a Vice Captain, and provided steadfast grit and determination from the halfback line all year long. The man showed a warrior like heart battling through injuries to inspire his team. Finally the Jr. B men's hurler of the year should come as no surprise to anyone who followed the Gaels stories and stat-lines from Nationals. The Waterford native Vinny Commeford once again lead the charges with his tenacious and skillful style.

Last but certainly not least we have our Rouge Camogs who celebrated an absolutely historic year. The club grew more than ever adding 7 new Denver based players.

With the new members the team was able to host Denver's first ever camogie competition, and that experience helped lead the team to its first ever National Championship. The rookie of the year stood out in an incredibly talented and dedicated group. Jennifer Park translated her tenacity and field sense from the Soccer Field to become a halfback that didn't get up an inch. As for the MVP, we have a woman that proved her value 100% on and off the field. Off the field she dedicated countless hours to train new players and build the chemistry that was so vital to the success of the club. On the field, Kyle Shane battled back from a devastating knee injury with a positive attitude and absolutely played the game of her life stopping shot after shot from the D.C. attack to lead the Rouge Camogs

to their well-deserved championship. Congratulations to Kyle and Jennifer and all the ladies of our Camogie team who put together an incredible performance all year.

In addition to the players on the field we also recognize, our club person of the year Tom Walsh. Tom stepped into the committee and provided tremendous value as the voice of reason. He took on a lot of the dirty work to get the club's business affairs in order and helped bring our club to a new standard. In much the same way we also recognize our team photographer Amanda Reiker. In the past few years she has snapped countless photos and made us look better and more skillful. She has emerged as a tremendous asset to our club, and one of the premier Gaelic Photographers in the Country. We are incredibly lucky to count her as one of our own.



Event	Time and Location
Indoor Hurling and Football	22 Jan 2012 11:00 AM • Parker Field House, Parker CO
Social and Recruiting Committee Kickoff Meeting	29 Jan 2012 11:00 AM • Parker Field House, Parker CO
Indoor Hurling and Football	05 Feb 2012 11:00 AM • Parker Field House, Parker CO
Indoor Hurling and Football	12 Feb 2012 11:00 AM • Parker Field House, Parker CO



### ... the greatest of these is charity

**H**elping Hands would like to report on the inaugural visit of the Fr. Joseph P. Carrigan Division's visit to the Samaritan House. The Carrigan Men have adopted the Samaritan House as their charity, and have pledged to have at least four brothers there each month to help with kitchen work, or whatever else might need to be done.

The Samaritan House is run by Catholic Charities, and is located in downtown Denver, near 23rd St and Lawrence. Samaritan House opened in 1986, with the express purpose of helping homeless individuals and families. The Samaritan House has the capacity to accommodate 320 persons, and provides them with shelter, hot

meals, clothing, medical care and job referral services.

Each of the volunteers spent three hours the afternoon of 7 Jan with kitchen and dining room duties, including bussing tables;

bringing bowls and other serving items to the dining room from the kitchen; rinsing, washing and drying the items that the residents brought back after they were finished eating; washing down the serving carts and dining tables; and finally, restocking the salt and pepper shakers, napkin dispensers, and washing the dining tables.

A few remarked that it was dinner *and* a floor show, because on several occasions, Éamon Poplin sang some traditional Irish songs a cappella, joined in on occasion by John Aylward. Éamon noted afterward that his singing is probably what led to the dining room clearing out earlier than usual.

The volunteers finished their shift at seven that night, and repaired to a nearby establishment for food and fellowship. This will be a recurring monthly event, so if you'd like to be part of it, make plans to be at the Samaritan House by 4 p.m. the second Saturday of the month. Be sure to bring a hat, and wear trainers or tennis shoes.



Back row, L to R: Samaritan House Cook "Bob," Éamon Poplin, John Aylward, Bob Tiedemann, Mike Sheridan, Ron Kennedy Front Row, L to R: Mike O'Toole, Jenny Marshall, Courtney Tiedemann

**Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity**

**Céad Míle Fáilte—Go raibh grásta Dé leat**

**One hundred thousand welcomes to you!**

**May the Grace of God be with you!**



**Irish? Catholic? We Want You!**

Come join an Irish Fraternal Organization with deep seated roots in its ancestry and faith. Just send us an e-mail at [denveraoh@gmail.com](mailto:denveraoh@gmail.com), and one of our brothers will be in touch with you.

**Sláinte and God Bless!**

**To be Irish is a blessing. To be a Hibernian—an honor.**

**The Hibernian** gratefully acknowledges the contribution to the Irish culture in Colorado that these fine organisations have made:



**Celtic Broker Inc,**

Denver Merchandise Mart  
451 East 58th Ave, #2329  
Denver Colorado, 80216  
+1-303-960-5155

The Celtic Broker Inc, showroom is available to customers by appointment only.

Visit our website at

<http://www.celticbroker.com/>



Kerreen O'Connor's is located in historic downtown Littleton, and is the only Celtic Goods storefront in the Denver Metro area. We sell an array of Irish and Celtic Goods. Kerreen O'Connor's has it all!

Kerreen O'Connor

2595 West Alamo Avenue  
Littleton, Colorado 80120  
(303) 794-6388

Monday-Friday: 11 AM-5:30 PM

Saturday: 10 AM-4 PM

Sunday: Closed



**The Hibernian** is the official publication of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) of Colorado.

The Hibernian is a bi-monthly publication, with the exception of March, when we publish a special St. Patrick's Day Edition. It is provided free of charge to any interested individual or group via e-mail or other electronic distribution.

Please address all e-mail enquiries to [denveraoh@gmail.com](mailto:denveraoh@gmail.com)

Submission guidelines:  
Reader and organisation submissions are cheerfully accepted. First call for all submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Last call is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Editor reserves the right to edit content for clarity, accuracy and space constraints.

Please submit all artwork in EPS format. If that is impossible, please provide a high resolution file in TIF or PSD format.

Please send all submissions or suggestions to: Éamon Poplin at [denveraoh@gmail.com](mailto:denveraoh@gmail.com)

The Hibernian is edited and published by Carrigan Division, Colorado AOH.

