

Holly Berry Bulletin

Clan Irwin Association

Mary Erwin, Chairman



December, 2023 Issue

TRADITIONAL FIGGY PUDDING



Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy Boxing Day, or however you may celebrate this season, may your eyes ever look upward.

Here are a few more traditional and non-traditional thoughts:

Wishing you bushels of merry without the stress. May the wonder of the season bring you joy and happiness.

“God bless us, everyone!” — Tiny Tim, “A Christmas Carol”

And my favorite: What, exactly, counts as “naughty?” Asking for a friend.

(Click on the picture above for a recipe for figgy pudding.)



UPCOMING 2024 GAMES: If you live near any of these places, please try to attend a game:

January 6-7
Florida Keys Celtic Festival
Marathon, FL

January 11-14
Boston Celtic Musical Festival
Boston, MA

January 13-14
Central Florida Scottish Highland Games
CIA Convening
Winter Springs, FL

February 2-3
celticheritageproductions
Celtic Family Jamboree

For those who visited Crathes Castle last year, you will recall that the National Trust for Scotland was in the process of reimagining the centuries-old rose garden. This has now been completed and opened to the public earlier this summer.

From above, the layout of the rose garden resembles a stylized Burnett Rose. The centerpiece of the design is a carved granite reproduction of a Neolithic stone ball or petrosphere. Predominantly found in the northeast of Scotland and dating back over 4,500 years, these balls are thought to have been status or ceremonial items. Click [here](#) for additional pictures and the complete Crathes Castle's rose garden article.

While indexing CIA's past Holly Leaf Chronicle, we encountered some funny stories and thought sharing a few of these each month would be fun.

February 3
sarasotahighlandgames
Sarasota, FL

February 3-4
Tallahassee Highland Games
CIA Convening
Tallahassee, FL

February 10
suncoastscots
CIA Convening
Palmetto, FL

February 17-18
Asheville Celtic Festival
Asheville, NC

February 16-18
Mount Dora Highland Games
CIA Convening
Mount Dora, FL

February 24
NEFL Scottish Games and Festival
CIA Convening
Green Cove Springs, FL

February 28-March 3
Celtic Calling
Charleston, WV

All games may also be found on CIA's Member's Only page, Clan Calendar.

If you want to help Clan Irwin Association convene a tent at these locations, please get in touch with your Regional or State Commissioner or State Convener.

Important December Dates:

December 8: Pretend to Be a Time Traveler Day

December 15: Bill of Rights Day; International Tea Day

December 16: Boston Tea Party Day

December 21: First Day of Winter/Winter Solstice

December 25: Christmas Day

December 26: Boxing Day

December 30: Bacon Day

December 31: New Year's Eve

December 31 - January 2: Hogmanay

Below are a couple:

First Quater 1994, page 8:

If the Clan Irwin Association was abbreviated "CIA," would we then be called "Clan Destine"?? (This started at a clan gathering and party at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games about fifteen years ago. Our current Holly Leaf Chronicle editor might have been part of the team that came up with this "punishment".)

The editor during this time was Robin L. Allen.

Fourth Quater 1994, page 8:

As Others Have Seen Us

An Erwin, not known by name: "The Erwins would have been richer if they had not been so damned honest."

An English Warden of the Western Marches (on the border): "There aren't that many of them - they just seem like a lot."

How many of you CIA (aka Clan Destine) members remember these?

Did you know there are 15 beehives on top of the Scottish Parliament?

In the Member's Garden on top of the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood, around one million bees are housed across 15 beehives. They are the only legislative organization in the United Kingdom to have their on-site hives. It might seem like just a strange quirk, but these little workers have a very special role to play in every Act of Parliament. While any excess honey not needed by the bees is sold in the parliamentary shop, it's the beeswax that government officials are really interested in. Once it's been harvested and sent to the National Records of Scotland, it's dyed red and used to create the Great Seal of Scotland, which is attached to all acts of Scotland's parliament.

(Thanks to Leslie Smeathers for this tidbit.)

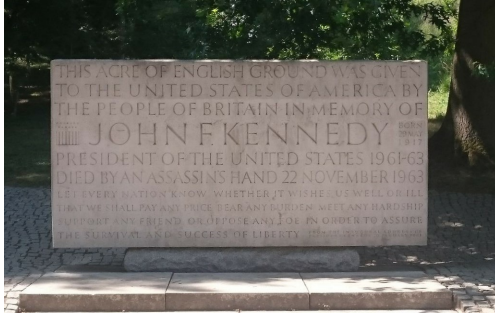
FREE online course 'Genetic Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree Using DNA'.
Genealogy MOOCs | University of Strathclyde

CALLING ALL INSTAGRAMMERS

We are happy to report that Clan Irwin Association (CIA) has a new Instagram account. If you are on Instagram, please follow us at [clanirwin_association](#). Feel free to share appropriate pictures and articles. If you are not on Instagram and have pictures of games, weddings, birth announcements or

other events that you would like to share with CIA and others, please send to teresa.tucker@clanirwin.org.

Please provide any feedback to help us improve our social media accounts.



A Little Bit of America in England: The United States of America has a little-known plot of land located at Runnymede in Surrey. In 1963, in honor of the late President John F. Kennedy, the late Queen Elizabeth II, gifted in perpetuity to the United States, one acre so that the memorial would stand on American soil. Part of President Kennedy's inaugural speech is engraved on this stone. You will have to climb 50 granite steps, which represent the 50 US states, to visit this memorial. To find out more about this little piece of America in England click the following link: **The tiny piece of the US hidden in England.**

In one of its latest editions, the NTSUSA shared some of the successes that American donors have made possible in fiscal year 2023. Queen Victoria's Picnic Lodge, pictured above, is one of the projects supported. Other projects are listed below.

- The Burns Online Access Project
- Restoration of Queen Victoria's Picnic Lodge
- Conservation of Canna House
- Completion of NTSUSA's Save Our Scotland (SOS) Pledge
- Acquisition of the Treshnish Isles

Click **here** to see a more detailed description of the projects.

If you would like to volunteer to be on one of your Clan Irwin Association committees, please contact one of the following Officers:

Mary Erwin - Chairman

Craig Kleinert, Jr. - 1st Vice-Chairman

Teresa Tucker - 2nd Vice-Chairman

Ken Erwin - Treasurer

Leslie Smeathers - Corresponding Secretary

John F. Ervin - Membership Secretary

Please send your newsletter feedback to Teresa Tucker at teresa.tucker@clanirwin.org with your comments and suggestions for what you would like to see going forward.



Clan Irwin Association is a registered 501(c)(3) Nonprofit. All donations are tax deductible. (Dues are not considered donations.)

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