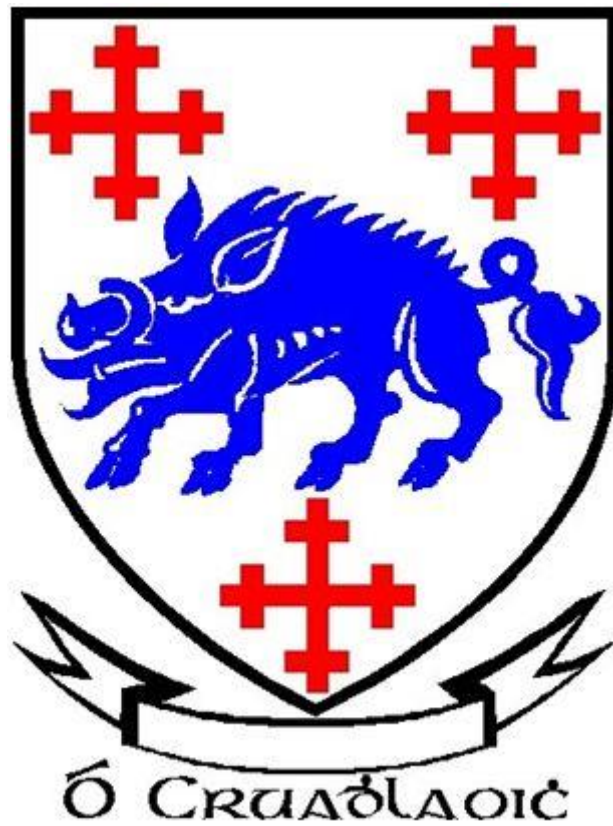


# CROWLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

November 2004

compiled by Marian Crowley Chamberlain



## Letter from the Crowley Clan Taoiseach

I would like to thank everyone for their trust in me making me their new Taoiseach. Thank you also to Tom Crowley for all he has done for the cause of the Crowley Clan. The Bantry gathering and the 209 people at the banquet were a measure of the work Tom has put into the Crowley Clan. Tom has told me he will work with us any way he can for the future. I was sorry we had no general meeting for people to air their views on the castle project.

I have also given Marian a treasurer's report. We had to cover the cost of the engineers' report on the castle that amounted to €3872.00 from the gathering funds.

The Crowley Clan Council met on September 17th in Dunmanway. The new officers are: Taoiseach Liam Crowley, Tanaiste Marian Crowley Chamberlain, Runai John Crowley (Bantry), Cisteoir Flor Crowley (Bandon) and Ann Crowley (Bandon). Council members are: Charles Crowley (Bandon), Jerry Crowley (Bandon), Larry Crowley (Bandon), Kitty Crowley Horgan (Bandon), Tom Crowley (Ohio, USA), Vincent Crowley (Bantry), Seamus Crowley (Mallow), and Betty Lordan (London, England). Dr. Sean Crowley (Waterfall) has retired. Sean has been a very active member for a long number of years and is a past Taoiseach.

Finally, I hope everyone enjoyed the gathering in Bantry.

Liam Crowley  
An Taoiseach

# Collected Impressions and Memories of the 2004 Crowley Clan Gathering

*by the "Crowley Sisters"*

Many of us came as first-timers and strangers to each other. We left three days later as friends and family.

The opening wine-and-cheese reception, courtesy of local pub owner J. J. Crowley, broke the ice nicely in a casual atmosphere and allowed us all an hour or so to get briefly acquainted with as many people as possible. Over the next few days we would have many opportunities to get to know them well. Welcomes were extended in person by Pat Bono Kelly, the Mayor of Bantry, and Paddy Sheehan, Mayor of Cork County.

The nametags were extremely valuable and helpful, although by the third day, we knew so many people, we almost didn't need them. Some other "Crowley Attire" seen included sun visors, tee shirts, and the wildly popular Crowley Crest pins generously handed out to many by Terry Crowley of Ontario, Canada.

Two nights of sing-alongs at J. J. Crowley's pub were enormous fun, with great music, great singing, great pints, and much hand clapping and foot stomping. Although not scheduled especially for us, the Bantry Fair (market day) and the Bantry Agricultural Show occurred the same weekend and were fun and interesting diversions.

Comfortable buses shuttled us around on Saturday to some memorable sites, with interesting commentary and history provided by Seamus Crowley, Dan O'Sullivan and others:

- **Cariganass Castle, an O'Sullivan Castle undergoing restoration--** An inspiring talk on the history of the site and the restoration experience was given by Dan O'Sullivan, with many helpful suggestions about how the Crowleys can go about saving and restoring our own castle. Live, outdoor music on the "squeeze box" was provided by Johnny Crowley and Vincent Crowley. In the spirit (literally) of truce between the O'Sullivans and the O'Crowleys, a bracing drink was served to all within the castle walls. It wasn't poteen, but it had its own little kick.
- **Gougane Barra, ancient and lovely site of St. Finnbar's first monastery--** The Crowleys were able to "attend," or at least observe from afar, the two weddings that occurred in a tiny but beautiful chapel on the grounds while we were there. An informative presentation about Gougane Barra and St. Finnbar's monastery was offered.
- **Crowley Castle remains at Ahakeera--** It was incredibly moving and impressive to stand with others of our lineage on these ancient Crowley grounds and proudly watch our standard being borne down the hill to the site. We were transported back in time hearing a mournful hunting horn and seeing a knight in full armor approach the ruins of the Crowley Castle! James and Bill Crowley, brothers from California, demonstrated the armor and fighting equipment of medieval knights, and Michael Patrick Crowley from France demonstrated the ancient horn. Seamus Crowley offered a brief and fascinating history of the castle, and we all came to understand the importance of protecting and maintaining - at the very least - what remains of our family castle.

In the evening over 200 Crowleys from around the world gathered to enjoy food, drink, camaraderie, music, and dancing at the banquet. Taoiseach Tom Crowley of the U.S. handed over the chain of office to new Taoiseach Liam Crowley of Ireland. Accepting the appointment to Tanaiste was Marian Crowley Chamberlain of the US, editor of the Crowley Clan Newsletter. Brian Crowley, Member of the European Parliament, offered moving and inspiring comments. Brian underscored the importance of family roots, history, and the salvaging the Crowley Castle remains to ensure an unbroken connection with our past.

Sunday, yet another day of rare warm and sunny weather tested our athletic ability as we pursued the ancient game of Road Bowling on a back road outside Bantry. After watching some expert demonstrations, three teams of four volunteered to represent the United States, Canada, and the Rest of the World, respectively. A spirited but good-natured competition followed, with the US ultimately victorious by only a few meters. After presentation of trophies and team pictures, the teams and their fans repaired to the Cozy Cabin Pub to restore their strength, with the first round on the Crowley Clan treasury.

In the afternoon, a number of Crowleys made the short walk to the Kilnaruane Pill Stone, high on a hill overlooking Bantry Bay, where Seamus Crowley again presented one of his fascinating talks about the history and meaning of this ancient artifact.

At the end of the day, just before sunset, came one of the highlights, as well as the formal conclusion of, the 2004 Gathering. In yet another moment of pride and deep emotion, we met in a remote farmer's field at a Mass Rock that was used in Penal times when the practice of our religion was forbidden. We watched as the Crowley standard was carried down through the pasture, and we then worshipped and sang together at a Mass concelebrated by Reverend Liam Crowley and two assistant priests at this once-secret site.

Afterwards, J. J. Crowley again welcomed both clergy and lay to his pub for another few rounds of song as well as beverages and many hugs and fond goodbyes to new and old family and friends. Many of us are looking forward to gathering again in 2007. First timers agree that whatever considerable pride there is in being a Crowley is multiplied tenfold at a clan gathering.

## From Marian's Desk

Hi Everyone,

The sun came out on the morning of September 3, 2004 in Bantry, County Cork. And the day was a beautiful late summer Saturday. It was as if the heavens were smiling down on the Crowleys.

Loren and I had driven from Kinsale the day before, and that drive had been dreary. The rain was steady, and the skies were dark. When we stopped to visit Timothy and Delores Crowley to see their wonderful Michael Collins Heritage Center near Clonakilty, Delores greeted us with, "Welcome. I can't say good morning!" The rain did stop when we reached Bantry, but I worried how Saturday's events would go if the day were like Friday. But it was a perfect day in so many ways. We had Crowleys from Canada, England, France, Ireland, United States, and Wales.

I was happy to meet many Crowleys whom I only knew by name before. The "Crowley Sisters" have described the weekend well. These Crowley sisters (there was at least one other set of Crowley sisters present) were Meg Kundalh, Ellen Crowley, Ann Ronco, and Mary Gutowski. Contributions of articles to the newsletter are always welcome. Thanks to the "Crowley Sisters" for their work.

This issue of the newsletter is a recap of the 2004 Crowley Clan Gathering. If you were there, may it bring back fond memories. If you weren't there, I hope it gives you a hint of what the weekend was like.

If you would like to get more of a sense of the gathering, check out the top of page 6. Professional photographer Todd Parker has put together over 300 photos on a CD. To order your copy, see the information on [page 6](#).

Many people have asked me if I was surprised to be elected an Tanaiste of the clan. I definitely was surprised and very honored.

Brian Crowley, Member of European Parliament, is always an eloquent speaker. At the banquet he spoke of the need for vision in the future of our clan. To paraphrase, Brian said that if we have vision, the resources would come. But, if we didn't have the vision, the resources would be useless. Brian presents us with a challenge for the future of the Crowley Clan.

*Slán, Marian*

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## A Portrait of the New Crowley Clan Taoiseach Liam Crowley



Liam Crowley of County Cork has been devoted to the Crowley Clan since he was 20 years old. Liam was born in County Cork and has lived in the townland of Clancool Beg for his entire life. He was educated in Bandon and completed his education at age 16. Liam is the son of David and Elizabeth (Lil) Crowley, both of whom are deceased. He is the youngest of five children, brothers David, Don (deceased), Martin, and sister Catherine. After his education, he immediately went into farming at Clancool Beg with his father.

When Liam was 20 years old, his father (who was known as Tiffy Crowley) was elected Taoiseach of the Crowley Clan. While still in his term as Taoiseach, Tiffy Crowley died. At that point some of the members of the Crowley Clan asked Liam if he would help plan and organize the clan gatherings.

Recently Liam and assistant treasurer Ann Crowley reminisced about some of the gathering in the 70's and 80's. There was little money in the treasury, and sometimes they had trouble paying the bills. Once they asked a rather famous Irish singer named Crowley to be the entertainment. "We thought he'd give us a price break because he was a Crowley. But he charged us full price, and it nearly broke us!"

In 1984 Liam married his wife, Therese. They have two daughters, Maryellen and Anna. They are teenagers and will soon be going to college. Liam is still actively involved in his dairy and beef farm, but he does hope to cut back in the future.

Through the years Liam has been very involved in planning and working for the Crowley Clan. At gatherings he is always there welcoming people, taking registrations, planning field trips, offering information to attendees from outside of Ireland. He is a very familiar face to Crowleys who have attended clan gatherings in the past. We all wish best of luck to Liam in his new position of leadership in the clan.

# Clan Gathering Treasurer's Report - 2004

**Money Received for Gathering and Banquet** **€15,933.24**

<b>Cost of Gathering</b>	
Transport	€1,200.00
Music for weekend	€460.00
Private Mark Whiskey Glasses	€589.88
AMP Loud Speakers	€60.00
Hotel for Banquet	€7,147.80
Printing	€328.65
Printing History Books	€450.00
Advertising	€199.65
Mac Carthy Sports	€96.92
John Levis Dancing Troupe	€200.00
Carraganass Castle Fund	€200.00
Website	€200.00
Mass Rock	€100.00
Crowley Stamp	€100.00
Secretary Expenses	<u>€150.00</u>
<b>Total Gathering Expenses</b>	<b>€11,482.90</b>

<b>Other Expenses</b>	
Four Em Architects & Engineers	<u>€3,872.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>€15,354.90</b>

**Cash on hand** **€578.34**

To date, we have also received €1,487.60 for the Castle Fund. This fund is separate from the running of the Clan Gathering.

## Souvenir Photo CD of the Crowley Clan Gathering

Professional photographer and honorary Crowley Todd Parker is pleased to report that his photo CD of the Crowley Clan gathering is now available to purchase. The CD contains 300 plus images, culled from over 600 photos Todd shot during the three-day event. Total cost of the CD is \$30, including shipping. Todd has graciously offered to donate \$10 from each CD to the Crowley Castle Fund.

A few of those final images are currently available for viewing on his website, [www.toddparker.com](http://www.toddparker.com). Individual prints can also be purchased. Orders and enquiries should be directed to Todd by email at [todd@toddparker.com](mailto:todd@toddparker.com).