

THE KAVANAGH GAZETTE

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

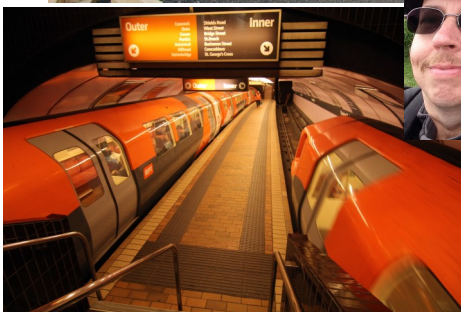
Welcome to the 2016 edition of *The Kavanagh Gazette*. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an update on the family out here in Oregon.

Another Big Year

2016 was another busy year in the Kavanagh household. In this issue of the Gazette you will get a brief highlights that include:

A quick rundown is

- Completion of the Master Bath!!
- Mini Family Reunion for Cyn's family in Ohio
- Vacation to Scotland and Ireland
- A short weekend trip to London
- Mark's business trip to Israel
- Mark's turn for surgery
- And more...



Photos from Top to Bottom:

Eilean Donan Castle, The Highlands, Scotland; Entrance to Newgrange, Co. Meath, Ireland; Mark & Cyn at the Cliffs of Mohr, Co. Clare, Ireland; Glasgow subway

Scotland/Ireland

The big trip for Mark and Cyn was a 2.5 week trip to Scotland and Ireland in September. And a big trip it was...

It started with flying into Edinburgh, spending 2 days visiting the sites. This included the Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace and taking a boat trip on the Firth of Forth which included seeing the magnificent rail and road bridges over it. The Forth Rail Bridge being the highlight with its Victorian engineering. Of course to get to the hotel from the airport included riding the new Edinburgh Tram (Light Rail).

From Edinburgh they boarded a small 16 passenger bus to take a tour to the Highlands and the Isle of Skye for 3 days, two nights. The 2 nights were spent at a B&B in Portree on the Isle of Skye. This was a great experience and highly recommend taking Heart of Scotland tours, aka, the Wee Red Bus.

Upon return to Edinburgh, they boarded a train to Glasgow, spending 2 nights in this working city. The highlight was the hotel overlooking the terminal throat of Glasgow Central Station and taking a behind the scenes tour of said station. Also visiting the Riverside museum with its Transportation oriented artifacts. But the main reason to visit this city was for Mark to ride and document the Glasgow Subway. It is considered the third oldest subway in the world. With its orange subway cars and the fact it goes around in a loop around the city, some have nicknamed it Clockwork Orange.

From Glasgow, they headed to the airport to pick up a rental car. The plan was to head to York to visit the National Railway Museum, then spend the night in Sheffield. However, the rental car did not cooperate. It broke down on the highway in the middle of nowhere. It took 2.5 hours for a tow truck to show up, then they went backwards about an 1.5 hours to pick up a new car. This forced the scrubbing of plans to visit the Rail museum (which believe it or not Cyn was looking forward to). Because of the delay and backtracking, the plan to arrive in Sheffield around 7pm, after visiting the museum for a few hours, turned to 10pm, skipping York.

The following day they headed to the National Tramway Museum in Crich. This happened to be Tram Fan day at the museum with them running more then usual trams. The weather was a bit dodgy to start, but it didn't dampen Mark's enjoyment of the trams. From the museum, they headed to Manchester to spend the night, and ate in city center at an old pub/restaurant, the Old Wellington. They got there via the city's Light Rail system of course.

From Manchester they were off to Holyhead in Wales. They left much earlier then intended due to a cancelled Ferry. They stopped at the railway station in Wales with the world's longest name, it would take up too much space here to spell it out. After a mix up at the ferry terminal and getting on the wrong ferry, they managed to successfully arrive in Dublin.

The next 3 nights were spent at an AirBnB in Dublin in the Smithfield district, a stones throw to the Liffey, and to the Luas Light Rail. One day was spent touring around Dublin, the second day was a tour to Newgrange and the Hill of Tara. On the final day in Dublin, they picked up a car at the airport to head to Bunclody in Co Wexford.

They spent the next 4 nights in Bunclody for the Kavanagh Clann Gathering. About 25 Kavanaghs from around the world came to tour Kavanagh Clann ancient sites, including where the burial spot of Domnall Caomanac from 1175, who is the start of the Kavanagh family. They also learned more about the family via seminars, and attended the ceremony to install the new Clann Chief for the next 2 years.

After the Clann meetings, they were off to western Ireland for two more nights. This included visiting the Smithwick Brewery in Kilkenny; see the famous Dolphin, Fergie, in Dingle; attend a Medieval Banquet at Bunratty Castle; spending time at the Cliffs of Mohr, and a brief stop in Galway.

The final night of the trip was near Dublin Airport, but not before having a great Tapas meal at Kavanagh's Gravediggers Pub in Dublin by Glasnevin Cemetery. Mark and Cyn were treated like family there!

Sadly the trip came to end. For more details, and photos, of the trip, go through the Albums on Mark's Facebook Timeline.

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MARK'S WIERDNESS

In January, Mark decided that Cyn had too much time to herself with surgeries, so he had a surgery for himself taking care of 2 hernias. The day surgery went well, & was nearly up to snuff in a week, full recovery a wee longer.

There was a lot less work travel in 2016 then in prior years. 2 quick one night trips to Phoenix, a 3 day training class in San Jose, and a 6 day trip to Israel.

The Israel trip was odd in that it was in October during Sukkot. The day after he arrived was a national holiday. He didn't have a rental car, and there was no public transport available. So he spent half the day working from the hotel, the other half walking 8 miles around Tel Aviv. The final day of the trip, he had a car, so he headed up to Jerusalem to ride the Light Rail line, but skipping the part in the disputed territory. He spent time in Ein Karem, home of John the Baptist, and wound up in the Old City just before Shabbat, then headed to the airport for the midnight flight home.

Mark is still an account manager at ASM. He is focused on the product from Japan, but no Japan trips this year.

For the Trolley Museum, he is still the secretary. He spent time overhauling the society's website, which now looks more modern.

For the St. Paul's Choir he is working on the 2018 Choir trip to England, and continues to sing Tenor

Geocaching wise he is closing in on 3700 finds and added 2 states to his caching map.

ADULT KID HAPPENINGS

Teresa's highlight of the year is moving into a new hoou. She and her extended household moved out of the rental house and into their own home on Center Street in Salem, about 1 mile from our house. She is very happy moving into a much larger home. She still works at Petco.

Emily enjoys working at Uwajimaya in Beaverton and has received promotions. She is planning to move out of our

house this month to room with a friend who is buying a house in Milwaukie (Oregon). She also does belly dancing, and has performed on stage!

Richard and Ellen are really enjoying their home in Independence. Richard has set up a his own wood shop. He is now his Union Local president at Western Oregon Univ. He continues to work in the IT department there.

JETSETTERS



In addition to the trip to Scotland and Ireland, Mark and Cyn traveled some more. In March, they went to Dayton, Ohio to visit Cyn's extended family. Sadly it was for a memorial for her cousin's 19 year daughter who died of Leukemia. But the happy part is it turned into a mini-family reunion for Cyn with her sister and 2 brothers also attending. Mark & Cyn also drove across Ohio to Pittsburgh as that is a bucket list transit city for Mark with a first generation trolley system that was upgraded to Light Rail.

Another trip, which wasn't originally planned, was to spend a weekend in London in December. Mark was 8,000 miles short to maintain Gold Status this year (most of the flying this year was personal rather than business). But happenstance, he looked at a weekend in December that did not Choir service, and he found a \$640 roundtrip airfare to London. That was 40% of the cost to fly to Scotland/Ireland in the summer. It really was a weekend trip, arriving Friday morning, and departing Monday morning.

The 3 nights were spent in Earls Court district. This was chosen as it was convenient to the Tube, including the Piccadilly line to Heathrow Airport as well as the District Line. With the two underground lines, you can get anywhere around London, also with the busses that stop here. One day was spent on a Brunel Walking tour which included a Boat ride on the Thames, a ride on the Dockland Light Railway and the Overground. The evening was at the Winter Wonderland at Hyde Park.

The second day they boarded a train to head 2 hours north to York. The purpose was to visit the National Railway Museum which was missed in September due to a rental car issue.

The third day was spent visiting the Victoria and Albert Museum, Cyn loved their Glass and tapestries!. Also riding the Emirates Air Line Cable car with great views. Spent time visiting the Tower Bridge museum including the old Engine Room. Also a walk through the Christmas Light displays between Piccadilly Circus and Oxford Circus. It was a whirlwind trip, but worth it!

There were also weekend trips to Bend, Seattle, the coast, some included bringing the dogs, which they very much appreciated.



CYN'S UPDATE

Cyn's focus this year has been monitoring the contractors with the bathroom, which was stressful at times. Luckily the tiler was top notch. The other trades were mediocre, with the dry wall team being sub-par. Cyn added her tilework to around the new bath sink. She also did a majority of the finishing work to the hallway to the master bedroom.

She has re-started going to Chemeketa to work on her fused glass, which she is gifted at. Health wise she is doing well, with a possible knee surgery in 2017. She most looks forward to traveling with Mark.

THE ANIMALS

This year we almost lost Cinnamon, she is definitely fading fast as a 12 year old. She has spinal issues, which took a MRI to figure out. Without her pain medication, she cannot walk. She still has bad days, but still enjoys playing red dot, car rides, and food.

Rusty is doing okay, but we can't trust him anymore in the house without us. Probably because Cinnamon does not play with him as much anymore. But he is okay otherwise

Freddy is still a troublemaker cat, He still get random unexplained seizures, but does well otherwise.



Here is the family during Mother's Day at a Teppenyaki restaurant.
From L to R: Ellen, Richard, Teresa, Emily, Cynthia, Mark

865 D STREET UPDATE

After 25+ years living in the house, we finally have a Master Bathroom! We had framed out the bathroom years ago, but decided last year to hire a contractor to finish the room. It took about a month longer then quoted, but luckily not the quote price, which was high, but so were other bids. The Bathroom turned out well in the end. The only details we need to do is to add barn style doors to the closet and another shelf unit in the alcove.

Once this project was completed we worked on the hallway to the bedroom and had new carpet installed in the bedroom, hallway and up the stairs from the first floor.

The next project, is to redo the Guest Room which was started by Cyn. And at some point we will update the main bathroom, which was the first big project we had tackled about 24 years ago.

The new Master Bath. The green tiles Cyn had made via fused glass

