



# Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press

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## Tappen to ... Drinks in Dublin

By Kami Rangeloff

Pubs, jigs, wet weather, literature, and even a Viking warrior... Well, dear lads and lassies, we're in the spritely land of Erin today, island of tall tales & Irish wit. On my list since Scarlett O'Hara became a beloved character, I had been waiting to visit with a great friend who's Irish, but for reasons mostly made clear by my boss, I could no longer delay and landed in Dublin for a few days of meetings followed by an absolutely grand long weekend! The Irish are lovely, lively, and quite friendly, especially in the pubs.

Though the Celts had settled there for quite a long time, it was the Vikings who came "sniffing up the Liffey" river in 841 AD, finding a dark, deep lake where they could shelter their dragon ships, and hence "Dubh Linn" ("black pool" in

Gaelic) was born. Dublin today is Ireland's biggest city, holding a whopping 20% of the island's population; it's a hub for large tech companies and its tourism has boomed over the last two decades.

My holiday kicked off on a drizzly Thursday night with a Literary Pub Crawl. An older gentleman, definitely a stage actor, recited lines of James Joyce and old Irish poems; it was a lovely evening, making friends with fellow book-lovers and learning the city's impressive literary heritage, though shamefully I lost the quiz at the end and was robbed of a free Dublin t-shirt. As always, I plotted local independent bookstores on my map, making it to seven over the in weekend — and through remarkable restraint, I came home with only five new books.

My Friday started in Trinity College, with an interactive exhibit on the Book of Kells, one of the world's oldest illuminated manuscripts (~800 AD) and an Irish national treasure. Next was the Long Room, one of the world's most beautiful libraries. Here, the air is rich with old paper and bindings, stacked in double dark-wood galleries, full of stories from days gone by. Although the library has mostly been "decanted" (how very Irish to associate moving books from a library with drinking) in advance of a renovation, still the smell remains.

I roamed through parks, down famous streets, and over old bridges. St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Christ Church Cathedral were bright with their colorfully patterned floor tiles, unique in all the churches I've seen. I passed Molly Malone, her

(See "Dublin" on Page 20)



Malahide Castle, just north of Dublin



The Church Bar

## County Commissioner calls last meeting

By Richard Paolinelli

When the Kidder County Commissioners meet for the final time in 2024, they will welcome a new Commissioner after saying goodbye to an old one.

After 12 years as a Commissioner, the last few as Chairman, Dan Mittleider will call his final meeting to order this Friday (Dec. 13th). After attending to some remaining old business carried over from prior meetings, Mittleider will then turn the meeting over to Jean Schoenhard and vacate his chair.

On Nov. 5th, Nicholas Friez defeated Mittleider, 785-556, in the election for Mittleider's seat.

"The people decided they wanted something different,"

Mittleider said. "That's the reason for having a vote."

Friez will take Mittleider's chair afterward and Schoenhard will then call for nominations for the new Chairman and the vote will be taken. In addition to Friez, Darrell Guthmiller, and Tim Dronen serve as County Commissioners. One of these three men will take over as Chairman and the meeting will proceed to new business.

Despite leaving a position he has held for over a decade Mittleider may not be leaving public service for Kidder County. He also currently serves on a steering committee in Stutsman County that is working on a plan to pump water from the Crystal Springs

watershed. The plan would have water flowing into Lake Etta.

"Whatever they do, it's going to affect a lot of people," Mittleider said.

Mittleider will remain on that committee on behalf of Kidder County, given his experience with the committee and the issue at hand.

As far as leaving the commissioners, Mittleider leaves behind a record he takes pride in.

"One of the biggest thing was getting the funding to get new blacktops on our County roads," Mittleider replied when asked what tops his list of achievements. "Working with the City of Steele to get the new water line down before new pavement on

Mittleider. I'm very proud of that. And I'm proud to say that I'm

Commissioner (continued on page 8)



Dan with wife, Lavonne and their grandkids.

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