



FRIENDS OF CLONMEL

Celebrating Sister Cities Peoria, Illinois and Clonmel, Ireland since 1998

NEWSLETTER

August 2021

www.friendsofclonmel.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We hope everyone is staying healthy and safe. The global pandemic has been a difficult and challenging time for everyone, both for our friends here and in Ireland.

Because of an Emergency Order from the Governor, the Annual Meeting in November 2020 had to be cancelled for everyone's health and safety. Due to these unprecedented times, the officers and board members that would have been up for election at that meeting graciously agreed to continue to serve another term in their current positions.

You may have noticed that we did not send you a Membership Dues Notice this year. We will continue to keep all members active through 2021, however our expenses do continue. If you are in a position to pay your annual membership, or make a donation, we would certainly welcome your generosity. Thank you for your support and understanding during these challenging times.

Friends of Clonmel would like to thank all our members who have continued to support us during the pandemic in spite of the fact we were not able to deliver all the fun-filled events you always look forward to. We are looking forward to being able to gather together again soon!

Mayor Jim Dillon
President, Friends of Clonmel

SKYLAR AND SOPHIE ARE TWINNED

There isn't any Zoom, Instagram or SnapChat for pen pals Skylar and Sophie. Skylar, from Peoria, and Sophie, from Clonmel, are "old fashioned" pen pals using pen, paper, envelopes and stamps.

Sophie's mother, Melissa, explains how the twinning came about.

"There are any number of websites that connect people who want pen pals. That wasn't an option because of obvious safety reasons for our children. So we turned to a trusted source that could help, Jim Spears, of Jimmy's Bar in West Peoria. Jimmy helped to find just the right family to connect with in Clonmel, Ireland.

"Letters have gone back and forth several times and Skylar and Sophie have learned a lot about each other. They've also seen how different yet how similar their lives are in two different countries.

"Introducing our daughter to the idea of having a pen pal is something I didn't have to think twice about. Watching the joy on her face when she receives a letter is so rewarding."

We think Pen Pal Twinning is.....**PRICELESS!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, November 12
Irish Derby
 The Lariat Steakhouse

Sunday, November 14 at 2:00pm
FOC Annual Meeting
 ReMax Building
 3622 N Knoxville Ave
 Peoria, IL 61603

For event details and more information, visit our website www.friendsofclonmel.org/upcoming-events/

For the latest updates and announcements, like us on Facebook.

IRISH DERBY

New Venue And New Prizes



November 12

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and all proceeds go towards supporting our ongoing sister city educational and social programs between Peoria and Clonmel.

We are thrilled to have everyone back in person.

Join us at the Lariat Steakhouse for a fun-filled evening.

Tickets are only \$35 each. Includes gourmet hors d'oevres and 10 Derby Dollars for betting. Cash Bar available.

We'll notify you when online tickets are available!

Questions? Call Karen McClelland at 309-698-4848.

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO PLANNING MORE EVENTS IN 2022!

A NOTE FROM YVONNE

Yvonne Murphy, a recipient of the Bradley Sister City Scholarship, has returned to Bradley University for her third year of study.

"I have completed my second year of studying cyber security at Bradley University. I am now starting my junior year which is a dream come true.

"I love studying cyber security at Bradley. I am also doing lots of singing on behalf of the college. I am a member of the choir and I love performing for musical events. I have made lifelong friends and experienced a lot that America has to offer, from social events to different activities on campus.

"I am very grateful to the Twinning Committee in Clonmel, the Sister City Commission and Friends of Clonmel in Peoria for their generosity and continued support with my university experience.

"None of this would be possible without the continued support I receive and donations toward my scholarship. There are too many to mention by name, but please know that I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has made this experience possible."

If you would like to donate to Yvonne's scholarship fund, make your check payable to Friends of Clonmel. Please note 'Yvonne Murphy Scholarship Fund' on your check.

Friends of Clonmel
 Yvonne Murphy Scholarship Fund
 2607 W Belle Vista Ct
 West Peoria, IL 61604



Matt Dayhoff/Journal Star

2021 GRAND NATIONAL

Clonmel Connection

On April 11, 2021 a headline in The Times in the UK - "Aintree hails the real National Velvet" saying "real life caught up with art" referred to the American film "National Velvet" starring Elizabeth Taylor, Mickey Rooney and "The Pie". The Clonmel connection is the story of both the jockey and the horse.



Goode/PA, The Times.co.uk

The day before, on April 10, Rachael Blackmore rode Minella Times, an Irish-bred thoroughbred racehorse, to victory in the 2021 Grand National horse race at Aintree Racecourse near Liverpool England. She made history by becoming the first female jockey to win the Grand National.

Rachael is a 2008 alumni of Clonmel's Loreto Secondary School. On one of her previous visits to her alma mater she admitted she "wasn't so good in maths" but said, "I am doing okay now."

We whole heartedly agree, Rachael Blackmore!

AS FOR THE HORSE....

Minella Times was once owned by John Nallen, the co-owner of the Hotel Minella in Clonmel. John has trained horses for over 30 years and his Minella Racing enterprise has produced over 50 champions. Like Minella Times, all of the horses have been named after the family business.

ELECTIONS

CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT

The Clonmel Borough District Councillors recently elected Councillor Michael Murphy to serve as Mayor for 2021-2022. Mayor Michael Murphy assumes the office from the previous Mayor, Siobhán Ambrose.



Michael Murphy



Siobhán Ambrose

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

Former Mayor Siobhán Ambrose was elected by the Tipperary County Council to serve that body as Deputy Chairperson for 2021 - 2022.

2021 BOARD MEMBERS

Officers

President	Jim Dillon
Vice President	Jolene Doyle
Secretary	Annie Spears
Treasurer	Pat O'Connell

Directors

Tom Carney	Karen McClelland
Vicki Carney	Karen Robb
Rex Comerford	Sharon Lasher-Schleich
Tim Doyle	Bobby Spears
Denise Hancock Taylor	Jim Spears
Dan Heinz	

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2021

If you are in a position to pay your annual membership, or make a donation, we would certainly welcome your generosity.

To pay online (credit card or PayPal account)

1. Open the camera or QR scanner/reader on your device.
2. Hold your device so the QR code appears in the viewfinder.
3. Once the QR code is recognized, tap the notification to open the link to the FOC Dues page.

or copy and paste this URL in your web browser:

<https://bit.ly/37GwXeJ>



Contact us

admin@friendsofclonmel.org

Visit us

www.friendsofclonmel.org

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/friendsofclonmel/

MEMBERSHIP

Friends of Clonmel membership is open to anyone wanting to be involved in working cooperatively to establish and maintain an active sister city partnership with the people of Peoria and the people of Clonmel. Make a one time payment of \$100 to become a Lifetime Member and never pay dues again.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Print and mail this form or join/renew online at friendsofclonmel.org/become-a-member/.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & ZIP _____

EMAIL* _____

PHONE _____

ANNUAL DUES: \$10 (EACH)_____ \$100 LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (EACH)_____

PLEASE CONTACT ME ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES _____

*Please include your email address and add admin@friendsofclonmel.org to your accepted email list!

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FRIENDS OF CLONMEL. MAIL FORM & PAYMENT TO:
 FRIENDS OF CLONMEL 5304 W FLAGSTONE DR PEORIA IL 61615