We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our Society and hope that we will have the opportunity of meeting up with them at our next Rally in May 2014.

NEW MEMBERS

Maureen Michelle Lima          New York
Pat Tait                      Ontario

The year 2013 is now drawing to a close and I hope it has been a good one for all of you and your families. This edition of the Newsletter includes the prospective programme for our Rally and we are grateful to Rory O'Shaughnessy for the work he has done in putting together a Rally which should prove both interesting and thoroughly enjoyable. His in-depth knowledge of the area is invaluable and he makes a splendid and enthusiastic tour guide.

Nowadays it is much easier to get from many cities in North America to Ireland so we hope to see lots of our US and Canadian members and, hopefully, with the enormous emigration from here to Australia, many of you will also come and join with such stalwarts as Megan McKenzie, a former President of the Society, who always tried, when possible, to attend. In 2013 the Irish Government supported a tourism initiative called “The Gathering” and it attracted Irish people and people of Irish extraction from far and wide. It is considered to have been a huge success and not only for our visitors but also for the many towns and villages involved in making sure that relatives and friends received the warmest of welcomes. Many events were put together by local people to provide entertainment and as a consequence, neighbours and friends re-engaged with each other to make sure various events were organized. Lots of people rediscovered how good it was to show local talent and work together for the common
good and so both visitors and locals all enjoyed “The Gathering”. Rory had a large part to play in the organisation in his area and appeared on National TV during the event.

Now, of course, our Gathering is slightly different in that this is an O'Shaughnessy Rally but, of course, anyone who is either related or interested in our Society is more than welcome to attend.

Of course, while 2013 may have been a happy one for most of you, our Society has lost some of our longest standing members. First of all, we lost Anna Hannon, the wife of Tom who died on July 19 2013. Most of you who have visited our Rally in previous years would have known Anna and her loss is very sad indeed. She had been ill for some time and our sympathies go to her family and especially Tony, whom we always meet at our Rallies. We shall miss her greatly next year in Gort.

Another much esteemed member of our Society who died recently is Peter O'Shaughnessy and I am grateful to his relative Lesley for submitting the following article. Peter was one of the earliest members of the Society and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of early Celtic history and could be heard frequently on the national radio station here in Ireland- RTE- reading from some of his many books on the subject.

Obituary for Peter O'Shaughnessy OAM — by Lesley O'Shaughnessy, Melbourne. Australia
On July 17th 2013 the world lost an Australian Thespian and Writer of renown, most famous for his acting and creative partnership in the early days with Barry Humphries of Dame Edna Everage fame…..Whilst we had never met in person Peter and I started conversing via email a couple of years ago through a mutual love of our O'Shaughnessy family history, Peter O'Shaughnessy was a fourth generation Antipodean, his Ancestors having come to Melbourne from Athenry in Ireland in the 1840’s and settling around the innercity leafy suburb of Kew, near Melbourne. Proud of his Irish Australian heritage Peter would talk for hours about his Father & Great Grandfather who came as a single man as an “Assisted Immigrant” and farmer, and went on through sheer grit to became a successful Publican and land developer, his Great Grandfather was well known in the area for his political beliefs and antics, some
may say the apple does not fall far from the tree as Peter was also well known for his colourful opinions on many subjects. Born in 1923 to a Doctor (albeit a struggling one) and his wife, Peter lived an unassuming childhood through Melbourne’s depression years, at times racked by the shame of poverty as he recounts it, he found his life to be a bit if of paradox as he was educated at the elite Melbourne Xavier College, often fearful of as he put it, “of being kicked out” was it not for the kindness of the Christian Brothers. He fondly remembered playing roughhouse with his two brothers, Brian the Australian Philosopher, Writer and Desmond. Whilst Peter lived most of his Adult life in the UK, he was bursting with unrestrained pride when he was recently awarded the OAM in the 2013 Australia days honours for his contribution to Theatre. Below I have included the recent article from Melbourne’s Age newspaper.

Death of actor who helped shape the Dame

Peter O'Shaughnessy, OAM, the man who helped Barry Humphries develop his world-famous character Dame Edna Everage in Melbourne in the 1950s, has died in England. O'Shaughnessy was farewelled at a small family funeral in Winchester last Friday. He died on July 17 aged 89 after a short illness. He had lived in Britain since the 1970s. In January O'Shaughnessy received an Order of Australia Medal for service to the performing arts as a writer, theatre director, actor, historian and folklorist. His friend Aubrey Mellor, a theatre director and former head of the National Institute of Dramatic Arts, said the award made O'Shaughnessy "so happy". O'Shaughnessy mentored a young Humphries in the late 1950s, helping him develop the characters of both Dame Edna and Sandy Stone after he first tried them out on stage. "Without O'Shaughnessy's nurturing and promotion, the character of Edna Everage would have been nipped in the bud after 1956 and never come to flower, while the character of Sandy Stone would never have taken shape as a presence on the stage," Humphries wrote in his 1992 autobiography More Please. Melbourne actor Ron Pinnell said O'Shaughnessy was instrumental in bringing Humphries, who was then at Melbourne University, to the stage. "Peter O'Shaughnessy introduced Barry Humphries to Melbourne theatre audiences at the New Theatre in 1959," said Pinnell, who said he remained in contact with O'Shaughnessy in recent years. "In The Rock'n'Reel Revue, Edna Everage flaunted her wares and Sandy Stone made his first appearance. "I played Edna's husband Norm and her little son Kenny. "We opened the show with a song, wearing Mickey Mouse ears. "O'Shaughnessy was credited with bringing Samuel Beckett's Waiting for Godot to Australian audiences for the first time, in 1957."[He] engaged Barry Humphries to perform with him in the first production in Australia of Samuel Beckett's Waiting for Godot at the Arrow Theatre in Middle Park," Pinnell said. "He further engaged Mr Humphries to successfully play and co-write the pantomime The Bunyip and the Satellite." Asked to describe O'Shaughnessy, Pinnell said: "He was the sort of bloke that really should have had a repertory company in Australia."He was possibly Australia’s finest actor-director." article by Debbie Cuthbertson Arts Editor, Melbourne Age Newspaper Aug 2nd 2013.

Peter recounts the stories of his life in his Biography which can be read on his website

www.peteroshaughnessy.info, Lesley O'Shaughnessy can be contacted at lesleyoshaughnessy@hotmail.com

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Richard McNab has submitted an article on Laurence O'Shaughnessy whose name he encountered during his research on the wartime diary of his father. This is a
fascinating piece of history for which we are indebted to him and I am quite sure that many of you will be most interested in his research.

LAURENCE O'SHAUGHNESSY

If you google “Laurence O'Shaughnessy” you'll come up with a fascinating selection of names and pictures: Major Laurence Frederick O'Shaughnessy, Eileen O'Shaughnessy, wife of the novelist George Orwell, Orwell in Spain, surgical treatment, the Battle of Dunkirk… Tantalising voices from the past, inviting the reader down a mysterious path of names and connections.

It was down this path that I travelled while I was researching the wartime diary of my Dad, George McNab. George was a major in the Royal Army Medical Corps and his diary described his adventures on the journey of his unit, Number 5 Casualty Clearing Station, from the French town of Riviere to Dunkirk in May 1940. He described many of his companions and his fellow officers, and amongst these was the eminent thoracic surgeon Laurence O'Shaughnessy.

Laurence Frederick O'Shaughnessy was born in 1901. He studied at the universities of Durham and Berlin and already had a brilliant career by the time he joined the RAMC shortly before the Second World War. He had worked at a hospital in the Sudan and he studied under the renowned German surgeon Ernst Sauerbruch. In 1937 he published a ground breaking book on thoracic surgery, based on Sauerbruch's work. He was Hunterian Professor at the Royal College of Surgeons and carried out some pioneering research on greyhounds. He joined the Territorials in the belief that chest wounds received in battle could best be treated by immediate attention at the front, rather than being transferred away to hospitals. In September 1939 he and my father sailed with their unit to France where they served as doctors to local communities throughout the “phony war”. But in May 1940 Laurence O'Shaughnessy’s tragic death at Dunkirk sent shock waves through the medical establishment: shock waves that still reverberate today.

Where does George Orwell fit into the story? His wife Eileen O'Shaughnessy was Laurence’s sister. She followed Orwell to Spain during the Spanish Civil War where she met Georges Kopp, under whom George Orwell served. Kopp accompanied them when they returned to England and was introduced to Gwendoline Hunton, the wife of Laurence O'Shaughnessy. Eventually he married Gwendoline’s sister. Meanwhile Laurence oversaw the treatment of George Orwell’s tuberculosis. While there has always been speculation about the relationship between Eileen, Orwell and Georges Kopp a cache of her letters came to light several years ago which showed that her first loyalty was to her brother Laurence. His death devastated her as it did Gwendoline. Five years later she died whilst undergoing an operation and while George Orwell was away in Europe reporting on the war.

Reports of Laurence O'Shaughnessy's death led to a rash of speculation and often far-fetched rumours, both within the medical profession and amongst the public at large, about exactly how and where he died. Meanwhile my father, who tried vainly to save his life, recorded the details in his diary and that was where they stayed. When I was a boy he occasionally talked about the event that killed Laurence and nearly killed him: a horrific episode which stayed with him for the rest of his life and from which he never
recovered. This was why, although he must have known about the rumours, he never publicised what was an almost unique eye witness account in his diary.

I followed the route that my Dad had followed and visited the places that he had visited during the retreat. In his diary he left details that helped me to identify almost the exact place where Laurence, or “Shaugh” as he called him, was killed. And when I returned to England to write up an account of my search that could have been how I left the story of Laurence O'Shaughnessy. But as I researched further I came across a letter to “Thorax”, the journal of the British Thoracic Society, written in 1992 - over 50 years after Dunkirk - enquiring about the enduring mystery of his death.

It was a letter which changed completely the direction of my account. For one thing I managed to track down and meet the writer, himself a professor of thoracic surgery and, as it turned out, a native of Dunkirk. He willingly shared with me the questions and rumours about O'Shaughnessy that had circulated in the years following the Second World War, and he helped me to map out the old town of Dunkirk as it had been in 1940. For another I was able to show him my father’s diary and give him the answer he had sought twenty years earlier.

My Dad called his diary “Retreat from Riviere” so that is the name that I have given to my book which describes his adventures as well as my journey and my research. In addition to the professor, and a number of other people I met in France, I received unstinting help and advice from relatives of the O'Shaughnessy family who, before I made contact with them, did not know the details of Laurence’s death. And so, after seventy years, “Retreat from Riviere” contains the only detailed and accurate account of the death of Laurence O'Shaughnessy.

Richard McNab’s book is available from Amazon and titled “Retreat from Riviere”. A website will be available shortly at www.retreatfromriviere.co.uk

I am grateful to Ed Shaughnessy who has sent us an item about Carmel O'Shanessy a linguist at the, University of Michigan, who has discovered a new language.. The language is called Warlpiri rampaku, or Light Warlpiri, and is spoken only by people under 35 in Lajamanu, an isolated village of about 700 people in Australia’s Northern Territory In all, about 350 people speak the language as their native tongue. Dr. O Shanessy has published several studies of Light Warlpiri, the most recent in the June issue of Language. Everyone is Lajamanu also speaks “strong” Warlpiri, an aboriginal language unrelated to English and shared with about 4,000 people in several Australian villages. Lajamanu parents are happy to have their children learn English for use in the wider world, but eager to preserve Warlpiri as the language of their culture.

The Village is about 550 miles south of Darwin and the nearest commercial centre is Katherine, about 340 miles north. There are no completely paved roads.
Rory has suggested the following programme for our next Rally and it should prove to be a most interesting and enjoyable occasion.

Day 1

Thurs May 15th 2014

The venue for the 2014 O’Shaughnessy Gathering will be in the clan’s ancestral home of South Galway. The Lady Gregory Hotel in the market town of Gort will act as a base for much of the activity. The Lady Gregory is a 3 star hotel, with 87 beautifully appointed rooms, great service and a location of unrivalled beauty for all occasions. It also boasts a sumptuous leisure club. The hotel is offering a special deal of €50 per person per night for 3-4 night stay. There are also a number of other accommodation choices available locally. Thursday night will feature a welcome event- the raising of the O’Shaughnessy flag at the hotel and a storytelling night with world renowned Irish seanchaí Eddie Lennihan.
Connemara Tour:
Depart the Lady Gregory at 9am by coach for tour of Connemara, via Galway City, the Coast Road, Maam Cross, Leenane and on to Kylemore Abbey. Free time to enjoy the Abbey and Gardens. Lunch/refreshments available at your own expense at Kylemore. Return to Galway via Inagh Valley and Oughterard. Arrive at Lady Gregory circa 6.30pm.

Evening Meal at own expense

8pm: Genealogy Session

9pm Enjoy some traditional music at the Lady Gregory.
10am

O’Shaughnessy Society AGM at the Lady Gregory Hotel
Following the AGM enjoy a tour by car of South Galway with a visit to Kiltartan Gregory Museum. Transport can be arranged if needed.

7.45pm
Depart the Lady Gregory by coach to enjoy a Medieval Banquet with entertainment at Dunguaire Castle in nearby Kinvarra. Dunguaire is believed to have been built by Rory Mor O’Shaughnessy and the banquet is a high point of all O’Shaughnessy Gatherings. A King and Queen will be chosen on the night to preside over the proceedings.

11pm Return to the hotel
Day 4  
Sunday May 18th 2014

Enjoy freetime Sunday morning to relax in the hotel Leisure Centre, take a walk at nearby Coole Park, or to take in services at the local Church.

12pm – Depart Lady Gregory by car to Kilmacduagh for O’Shaughnessy Clan Rememberance Service at the O’Shaughnessy Chapel. Enjoy a tour of the Monastery site followed by Tea and Sandwiches at nearby Naomh Colman - Josie Finnegan’s B&B.

2pm- Depart Kilmacduagh for a visit to the O’Shaughnessy stronghold Fiddaun Castle followed by a visit to nearby Holy Well and traditional pub at Tubber.

8pm- Farewell Dinner at the Lady Gregory Hotel.
Costings for the Rally Programme are estimated as follows although some alterations may be necessary to accommodate price variations.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Cost (Euro)</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Storytelling session with Eddie Lenihan</td>
<td>3.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Connemara Tour and Entrance to Kylemore Abbey</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Traditional Music at Lady Gregory</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Visit Kiltartan Museum</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dunguaire Banquet and Coach</td>
<td>52.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Visit Kilmacduagh</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Refreshments at Josie Finnegan’s</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visit to Fiddaun</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Farewell Dinner</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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All accommodation should be independently arranged. The Lady Gregory Hotel Gort can be contacted as follows:

Phone: 00353 91632333 e-mail: manager@ladygregoryhotel.ie

**RESERVATIONS FOR RALLY**

Every effort has been made to keep costs to a minimum while still providing an informative and enjoyable time for all. You may wish to attend the full programme or just certain events. The cost will be charged accordingly. Please book your place, preferably before March 1.

To book, please send a deposit of Euro50.00; Can$70, US65; A$70; NZ$85; Stg.40 to The O’Shaughnessy Society, C/O Rory O’Shaughnessy, Rally Co-Ordinator, Ballylara, Ardrahan, Co. Galway’
Tel.No. 00353 874065646 e-mail: rory_oshbaughnessy@eircom.net
Prof. Ed Shaughnessy, one of our founder members, was given a very beautiful poem – specially written for himself and Mary during a visit to their lovely Vermont cottage by Michael Whelan, President of The Whelan Group. This was illustrated beautifully with a sketch by Brother Michael Dundin, FSC of Christian Brothers in Lincroft, NJ. We have been given permission to publish this gem in our Newsletter. (Poem re-printed on final page of Newsletter)

On Looking Out
The Shaughnessys’ Window

Arlington, Vermont - October 25, 2008

We woke to snow early for the season.

Morning white-frozen
still in sleep.

Intimate as dreams the clouds
lie low on the close-in mountain.

Up the north side of the oak outside
the window the wild wind

caked last night
a vertical layer of snow.

So too up the north side
of the black lamp pole.

Suddenly a flock of birds
lifts from the snow dust
out of the tree tops
burnished still in autumn rust.

They have woken the wind.
Snow-hatted hedges rustle.

From under the porch roof
the wind chimes announce
delicate glorias.

We have risen in place
into
heaven.

Michael Whelan
The Treasurer has asked me to remind members that their 2014 Subscriptions are now due. There has been no change from the previous year but an Application Form is attached so that you may renew.

Des has also asked me to remind members that he will be resigning his post as Treasurer at the next Rally. My two years as Editor of the Newsletter will also come to an end at the Rally so there is another vacancy!

Richard and Clare have presented us with a new grandson, Luke Edward, who arrived on July 3. We hope to introduce him to you all at the Rally!

I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 2014.
The O’Shaughnessy Society

**Membership Application Form 2014**

Subscription Rates are as follows:
Ireland €15.00  
Britain and Northern Ireland STG£13.00  
USA US$20  
Canada Cdn$25  
Australia A$30  
New Zealand NZ$35  
Other EU €15

**FROM:**
Name: __________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________
________________________________________________
E-Mail: ________________________________________________

Preferred Title (Please Tick) Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr/Prof or Specify: __________
Please indicate if this is a New Membership Application or a renewal: 
New ___  
Renewal ______

**Method of Payment from Overseas:**
A cheque drawn on your own bank in your local currency for the amount mentioned above will suffice. No need to buy a Bank draft or money order.

**Administration:**
Would you be prepared to become involved in the administration of the Society?  Yes____  No____

If this is an initial Application for Membership, please complete the declaration below:

- New Members:
  I HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE O’SHAUGHNESSY SOCIETY AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE SOCIETY’S CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Signed__________________________________________ Date_________________

Subscriptions from new members joining after September will be valid for following year.

Please mail all Membership Application Forms, together with subscription to Des O’Shaughnessy, Hon. Treasurer,  
6 Whitehall Road, Aghagallon, Lurgan, Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland BT67 0AE  
e-mail: dkos@btinternet.com

**FAMILY HISTORY:**  We are interested in knowing the genealogy of your O’Shaughnessys. Please send us the names of your earliest ancestors, date and location of immigration, name of county and townland from which they left, if known, and any other information which may be of help in linking our Clan members. This can be sent to: Ann Staines, 50 Porchlight Dr., Elmira, On. Canada.

**e-mail:** astaines@sympatico.ca
On Looking Out of The O'Shaughnessys' window
Arlington, Vermont – October 29. 2008

We wake to snow early for the season. Suddenly a flock of birds lifts from the snow dust

Morning white-frozen still in sleep. out of the tree tops burnished still in autumn rust.

Intimate as dreams the clouds
Lie low on the close-in mountain. They have woken the wind.

They have woken the wind.
Snow-hatted hedges rustle.

Up the north side of the oak outside the window the wild wind
From under the porch roof the wind chimes announce delicate glorias.

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We have risen in place
into heaven.

So too up the north side of the black lamp pole.

Michael Wbelan

I have reprinted this beautiful poem as the original scan is a little faint and I hope this makes it clearer to read and enjoy