

CASSIDY CLAN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2023



Beannachtaí an tSéasúirt / Seasons Greetings



NUALA CASSIDY AND HER BROTHER NOEL
CASSIDY ON DEVENISH ISLAND
AT THE 2017 CASSIDY CLAN RALLY

IN PRAISE OF CASSIDY CLAN CHIEFTAIN NUALA CASSIDY



It is with great sadness but also the deepest appreciation for a life well lived and incredible contributions spanning four decades to the Cassidy Clan that we announce the passing of the Cassidy Clan Chieftain ("An O' Caisideach") Nuala Cassidy. She passed away on 7 November 2023, in County Armagh, Northern Ireland.



Founding Executive Committee of the Cassidy Clan. Nuala is seated in the front row, second from left, next to Sean Ó Caiside, the original Clan Chieftain.

Nuala was simply the backbone of the Cassidy Clan. From its founding under the leadership of Colm Cassidy of County Clare, Nuala served as the Clan Secretary. She co-organized the first clan rally and each rally thereafter, eventually becoming the lead organizer of all Clan rallies.

Nuala also eagerly took on the role of Clan Genealogist, maintaining Cassidy records and assisting countless Cassidys from across the globe in tracing their Irish ancestors.

Eventually, Nuala became Chairperson of the Cassidy Clan herself. In 2017, Nuala was inaugurated as our Chieftain at the Clan Rally in 2017 during a ceremony on Devenish Island (See cover photo). Nuala continued as Chieftain through our 2022 rally.

While becoming Chieftain represented the pinnacle of her service to the Cassidy Clan, it is not hyperbole to state that the modern Cassidy Clan would not have commenced and thrived from its founding in 1991 to the present without Nuala's tireless efforts and incredible contributions - all on a voluntary, unpaid basis.

Nuala's warm smile, kindness, dedication, sense of humor and sharp intellect will be missed by all. We offer our deepest condolences to her family.

Stephen Cassidy

A LETTER TO NUALA

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Dear Nuala,

Ní bheidh do leithéid arís ann.

There will never be the likes of you ever again.

Today my heart breaks at the news that you have got your wings. I saw two rainbows in the sky yesterday and decided to take a walk not knowing what I would find, maybe a treasure. On my return, news came that you had passed and then it became clear that those rainbows were you smiling down on me. In every Irish sense of the symbolism of the rainbows and pots of gold, it was you. In that moment, I felt your presence and peace.



I am happy, grateful, blessed to have known you and shared so many loving memories over the last 21 years, but I believe everyone who came into your circle are better people than before meeting you. You were contagious with people, sharing stories, love and inspiration and treating everyone equal in the true sense of our Celtic ancestors. Your love of Irish culture, history and the great Cassidy family that has spread all over Ireland and the world has inspired us all.

I am forever grateful for your hospitality and warmth as a person to inspire my life into our Cassidy heritage, Irish history and culture. Forever grateful I am and little did I know that your inspiration drove me to go deeper, to learn more and discover self to be where I am today.

Thanks for welcoming my family to BallyCassidy so many times and for welcoming, showing and supporting our story from Roslea. Thank you for journeying across the pond to see where our family ended up and meet all your cousins. Thank you for countless discussions, for encouragement and support. Thank you for welcoming my wife and family in to the Cassidy Clan and for visiting us in Donegal and then later in Oulu. The memories are countless, the craic and banter legendary, the love and hospitality forever a part of us. You were more than a friend, you were family and I will miss you forever while cherishing your memory.

Forever will you live in our hearts and forever will you be in my thoughts and anything I ever do for it was you who set me off on this Gaelic journey back in 2000. And, this is how I will celebrate your life, by continuing on as you did to inspire through peace, love and harmony. God bless you, your family and all that had the blessing to come in to contact with you. When they write the next part of the Cassidy Clan's history, your name will be amongst the greatest.

Is mise le meas, Brent Ó Caiside

JOIN US IN IRELAND

We welcome you back to Ireland in 2025. The Cassidy Clan Rally is held every three years in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, close to the ancestral lands of the Cassidys.

Our next rally will take place from Friday 4 July through Sunday 6 July, 2025.

The rally celebrates Irish culture and history, including local history and the Cassidy role within it, through stories, musical performances, and genealogy and cultural presentations. Cassidys worldwide will join us.



The host hotel for the Cassidy Clan Rally is the beautiful Killyhevlin Lakeside Hotel and Resort, which is close to Enniskillen and along Lough (River) Erne.



RALLY FAQ

1) What is planned?

The rally will commence on the evening of Friday 4 July with a "Meet the Cousins" reception. On Saturday morning we will have lectures on genealogy, history and culture. In the afternoon there will be a guided tour of the area where Cassidys originated including a boat trip to Denevish Island and bus ride to the Cassidy ancestral rath. On Sunday evening, the rally concludes with our Gala Dinner, which is always one of the main events.

2) What will the rally cost?

In 2022, the charge for attending the rally, including guided tour and Clan Gala Dinner, was £190.00 per couple or £110.00 per person. We will post charges for the 2025 rally in early 2025. The charges do not include meals other than the Sunday banquet or accommodations. You have to book your lodging yourself, but there is a group discount for staying at the Killyhevlin Hotel.

3) Do I have to stay at the Killyhevlin Hotel?

No. Many other accommodation options are available nearby.



Use the QR code to learn more or visit
www.cassidyclan.org/clan-rally

CLAN LEADERSHIP

The Cassidy Clan is a non-profit organization based in Ireland, managed by an international Executive Committee of volunteers and consisting of Cassidys, including Cassidy variations, their spouses, descendants and friends from around the world.

The Cassidy Clan is headed by the Chief of the Clan, who is referred to or addressed by the title "An O' Caisideach," and the officers of the Executive Committee. The "An O'Caisideach" is an honoree position and ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

With the recent passing of Nuala Cassidy from County Armagh, Stephen Cassidy, the deputy chief, is now the Chief of the Clan. Stephen lives in California and has been a member of the Executive Committee for 25 years, managing the clan website and social media.

Noel Cassidy from County Leitrim in Ireland serves as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee. Noel Cassidy has been instrumental in organizing clan rallies, maintaining the Cassidy rath and preserving clan files and research.

Other members of the Executive Committee are Janet Cassidy (from New Jersey/Massachusetts), Kerry Cassidy (from Australia/Switzerland) and Brent Cassidy (from Finland/Italy).



Stephen Cassidy and his daughter Fiona at one of two Cassidy pubs in Dublin, Ireland.



Noel Cassidy (on right) with Kerry and Elisabeth Cassidy at the Cassidy rath in County Fermanagh.

All have been members of the clan for many years. Together, the Executive Committee is planning the 2025 rally and other clan projects and endeavors.

We are in the process of revising our procedures for becoming a member of the clan, and will provide an update in our next newsletter.

DEVENISH ISLAND



One century after St. Patrick's death and paralleling the growth of monasticism in Ireland in the sixth century, St. Molaise (whose death is recorded in the Annals of Ulster in both 563 and 570 A.D.), founded a monastery on Devenish Island.

Devenish (daimh-inis, or ox island) is an L-shaped island of 70 acres at the southern end of Lower Lough Erne, 1.5 miles downstream from Enniskillen. Ballycassidy is approximately 2 miles north of Devenish Island on the eastern shore of the lake. The ruins of a monastery, two churches, an oratory and one of the finest round towers in Ireland occupy a sloping hillside on the southeast tip of Devenish.

Cassidys served as "erenaghs," hereditary land managers for the Church's property in parts Devenish parish and undoubtedly studied and worshiped at Devenish Island.

"For, as the Roman Empire fell, as all through Europe matted, unwashed barbarians descended on the Roman cities, looking artifacts and burning books, the Irish, who were just learning to read and write, took up the great labor of copying all of Western literature — everything they could lay their hands on. . . . Without the Mission of the Irish Monks, who single-handedly refounded European civilization throughout the continent in the bay and valleys of their exile, the world that came after them would have been an entirely different one — a world without books."

Thomas Cahill, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*



The most famous early Irish Cassidy ancestor, the poet Giolla Mochuda Ó Caiside, composed *Banshenchas* (The Lore of Women), on Devenish Island in 1147. The poem tells the history of the women of the world starting with Eve. At the conclusion of the poem, Devenish is described as "of gracious words and pure holy song."

A BIT OF CRAIC



Just as we were heading to bed Charlotte asked, "Benny did ye put the wheelie bin out?"
"Erm nah, I'll put it out in the morning" I replied.
"What about the cat" she said. I said "well I'll ask him but I don't think he'll be able to push it"



If you need a hand up through humour or by positivity with lashings of encouragement then join the Facebook group [Enniskillen Banter](#) administered by Cassidy Clan member Benny Cassidy (in photo above).

ABOUT THE CASSIDY CLAN



**CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte!
A Hundred Thousand
Welcomes!**

The Cassidy Clan is a perpetual hereditary association comprised of persons that bear the Cassidy surname or are descended from an ancestor with the Cassidy surname or any of the variant spellings of Cassidy, including Cassity, Cassaday and Casada.

We take great pride in our heritage as physicians, priests and scholars. We seek to build common bonds among all Cassidys and their descendants. Every three years we host a rally in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, where the Cassidys originated. The next Cassidy Clan Rally will take place in 2025 from Friday 4 July through Sunday 6 July.

Please visit us online at
www.CassidyClan.org or at our
Facebook page
www.facebook.com/cassidyclan
or our Facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/officialcassidyclan>