



The Hobbit of Western Ireland

With the arrival of the new movie, *The Hobbit*, J. R.R. Tolkien's characters again take to the silver screen. The movies, both *The Lord of the Rings* and the upcoming two Hobbit films, were filmed in New Zealand, with breathtaking landscapes, grand mountains and amazing waterfalls in the background.

Then there is the story that Tolkien got the idea while living near the Burren in Ireland. This has been circulating for a while.

It turns out that Tolkien was a lecturer, and grade examiner, at the National University of Ireland, Galway, in the 1940's and 1950's. Tolkien would wander the Burren in County Clare, as well as the Bens in Connemara, while he lived in the area.

Peter Curtin is the owner of the Roadside Tavern in Lisdoonvarna. He heard stories that Tolkien had spent time at Gregan's Castle in Lisdoonvarna during his time in Ireland. At the time, it was owned by Frank Martyn, an engineer by profession who had worked for a time in Australia. He had an extensive library at his residence.

However, Curtin let the stories percolate in his head for years before deciding to investigate their accuracy. He then jumped head-first into the research. He contacted the English department at University College, Galway, UCG. He spoke with Professor Hubert McDermott, who confirmed that Tolkien had been external examiner to the English department for a number of years, and a classmate of his, Rose MacNamara (nee Murphy) was the daughter of Professor Murphy, the head of the English department at UCG who entertained the

visiting examiner.

According to Curtin, in a conversation with Rose MacNamara, she recalled great times as a young girl in the company of Tolkien and her parents. Tolkien and the Murphy family became life-long friends. I will not go into any personal details, suffice to say that Tolkien was a gentle man who loved nature, loved flowers, and when he felt tired while out walking would just lay down and have a nap. Rose confirmed that her parents took Tolkien to the Burren and to Dr. Martyn's residence in Lisdoonvarna on many and numerous occasions, and also to Connemara.

Tolkien was also a collector of wild flowers, and had an innate interest in nature.

The special Papers section of Galway University Library confirmed to me that Tolkien was an external examiner for the years 1949, 1950, 1954, 1958 and 1959. 'The Lord of the Rings' was published in 1955. Tolkien also worked at University College, Dublin, in the same capacity, around the same time.

The character Gollum, who had possession of a magical ring, and who lived in a cave near the sea, had a name that was often conjectured to refer to the Yiddish word for gentile. But it most likely refers to the landscape of Clare.

The Burren is home to the largest cave

system in Ireland, the entrance of which lies about four miles from Gregan's Castle. It comprises of 15 miles of underground passages. This entrance is called Pol na Gollum (translated from the Irish as the Hole of Gollum). The Book of the Burren, by Ann Korff, says 'Gollum' in Irish means 'rock dove', and the favorite habitat for these birds is cliff edges. (It is the same word as Colm.)

According to Curtin, the entrance to Pol na Gollum is a hole a hundred feet deep and about a hundred feet across, at the bottom of which is the actual cave entrance. It is so big a collapse that a mature ash tree grows in the hole, and the tree canopy is well below ground level. Of course the other coincidence is that rock doves make a guttural sound, same as Gollum in the book.

The Burren is 200 square miles of limestone pavement, a limestone desert, as you would. It is a protected landscape that was formed circa 230 million years ago.

A topographer, Charles Travis, compared the actual topography of the Burren - around Gortaclare Mountain to be precise - with the Misty Mountains from Tolkien's Middle Earth map with the Middle Earth region of Rohan in the foreground and the Misty Mountains

continued on page 5

FEBRUARY 7, 2013 • 7 P.M.

MILWAUKEE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center (2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue)



Chili Cook-Off at 6:30. There is still time to enter your chili!

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

☘ Milwaukee Calendar of Events ☘

For More Information visit <http://shamrockclubwis.com>

FEBRUARY

- 1 Celtic Women 1st Friday Lecture; Jean Bills "My Four Days in Brittany" ICHC; 7 pm
- 7 Shamrock Club monthly meeting; ICHC; 7 pm
- 16 Daithi Sproule and Laura McKenzie; ICHC; 7.30 pm
- 22-24 12th Annual Midwinter Set Dance Weekend; Music by Maria Terres and Friends, Capitol Ceili Band and Cosmic Otters

MARCH

- 1 John Doyle and Karan Casey; ICHC; 7.30 pm
- 1 Irish Cultural and Heritage Center Ceili; Music by Myserk; 7.30 pm
- 1 Conference of Celtic Women; Full Circle: Irish Tales Come Round; Speaker- Jean Andrew; ICHC; 5:30 pm
- 1 Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance; Milwaukee Theatre; 7.30 pm
- 1 Ian Gould; O'Donoghue's Irish Pub; Elm Grove; 8 pm
- 1 Ulster Project Family Fun Night; Mount Mary College; 5 pm
- 2 13th Annual Green Tie Event; Benefit for the Ward Irish Music Archives; Wisconsin Country Club (North), 6200 West Good Hope Road; 5.30 pm
- 3 Brendan Heart Fundraiser; Burke's Irish Castle; noon until 6 pm
- 7 Shamrock Club monthly meeting and 53rd Birthday Party; ICHC; 7 pm
- 7 Barry Dodd; County Clare Inn; 10 pm
- 9 Mass in Honor of St. Patrick; St. Patrick Church; 8:30 am
- 9 47th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade; Downtown Milwaukee; noon
- 9 Shamrock Club Post-Parade Party; ICHC; 1 - 6 pm
- 15 Celtic Night for Literacy 2013, featuring Jeff Ward; Racine Marriott Hotel; 6 pm
- 16 Craicmore; Schauer Center for the Arts; Hartford; 7:30 pm
- 17 Gaelic Storm; Pabst Theatre; 8 pm
- 20 Makem and Spain Brothers; Sharon Lynne Wilson Centre, Brookfield; 7.30 pm
- 30 Dehli 2 Dublin; Shank Hall; 8 pm
- 31 Easter Rising Mass; Irish Cultural and Heritage Center; 9:30 am

ON GOING ... Set dancing at the following: Set dancing Wednesdays, 7 P.M. at O'Donoghue's ☘ Craobh Curtin Conradh na Gaeilge meeting at O'Donoghue's Pub, 7 P.M., last Tuesday each month ☘ Irish Emigration Library in ICHC open every Wednesday 2-8 P.M. ☘ Irish Sing-a-long, Irish Fest Center, First Sundays, (through May) 7 P.M. ☘ Irish Fest Song Circle, O'Donoghue's Pub, second and fourth Tuesday, 7 P.M. ☘ Irish Music Sessions at the following: ☘ Session at Ivanhoe's, Racine, 4 P.M. third Sundays ☘ Session - O'Donoghue's, Sundays 7 P.M.; Thursdays @ Paddy's 7 P.M.; and The Pub in Oconomowoc, 7:30 P.M. ☘ Thursdays: Barry Dodd; County Clare Inn; 10 P.M. ☘ Fridays - áthas and Myserk; County Clare Inn; 6 P.M. ☘ Sundays: áthas; Brocach Milwaukee ☘

Ulster Project Family Fun Night Friday March 1, 2013

Join us on Friday, March 1st for the Ulster Project Fun night. It will be held at Mount Mary College, just south of 92nd and Burleigh. The fun begins at 5 pm and ends at 10 pm. Delicious fish fry suppers are available for purchase. Great Irish dancing, opportunity tables, and drawings for our wonderful raffle prizes will be held throughout the evening. For a nominal fee, you may also purchase a variety of beverages and desserts.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, dancers, musicians and attendees who worked behind the scenes to make the 2012 Ulster Project Family Fun Night a huge success. Dance schools for 2013 include: Rince Nia, Kinsella, McMenamin, Trinity, Cashel Dennehy and Glencastle.

For more information, visit our website, <https://sites.google.com/site/upmilwaukee/funnight>

Shamrock Club Parade Day Breakfast

March 9, 2013

The Shamrock Club will again be hosting breakfast upstairs at the ICHC immediately following the Mass in honor of St. Patrick. Cost for the breakfast is \$7.00 in advance and \$8.00 at the door.

Menu: Eggs, Bangers, Rashers, Soda Bread and Brown Bread, Oatmeal, Corned Beef Hash, Juice, Coffee.

This year breakfast will be served by members of the Pilot Club, supporting Special Olympics of Wisconsin.



Shamrock Club Post Parade Party

March 9, 2013

The Shamrock Club's annual Post Parade Party will take place at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 West Wisconsin, Milwaukee, on Saturday, March 9, 2013. It will run from 1 pm until 6 pm. The confirmed acts are: Blarney, Kinsella Academy of Irish Dance, Cronin Irish Dance Academy, Tallymoore, and the Milwaukee Caledonian Scottish Dancers. This is the largest family day event of the St. Patrick's season. For over forty years, the Shamrock Club has presented Milwaukee with the best in Irish entertainment, always geared towards families. There are four stages, including a children's stage. For more information, go to <http://shamrockclubwis.com/PPPparty.html>

An Focal - A Word

The phrase of the month is:

Ceart go leor (Kart go lore) - Good enough
Ta se ceart go leor. (Ta shay kart go lore.)
That is good enough.



28th Annual Mass In Honor of

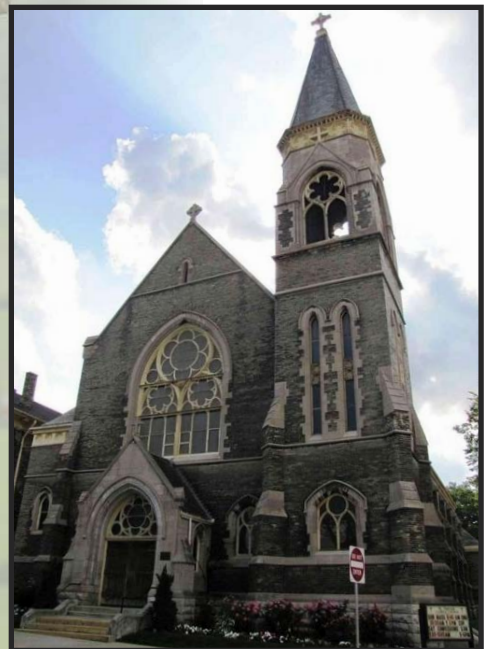
SAINT PATRICK

Saturday, March 9, 2013

**8:30 A.M. at St. Patrick's Church
723 South 7th Street, Milwaukee**

- Liturgy Sung by the Shamrock Club Choir
- Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes & Drums
- Songs and Readings in Irish and English
- Sign Reader for the Hearing Impaired

For more information, please contact Chuck McLaughlin
at (414) 771-0458, or at cmclaughlin3@wi.rr.com



Emerald Reflections Copy Deadline

Content for Emerald Reflections is due on the fifteenth of the month (next deadline: February 15th to appear in the March issue.) Copy received after the fifteenth of the month will not appear. E-mail submissions preferred, send to:

Brian Witt, Editor
emeraldreflections@shamrockclubwis.com

Membership Chairs

DANE COUNTYPat McCarthy
P.O. Box 70765, Madison 53707-0765
pmmccarthy@charter.net; (608) 277-0394

FOX CITIESP.O. Box 1632, Appleton 54912

LA CROSSELinda O. Pfaff,
1702 Jackson St., LaCrosse 54601

LAFAYETTE CO.Beverly Mulcahy,
504 E. Mary, Apt. A, Darlington 54530

MILWAUKEE Member. Chair Denis Donohoe
2133 West Wisconsin Avenue,
Milwaukee, WI 53233
(262) 309-0723, email: djvdonohoe@sbcglobal.net

NEW DUBLINSuzy Snyder,
313 W. Beacon Ave., New London 54961

NORTHEAST WISC.Judy Brehm,
2577 Oakwood Ave., Green Bay 54301

SOUTH CENTRAL Dana Horkan-Gant,
610 Vine St., Reedsburg 53959; (608) 524-6821;
email: willardana@yahoo.com

E-mail: club@shamrockclubwis.com

Web site: http://shamrockclubwis.com

To become a member of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin contact the membership chair of the chapter you would like to join. MILWAUKEE ONLY: Family membership (includes both parents and all children under eighteen) - \$25.00. Single membership - \$20.00. Membership is renewable annually on the anniversary month of the original membership. Please send all new and renewal Milwaukee club membership dues to Membership Chair, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233. Be sure to send change of address notification to Membership Chair, also. The post office will NOT forward copies of Reflections.

Milwaukee President's Message

Hi! I hope everyone is staying warm. The flu has hit some of members pretty hard. For all those individuals, please get well soon.

Come and join us at our February general meeting. Our Sergeant of Arms, Glenn Nowak will be hosting our annual Chili Cook-Off. Those who still want to participate please contact Glenn. For everyone else a dessert or a side to pass is always appreciated.

We will be introducing our Honorees of 2013: Parade Marshall(s), Irish Rose and Irishman of the Year. It is our opportunity to congratulate the new and say Thank You to our past honorees for a job well done.

On Saturday, March 9th, our annual mass in honor of St. Patrick will be held at St. Patrick's Church at 8:30 a.m., followed by a breakfast at the ICHC. The 47th St. Patrick's Day Parade kicks off at noon from 3rd and Wisconsin. Following the Parade our day continues with live entertainment, food and beverage at the ICHC for our annual Post-Parade Party. More information on the days events will be presented by Chuck McLaughlin, Mass Coordinator, Denis Donohoe, Parade Production Manager and Mike Boyle, Parade Manager.

Dan Stotmeister, our Parliamentarian, will present a report from our By-Laws Committee. We will also be looking for a finance committee to be appointed, that will oversee the funding and budgeting for the upcoming year.

Our next two months our busy ones, so again please join us at our February General Meeting for good food, beverages and friends. We might even get a Valentine visit from CUPID!!!

See you there,
- Kathy Donovan, President
kay_dee@live.com



Celtic Women Lecture February 1, 2013

The Celtic Women First Friday lecture for February will be a travelogue about my trips to Brittany in 2009 and 2012. Brittany is a fascinating country, survivor of World War II and a delightful Celtic storehouse of treasures. Everyone is invited to join us for tea, treats and a visit with Nolwenn.

Date: Feb. 1 2013
Topic: "My Four Days in Brittany"
Speaker: Jean Bills

Jean has visited Brittany twice in the last three years, as the guest of Nolwenn Monjarret. In 2009 she was accompanied by Nuala and Clodagh Horner. She has seen many historical and cultural places and taken photographs along the way. She is the founder of Celtic Women International and the Conference of Celtic Women as well as carrying on the First Friday lectures since 1997.



All lectures are held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. Parking lot available from the 23rd Street alley. 2012-2013 is our 16th year of lectures without interruption. The public is invited as always. We offer tea and home-made snacks and promise a delightful couple of hours. \$7 admission.

FirstFriday Lectures, Celtic Women Worldwide
<http://CelticWomenWorldWide.ning.com>

- Jean Bills
new e-mail address:
JeanKBills@aol.com



continued from page 1

covering the spine of the mountain ridge with runs into Gortaclare Mountain. He states, "The curve of the Misty Mountain range in Tolkien's 'imaginary' map seems to fit the actual topography of this region of the Burren. It seems that the topography could arguably support the case you are making for this region of the Burren being one source of inspiration for Tolkien."

In the picture, the map on the left is an Ordnance Survey sheet of the area around Gortaclare Mountain in the Burren. The map on the right is an image of the Misty Mountains from a Tolkien Middle Earth Map. Both maps when viewed together illustrate the officially surveyed region, and Tolkien's Misty Mountains transposed on top of a topographical satellite image of this area of the Burren.

Other areas that may have influenced Tolkien were the Bens in Connemara, where the tops of the mountains can be obscured by fog from the sea; and Croagh Patrick, near Westport, which may be the source of the Lonely Mountain, the home of the dragon Smaug.

The upshot of this is that Curtin established the Burren Tolkien Society, headquartered at his tavern in Lisdoonvarna. (Website: www.burrentolkienociety.ie.)

In May of 2013, the Tolkien Society will be hosting a gathering of Tolkien enthusiasts in Lisdoonvarna. It will take place May 9 to the 16. There will be film screenings, writers' workshops and lectures being held at the Burren College of Art and other events celebrating Tolkien's work being held in the Burren, Lisdoonvarna and Ballyvaughan.

Tolkien was awarded, In 1954, an honorary degree from the National University of Ireland (of which U.C.G. was a constituent college). Tolkien retired in 1959 from Oxford, thus ensuring that later Irish students would not be taking his classes.

And is it really that hard to imagine that Bilbo Baggins is wandering the landscape of western Ireland? That area is still a mystical and magical place. And Gollum's home has an entrance in County Clare.

- Brian Witt

Scottish Novelist Ian Rankin at Boswell Books Feb. 1, 2013

Scottish writer Ian Rankin, author of *Standing in Another Man's Grave*, and creator of the famed Scottish police detective John Rebus, will be appearing at Boswell Books, 2559 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee, on Friday February 1, at 7:00 pm.

He will be discussing and signing copies of his new novel, *Standing in Another Man's Grave*, which marks the return of John Rebus. Here is a synopsis of the novel: For the last decade, Nina Hazlitt has been ready to hear the worst about her daughter's disappearance. But with no sightings, no body, and no suspect, the police investigation ground to a halt long ago, and Nina's pleas to the cold case department have led her nowhere. Until she meets the newest member of the team: former Detective John Rebus.

Two more women have gone missing from the same road where Sally Hazlitt was last seen. Unlike his skeptical colleagues, Rebus can sense a connection - but pursuing it leads him into the crosshairs of adversaries both old and new.

In addition to speaking and signing at Boswell, Mr. Rankin will be signing books from 5:00 to 6:00pm at Mystery One Bookshop, Prospect Avenue.

About the Author: Ian Rankin is a #1 international bestselling author whose honors include an Edgar Award, four Crime Writers' Association Dagger Awards and a Chandler-Fulbright Award. He lives in Edinburgh, Scotland, with his family.

Milwaukee Membership News

Ok, so now we are in the mists of winter, Lambeau Field is dark, but hey, St. Patrick's Day is almost here and that spells SPRING !!!

Please welcome our new member Thomas Fitzpatrick who joined our club last month. At present, the Milwaukee Chapter as of January 10th is at 351 memberships with 143 families, 176 single, and 32 complimentary (libraries, businesses, etc.) memberships.

Please be sure to have your memberships renewals in before February 28 for those who expire on or before then and have not renewed yet.

I hope you are looking forward to an early spring and possibly another warm St Patrick's Day like last year.

- Denis Donohoe
Membership Chair



Retail Report

Retail will be selling at the Post Parade Party. We will need volunteers to work 2 hour shifts during the hours of 1-6 pm. Please contact Glenn or Kim to sign-up. ganowak@wi.rr.com or 414-466-8060.

- Glenn and Kim Nowak
Retail Chairs

Glenn's Snow Plowing

Glenn Nowak
Owner

414-466-8060 Home/Fax
414-940-9032 Mobile
ganowak@wi.rr.com



St. Patrick's Mass Donations

The Shamrock Club will start accepting donations for the March 9, 2013 St. Patrick's Day Mass Book Memorials on January 1, 2013. You may give Gail Neville donations at the monthly club meeting or -

Phone - 414-354-1355 (leave a message with your name and phone number if Gail does not answer)

Email - gailtacht@aol.com (include your name, phone number, and any short message you would like used)

Address for mail orders - Gail Neville, 9011 N. 70th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53223

THE LAST DAY TO ACCEPT DONATIONS IS MARCH 2, 2013

Celtic Women International

The CWI Book Club meetings begin at 1:00 pm at the ICHC and include discussion, tea, and treats. New members and guests are always welcome to join us!

Gail McAleese will be hostess to the group discussing *The Legend of the Celtic Stone*, by Michael Phillips on February 19th.

Tim Smit's *The Lost Gardens of Heligan* will be the topic for discussion on March 19th. Maureen Garry will be hostess.

In April, Rosemary Walsh will host the discussion of *Outlander* (Parts One, Two and Three,) by Diana Gabaldon. The remainder of the book (Parts Three to the end) will be hosted by Sharon Walsh in May. The dates for these are TBA.

- Rosemary Walsh
rowalsh@wi.rr.com

Glenn's Corner Cupboard

- February: Chili Cook-Off!
- March: Potatoes with all the Toppings, Birthday cake. (Club will supply)
- April: Sandwiches. Members bring Desserts, Sides.

-Glenn

Sunshine Report

Bob Burke continues to need our prayers. He would appreciate cards sent to his address of P.O. Box 305, Dixon, Illinois 61021.

Sue and Jack Suit's grandson, Owen Gleason, died shortly after birth. Please support Sue and Jack during this time of grieving.

Sue Dushek's mother-in-law passed away recently. Sara Collins Brust, a longtime Shamrock Club member, died recently. She was the mother of Chris and John Brust, and wife of David. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Dawn Fleming is recovering from surgery in December.

Mary Beth Holloway recently traveled to Nashville for a wedding and music.

John and Ann Fisher are celebrating the birth of their new granddaughter Mary Catherine McCormack on December 26, 2012. Danielle Rose Hill is Jerry Hill's new great granddaughter. She was born in September, 2012.

- Maggie Blaha
Sunshine Chair

Pete Fleming



RESPOND. RESTORE. RENEW.

Insurance Repair Specialists
The Professionals for Fire Damage Repair since 1958

416 West Walnut Street
Milwaukee, WI 5322

Phone - 24 Hours
414-264-7470
Fax 414-263-1316

Shamrock Club Member

DISCOVER IRELAND WITH JOHN GLEESON

To celebrate the year of The Gathering, John Gleeson will be leading a special tour to Ireland in 2013. This will be John's first tour for the community in some-time and he is looking forward to taking old and new friends to favorite landscapes in his native land and introducing them to his many auld segotias there —charming characters all!

The itinerary includes the cultural cities of Dublin, Kilkenny, Galway, and Sligo, and the glorious scenery of the Dingle Peninsula, the Cliffs of Moher, and the Aran Islands. There will be visits to many places of historical interest including Kilkenny Castle, the Rock of Cashel, Gallarus Oratory, and Kilmainham Gaol. Evenings will be filled with Celtic theatre, music and storytelling.

The dates are May 26 - June 4 and the cost is \$2700.

The trip is being run by Hart Park Senior Center in Wauwatosa and a complete itinerary with terms and conditions may be had by calling Merry at the Center at 414-471-8495, email - mjohanson@ymcamke.org.

Ceili Dances

Join us at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue, for family Irish dancing at its best! Beginners and all ages welcome. Instruction begins at 7:30 P.M. and continues all evening. Music and dancing begin at 8 P.M.

The dances are called, and direction is given, by two of the Midwest's best ceili instructors, Gail McElroy on Fridays and Julie Clark on Saturdays.

Entrance is \$8.00 Adults, and \$5.00 for Students, Seniors, and Children. All proceeds benefit the work of the ICHC. All proceeds benefit the work of the ICHC.

February - June 2013 Calendar:

- Fri., Feb. 1 - **Cream City Ceili**
- Sat., Feb. 16 - **athas**
- Fri., March 1 - **Myserk**
- Sat., March 16 - **Ceol Cairde**
- Fri., April 5 - **Frogwater**
- Sat., April 20 - **RiRa**
- Fri., May 3 - **athas**
- Sat., May 18 - **Wise Maids**
- Fri., June 7 - **Cream City Ceili**

ANNUAL SHAMROCK CLUB

POST PARADE PARTY

SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2013

1 - 6 PM • ICHC



ENTERTAINMENT:

- ♣ TALLYMOORE
- ♣ BLARNEY
- ♣ CRONIN IRISH DANCERS
- ♣ KINSELLA IRISH DANCERS
- ♣ CALEDONIAN SCOTTISH DANCERS
- ♣ SHAMROCK CLUB COLOR GUARD PIPES & DRUMS

Serving: Beer, Soda, Water.
Hot Dogs, Chips, Riebens,
Potato Soup, Cookies.

Admission: \$2.00 person, \$10.00 Family Maximum. Under 5 Free.



SHAMROCK CLUB OF WISCONSIN

2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53223

For Information: <http://shamrockclubwis.com>
or: www.saintpatricksparade.org

An Old Gaelic Prayer

May the Road Rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
till the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hands.

Shamrock Club Mission Statement -

To promote, preserve and participate in Irish Culture of the arts, education and athletics in our community and all that is Irish.



EMERALD REFLECTIONS PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes & Drums