



www.clanmachale.org

Edition 2, Fall 2022

What's New on the Web?

The resurgence and eventual rebirth of Clan MacHale (or McHale) started with the McHale DNA project and the corresponding web page was simply mchaledna.com. But now we've grown and have our own dedicated Clan websites! Whether you spell your name MacHale or McHale the new URLs are taking you to our website. Easy to remember and in keeping with the other Clans of Ireland. Check us out on the web at:

www.clanmachale.org
www.clanmchale.org

By Danny McHale

Gathering of The Clan Mac Hale 2023

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Gathering of The Clan Mac Hale 2023 County Mayo, Ireland



Here in the Southern United States of America, Fall is a transitional from the heat of summer to shorter days and cooler weather filled with football, family gatherings, and holiday spirit. In my home we see fall as a time for family. In September and October, we travel to our Alma Mater Universities to watch football and other sporting events, visit with old friends and family. In November as the sporting season starts to wind down the holiday season rolls in and it's time to decorate. In our house that means decorating a tree with ornaments that all have some sentimental significance. One of those is our Irish ornament with the greeting *Cead Mile Falite* - which I wish all of you One Hundred Thousand Welcomes to Clan MacHale.

Become a Member!

To register as a member of the Clan Mac Hale, please follow the link below. This will add you to the mailing list to stay up to date on all the family activities. Please forward this newsletter to all our kin!

<https://mchaledna.com/join-the-mchale-clan>

Clan Mac Hale Registered Membership

Though birth, adoption or marriage you are already a member of the Clan Mac Hale as a right of your heritage. We are obliged by the Executive Council of Clans of Ireland to maintain a list of registered members. Our membership list is also a great way for us to continue to develop and promote our Clan connections

Registered membership is **FREE**. As a Society member you will receive regular updates on Clan activity. The information you provide will not be used for any other purposes.

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Exploring Westport, Ireland

This coming July, Clan MacHale's first gathering will be held in the charming town of Westport, Ireland. Westport is a city on west coast County Mayo, our ancestral home. While the gathering will have ample opportunity for fun and fellowship with your cousins you may have not met yet, there is a great deal of other sites to visit as well!

Located about an hour and a half from Galway, this is a remote area of Ireland retaining beauty like few other places in Ireland. There's plenty to do and see in an around Westport including the Great Western Greenway, Achill Island, Clare Island, Clew Bay with its 365 Islands, Westport House, and Croagh Patrick. (You'll remember Croagh Patrick from our family emblem discussed in the Summer 2022 newsletter.)

Ireland's Holiest Mountain sits on the south side of Clew Bay. It is said that St. Patrick himself spent 40 days of fasting and penance high atop the 765m mountain.

For the adventurous traveler, The Great Western Greenway is a 42-kilometer railroad bed converted into a cycle path leading through some of Ireland's most ruggedly beautiful countryside. Coastline, mountains, bogs, rivers, and villages all pass you by on this very well-planned cycle path. Being an old railway line, its gentle gradients make it a very enjoyable leisurely cycle, and with villages, cafes and pubs on route so there's no shortage of refueling spots along the way.

Westport is home to Grace O'Malley, also known as Granuaile, the Pirate Queen. In the 16th century she was chieftain of the O'Malley clan and has become a very significant figure in Irish Culture and history. Her clan were feared seafarers. She even met directly with Queen Elizabeth and negotiated. It is said that the only common language between the two was Latin. Today, there is both truth and tall tales associated with the Pirate Queen, but it's just another part of the history surrounding the Westport area.

Being a coastal town on the Atlantic, maybe you're interested in a cruise around Clew Bay. Soak up some of Ireland's loveliest coastal scenery—and get up close and personal with the sights—on this cruise of Clew Bay. Set off in the afternoon from Westport Harbour, and set sail aboard a modern cruise ship. You'll see highlights like local seal colonies, Croagh Patrick's lofty peak, Inishgort Lighthouse, and even an island once owned by John Lennon—and will learn more from your captain's commentary.

If spending the afternoon on a boat isn't your speed, perhaps go horseback riding in the countryside on a guided tour with sweeping views of the bay at a leisurely pace and admire the views.

Many activities exist for all kinds of travelers.

The Lively Westport Pub Scene

This excerpt from an article published on www.theirishroadtrip.com by Elisha Donkin this past May outlines three of the many pubs in Westport.

"There's an almost endless number of brilliant pubs in Westport. The vibrant town of Westport has one of the liveliest pub scenes on the Wild Atlantic Way. The center of town is jam packed full of great spots for a pint, from centuries old traditional pubs to modern bars, often featuring live music throughout the week. If you're wondering which pub to call in for a pint or a bite to eat, below you'll find plenty to choose from in our guide to the best Westport pub."

"I'm going to kick things off with our favorite Westport pubs; these are spotting that one (or several) of the Irish Road Trip team have sipped a pint (or several...) in over the years. Below, you'll find the brilliant Toby's Bar and the very lively Matt Molloy's to the often-overlooked Blouser's. Dive on in!

1. Matt Molloy's

Probably the most famous of Westport's pubs, a visit to Matt Molloy's is a must when in town. It's most well-known for its

traditional music, mostly because the owner, Matt Molloy, is none other than the flutist in the legendary Irish band The Chieftans. They even once recorded a live session album in the pub! Unsurprisingly, Molloy's pub has traditional Irish music on every night of the week with one of the best atmospheres you'll find in town. It can get jam-packed on weekends, so make sure you get in early for a pint if you want to enjoy some tunes. If you're in search of pubs in Westport with live music, you can't go wrong with a visit here (try and get in early and nab a seat in the front bar).

2. Toby's Bar

You'll find Toby's Bar located on the Fairgreen in Westport, just outside of the lively town center, where it's a favorite among many locals. Unlike Matt Molloy's and many of the other Westport pubs, Toby's doesn't tend to attract hordes of tourists. Toby's is small on the inside but, according to our editor who named his dog after this place (yes... really!), the atmosphere and the Guinness here are both unbeatable.

3. Blouser's Pub

Another old favorite in Westport town, Blouser's Pub is located on James St and it's open till late every night. The atmosphere rarely disappoints and you'll find live music on throughout the evening. If you rock up here on a fine day, try and grab one of the seats out front – they're great for watching the world go by. Many find themselves returning to Blouser's over and over again, with their roaring fire and great Guinness acting as a fine reward after a long day out cycling the Great Western Greenway or climbing Croagh Patrick. Technically not right in Westport, Cronin's Sheebeen is just 3km west of town on the coast. It's an all-round solid pub and restaurant that is definitely worth a visit during your time in Westport. It strikes a perfect balance between traditional Irish pub and modern restaurant, with a great pint poured at the bar and delicious seafood served at the dining tables. It's beautifully located overlooking Clew Bay making it the

perfect place to head for a sunset beer or evening meal.

Clan MacHale 2023 Gathering Castlecourt Hotel Westport, County Mayo, Ireland F28 NX84

Event begins Monday evening, July 17, 2023 with an early evening Welcome Reception and continues Tuesday July 18, 2023 and Wednesday July 19, 2023. Details on activities will follow, including a questionnaire on interests.

The hotel is in town, walkable to pubs and shops. Westport is a lovely, busy town. The hotel has onsite parking, 2 restaurants, a bar, and other facilities including a pool. Hotel residents have full use of the hotel pool facilities. The hotel is highly recommended by locals. Travel hints are at the end of this document.



<https://www.castlecourthotel.ie/>
<https://www.destinationwestport.com/>
<https://www.mayo.ie/itineraries/explore-towns-villages/westport>
<https://www.discoverireland.ie/westport>

Arrival Date **Monday July 17, 2023**

Departure Date **Thursday July 20, 2023**

No of Nights **3 (or 2 if you wish)**

Group No **1167836**

Rooms: 60 Rooms on hold until December 31, 2022 after which rooms will be released back to general reservations (group rate not available). The key thing with this hotel is that until December 31, 2022 they will not hold us financially responsible for unbooked rooms through December 31, 2022.

45 Superior Rooms – Mixture of Superior Double, Twin & Family Rooms
15 Standard Rooms – Mixture of Standard Double, Twin & Family Rooms

Guests can email to make a booking to info@castlecourthotel.ie quoting **MacHale Reunion Group Number 1167836** or by calling +3539855088. Guests will be asked for a credit card number to secure their booking. You can check availability via email and then call to give credit card. The staff is very pleasant to deal with. If all reservation lines are busy, the switchboard will ask them to call you back (and they will call back asap.)

Room Rates include breakfast each day (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday if you stay 3 nights) and a dinner. Dinners that are included in room rate are NOT for our group dinner, that is separate (you could have that dinner Monday or Wednesday evening). We will advise of costs for the group dinner (estimated \$35 per adult) and additional costs (bus, share of overall event costs, etc.) at a later date. We are endeavoring to keep costs as low as possible while having a good time!

Rooms (Note the single supplement, when booking for one. This is common.)

3 Nights Bed and Breakfast with dinner on one evening
Superior Twins/Doubles €309pps (€618 for 2 guests sharing) or €429 single

2 Nights Bed and Breakfast with dinner on one evening
Superior Twins/Doubles €219ps or €438 for 2 guests sharing €299 single

3 Nights Bed and Breakfast with dinner on one evening
Classic Twins/Doubles €279pps or €558 for 2 guests sharing €369 single

2 Nights Bed and Breakfast with dinner on one evening
Classic Twins/Doubles €199pps or €398 for 2 guests sharing or €259 single

ADDITIONAL NIGHT STAYS (IF YOU WISH TO ARRIVE ON SUNDAY OR LEAVE ON FRIDAY)

Sunday 16th or Thursday 20th B&B €75pps standard room (€150 total) or €85pps superior room (€170 total) (Plus €30 single supplement)

Children's rates:

Children aged 4-12 sharing with parents is €30 per child per night B&B. Children aged 13-17 years are charged €40 per night B&B. Children under 3 are free of charge.

Children's Meals:

Children can choose from the adult menu at a rate of €30 per child or choose from the child's menu at €12.50 per child.

For more information on hotel facilities, visit the hotel website on www.castlecourthotel.ie

Castlecourt Hotel Location



OTHER HOTELS

Other Room Options – these are NOT part of our block of rooms but are additional nearby options owned by the same corporation, if you do not want to stay at the group hotel. There are, of course, other hotel and B&B options in Westport.

2023 Rates will be set within a few weeks.

Westport Heights (walking distance to Castlecourt Hotel)

<https://www.westportheights.ie/> Email: info@westportheights.ie

Asgard Apartments (at The Quay in Westport, a car or taxi would be needed – taxi service is available in Westport)

<https://secure.westportcoasthotel.ie/convert/site/Westport%20Coast%20Hotel/en/rate/76288474.ht>

Email: info@westportcoasthotel.ie

Westport Coast Hotel, also at The Quay <https://www.westportcoasthotel.ie/> Westport Plaza Hotel (next to Castlecourt Hotel)

<https://www.westportplazahotel.ie/>

TRAVEL HINTS

Driving: For those driving from Shannon or Dublin, you can simply put the Eirecode F28NX84 into your phone maps, or your GPS, and it will direct you directly to the hotel. (Unlike USA zip codes, the Eirecodes [pronounced air codes] direct you to a specific destination, even individual homes! I don't believe that Australia has a system like Eircodes but I could be wrong – let me know.} The Eirecodes are also used when mailing to an address.

Rental Cars: I (Kathleen) recently rented a car in Ireland and found an excellent deal with Enterprise! If you have a credit card that will cover insurance (like the Chase Sapphire Reserve card), you will need a letter from the card company/bank that specifically says it covers insurance in Ireland. Chase, in this example, has a canned letter they will email to you but make sure it spells out that it covers drivers in Ireland. Many cards do not cover insurance in Ireland. (Get the little transponder that pays most tolls automatically!) You can also obtain additional insurance from companies like Allianz Travel.

Train: you can take the train directly from Dublin's Heuston Station to Westport. You can book online ahead of time and simply pick up the tickets at a machine at Heuston Station, which is easily navigated. <https://www.irishrail.ie/en-ie/>

Bus: Bus Eireann does run buses from Dublin Airport to Westport locations. People in Ireland ride buses frequently (unlike in many parts of the USA). <https://www.buseireann.ie/>

Sunrise and sunset in July in Ireland (these are for 2022 but 2023 will be similar). It stays light late into the evening.

2022	Sunrise/Sunset	
Jul	Sunrise	Sunset
17 ▼	5:29 am ↗ (51°)	9:58 pm ↘ (309°)
18 ▼	5:30 am ↗ (51°)	9:57 pm ↘ (309°)
19 ▼	5:31 am ↗ (52°)	9:56 pm ↘ (308°)
20 ▼	5:33 am ↗ (52°)	9:54 pm ↘ (308°)