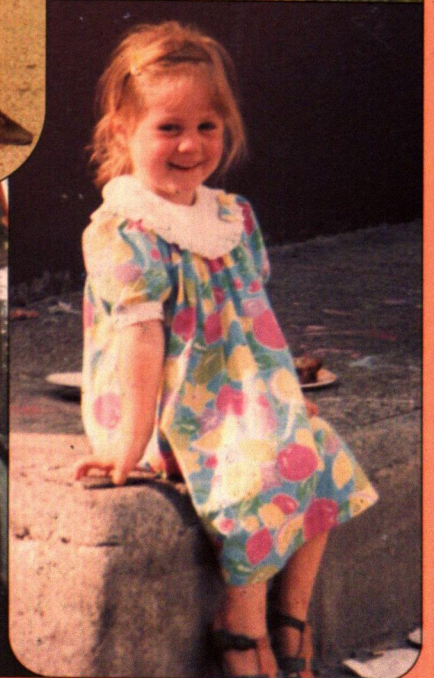
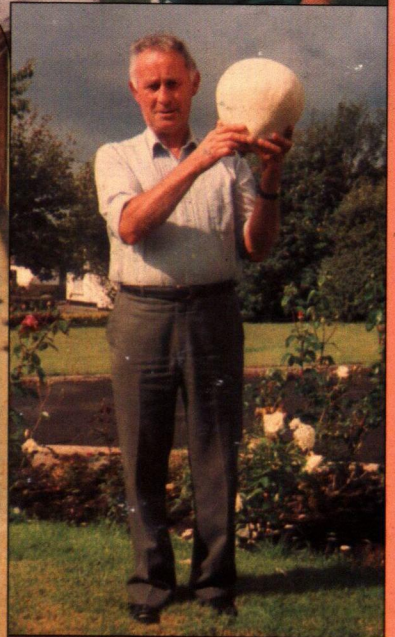


# Annagh '95



**Ballyhaunnis Annual Magazine**





# Christmas Greetings

**I**t's that time of year again and Christmas is just around the corner. It seems to have come faster this year, probably the result of the wonderful warm Summer and Autumn we all enjoyed. That fine weather proved a great blessing in the Parish Church because, over a four month period, all the stained glass windows were taken out and restored and re-leaded. Thankfully, they are all back in place again and looking wonderful, all that needs to be done now is pay for them!

**H**owever, while that lovely warm summer brought joy to all sun-worshippers, it brought sadness too to many families because we had an unusually high number of deaths in the parish - sixteen in June and July. For all those mourning a loved one, this Christmas will be sad and lonely but we want them to know that they are not on their own and that they will have a special place in our prayers and Masses.

**T**hrough the pages of Annagh Magazine, I would like to wish all the people of Ballyhaunis a very happy Christmas. May the new-born Christ bless you and your families, may He protect all members of families who will not be coming home and may you all be united in peace and joy on Christmas morning.

*Joseph Cooney, P.P.*





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# Editorial

**T**he Annagh Magazine – The annual publication for the people of the parish of Annagh – has become an integral part of life for Ballyhaunis people everywhere. It has been produced, without fail, every year since 1978. This is the eighteenth edition and once more, it is hoped that you will enjoy the selection of articles and photographs included.

The Annagh Magazine aims to record the events of every passing year, publish articles and photographs documenting Ballyhaunis – past and present. It provides an outlet for anyone with Ballyhaunis connections to share their experiences of both the local scene and the many parts of the world to which they have travelled. It is an invaluable record of the collective experiences of Ballyhaunis people over hundreds of years and across thousands of miles.

I wish to thank the hard-working members of the present Annagh Magazine committee who have helped to put this publication together. I wish to pay tribute to the founders and past members of the committee, as well as the former Junior Chamber who produced the earliest editions, and who have steadily improved it over the years. Finally, I would like to extend a welcome to all those who feel they would like to contribute to next year's and subsequent magazines so that its future success can be guaranteed.

In conclusion, I hope you enjoy this edition of the Annagh Magazine. I hope you find plenty in its pages to re-affirm your connection with, and loyalty to, the parish of Annagh and Ballyhaunis town.

*Paul Waldron, Editor*

## Officers & Committee

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Michael Godfrey, Michael Byrne, Joe Hosty.

## COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Front cover, clockwise, from top left: Josephine Higgins-Beirne, Martina Jordan-Kistner, Mary Higgins, Muriel Higgins-Sweeney; Hugh McKermitt, Pierce Higgins, Michael Curley; Seamus Walsh, Johnstown, holding giant mushroom; Michelle McDermott, grand-daughter of Willie and Mrs. Boyle, Carrowkeel; Derrylea National School Reunion, back, left to right: Pat Byrne, John Cleary, Terry Fitzmaurice, Seamus Walsh, Tim Byrne, John Dowling, John Lyons, Paddy Waldron, Pat Doyle, Tom Lyons. Front: Joe Byrne, Jim Higgins, Mrs. Kenny, Helen Meehan, Jim Cribbin; Elizabeth Gallagher, Edel Moroney, Clare Gallagher; Miss Margaret Finn; Mary Hunt and Laura Finn (centre).

Back cover, clockwise, from top left: Jimmy Ruane; Sadie Reidy, Philomena Rattigan, Katie Barrett, Mary Ellen Frehill, Island; Fr. McCarthy O.S.A with, left to right – John Lyons, Keith Hig-

gins, Stephen Donohue, Henry Forde, Gareth Morrissey (missing, Andrew Rabitte); Norma Jean Folliard "the last passenger" in Island dug-out canoe; Brendan Moran, Michael J Nolan, Ballinphuill Bonfire, back, from left: Tom Nestor, Jonathan Powers, Nathan Murphy, Jim Donnelly, Sinéad Grealley, Siobhán Halpin and Aoife Curran. Front: Joanna Kirrane, Lisa Kirrane, Lorna Kirrane, Elaine Donnelly, Alison McNamara holding Louise McNamara, Orla Donnelly, Aoife Potter-Cogan, Venetia Powers, Frances Grogan, Kevin McNamara, Noelle Barrett and Sheena Kirrane holding Gerard Grogan; David Nestor with Under-10 footballers, back, from left: O. Charbatji, L. Lyons, D. Doyle, P. Carroll, D. Connolly, D. Nestor, C. Morley, C. Higgins, T. Idrees and A. Madden. Front: C. Griffin, K. Higgins, D. Hannan, C. Gallagher, W. Nestor, P. Heaney, F. Walsh, D. Coffey and H. Kezze; David Herr, Katie O'Connor and Tomás Murphy.



# Island

**I**sland is situated in the north west part of the parish of Annagh and covers an area of 842 acres, 1 rood and 30 perches. It is one of the largest townlands, if not the largest, in the parish. It gives its name to the Island Ogham Stone, Island Castle (or Island House), Island Farm and Island Lake (which is incorrectly called "Annagh Lake" by some people.) We have two other lakes in the townland - Loughsheebaun (Loch Sí Bán - "the lake of the white fairy") lies on the border with Bracklaghboy and Lough Nabohoge (Loch na Bothóg - "the lake of the huts") on the Bohoge boundary.

## Island Lake

Island lake was drained in the late 1960's and has almost disappeared. Prior to drainage, it was a great amenity for the area with a fine strand on the Annagh side which, during the fine summers, was used by bathers and sun-seekers. Another pastime on the lake was fishing from the ice. After two nights of black frost the locals descended on the ice, some on skates and some without. When a pike was sighted it was

## By Martin Forde.

chased up and down the lake until it was tired-out. A hole was then made through the ice and the fish was snared or gaffed. Perch were also caught in this way. Occasionally, the ice gave way and one got a sudden dip, but as the water was only three or four feet deep, it was not too difficult to scramble back onto the ice again. Remains of crannógs in the lake remind us that man lived here thousands of years ago. This year, a dug-out canoe was taken from the river between Island and Mannin Lakes. An exact dating is not yet to hand, but it is believed to be about 4,500 years old.

## Ogham Stone

Island Ogham Stone stands five feet ten inches above the ground and is set on top of a hill on the land now farmed by Ann and Mick Kelly. R.A.S. MacAlister, the Archaeologist who read the ogham inscription in 1945 says it commemorates "Cunalega grandson of Qunacanos."



Left to right: Delia Hunt and Mary K. Lyons, Island, taken on their way home from school c.1935.

From the stone on a clear day one can see the five counties of Con-nacht - visible are Ben Bulbin in Sligo, the Iron Mountains in Leitrim, part of West Roscommon and North Galway and, over in the West, The Partry Mountains, Croagh Patrick and Nephin Mountain.

## Island Castle and Myles Bacach

Island Castle, near Island Lake, was originally a Norman tower-house. Some time later, probably in the seventeenth century, it was extended and became known as "Island House." Hubert T. Knox, the eminent historian, in an article which appeared in the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland in 1911, described a series of raths, earthworks and several stone buildings or castles at this site. He says the castle originally belonged to the MacJordan Duff branch of the Costello family. From them it passed to Sir Theobald Dillon in the



Islanders gather beside the Ogham Stone, Summer 1995. Back (left to Right): Dermot Waldron, Paddy Carney, Tony McDonagh, Eleanor McDonagh, Anne Kelly, Margaret Barrett. Front (left to right): Mick Kelly, Margaret Hopkins, Patrick James Kearns, Sadie Reidy, Ciara McDonagh and Killian McDonagh. Kelly's house is visible in the background.



latter years of the sixteenth century. In the Composition of Connacht (1585) it was referred to as the "Castle of McGillibally's Island." In the early seventeenth century, the owner was one Myles Jordan, and in the later years of the century it had passed to Walter Jordan. Their descendant Myles Jordan, or "Myles Bacach" as he was known, is said to have been the last man to have lived here and has become part of the folklore of the area. The story goes that he fell on hard times and his stock was sold to meet his debts. He then took in graziers. His most valued possession was a splendid horse. On the look-out for a wife, a woman in County Galway showed interest. As his name implies, Myles was lame and, of course, he thought that this might lessen his chances of wooing her. So, on arriving at her house to meet her for the first time, he noticed a high gate at the entrance. Being a skilled horse-man, he jumped the gate, fell from his horse intentionally, and gave the impression that the fall had caused his lameness there and then! Being the woman she was, she married him and came to live in Island. Having been led to believe that the cattle on the farm were her husband's, all seemed well, but, as the owners came and brought their stock away the true position was soon all too clear. She returned to Galway and



Left to Right: Mick Kelly, Eugene Carney R.I.P., Paddy Carney, Mick Barrett R.I.P., Kate Barrett, all of Island. Taken at Bridgie Morley's wedding.

we hear no more about her. Things did not improve for poor Myles, but he did have a way with words. Having sold most of his furniture he said that the table he ate his dinner off he would not sell for pure gold - he placed his dinner plate on his lap! On another occasion he boasted that his house was so large he could graze his dairy herd on the roof - at that time grass was growing on the roof and, he did have two goats! It is believed he lived here till about

1802. There is also a ghost story which says that on stormy days and moon-lit nights the wraiths of three ladies of this house appear among the walls of the ruin.

The Jordan family were succeeded as owners of Island by the Knox family of North Mayo. Knox leased the townland to the Fair family of Roundfort, near Hollymount. The Fairs were connected by marriage to the Evans family and by the middle of the nineteenth century Island had been divided, as part of a marriage agreement, between John Evans and Robert Fair. The tithe payers in Island in 1830 were Thomas Fair, Patrick Hopkins, Thomas Hunt, Thomas Frehilley.

## Island Farm

Famous in song and story, "Island Farm" was much in the news at the turn of the century. It stretched from Barrett's holding on the right-hand side of the road, to Kilduff's at Larganboy, down to Island Lake and over to Freeman's at Ballindrehid - an area of over 420 acres. There was congestion in the adjoining townlands and to relieve this, the people wanted to have the farm "striped." In Island there were nineteen families and most of those lived and farmed on the left-hand side of the road from Bohoge to Larganboy. Three families of the Freeleys lived near the Ogham Stone off the right-



Island Castle. The oldest part, originally a Norman Tower House, is to the left.



hand side of the road and nearby were Carneys, Boyles, and Barretts. Delaneys (the Herds) lived on the farm, near where the new road was made. The Farm was set but, because of local feeling, no one from the area would take it and it was then set to a Frank O'Boyle from North Mayo. A League meeting was held (U.I.L. - United Irish League which had replaced the Land League) with prominent members such as William O'Brien giving their support. A campaign was organised to further their cause and two songs written about the period give us a flavour of the times. Eventually, their efforts were successful and the farm was divided. Eight families got holdings on the farm with twenty eight-others getting additions. The eight were: Boyles and Delaneys from Island; Hopkins, Kellys, Comers and Faheys from Larganboy East; Forde from Larganboy West and MacNamaras from Annagh. Philomena Rattigan, who also comes from across the Lake, farms this latter holding today. Nine houses were built, eight for the new tenants and one for the Niland family. A road was made starting at Tom Murphy's, going north through the farm, then turning east through the new holdings to link up with the



Left to right: Winifred Moran, England and Delia Carney, Island, with Comer's house in New Island and Island lake visible in the background. Taken July 1936.

road at Ballindrehid. This area was then referred to as "New Island." Those who got additions were from Island, Larganboy East, Bohoge, Ballindrehid and Annagh. All this was done by the Congested Districts Board in the first decade of this century.

## War of Independence

During the War of Independence several young men and women joined National organisations and took part in the struggle. Paddy Delaney, Martin and Pat Forde, Michael and Pat Kelly, Michael Freely and Martin Byrne joined the volunteers and were members of A-Company Ballyhaunis Battalion of the old IRA. They were also involved

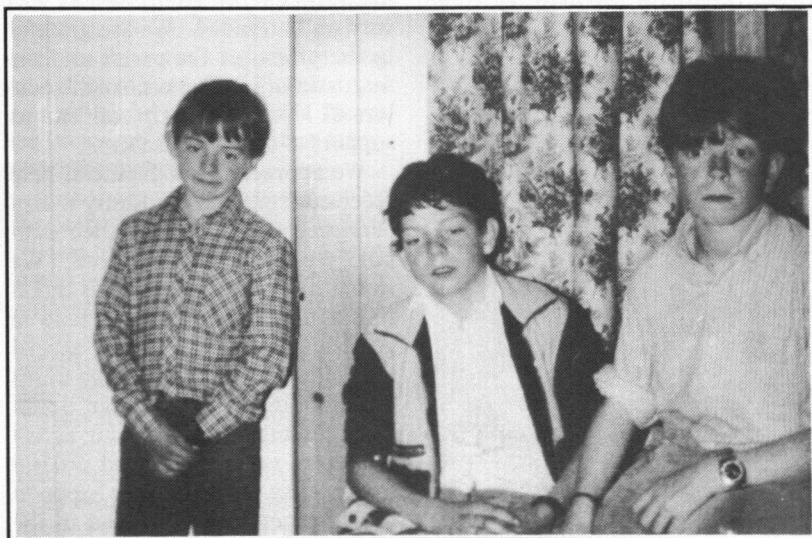
in organising the Sinn Féin courts and carrying-out police work. Bridget Freeley and Kate Ford were active in Cumann na mBan. In the Civil War that followed, no one from the village took up arms.

## Farming in Island

Farming has changed over the years and today there are no fields of corn

or potatoes. The horse has given way to the tractor and the fack-spade is a museum item. The stone walls tell us that it is limestone land for the most part, which is largely used for the production of cattle and sheep. Some cattle are sold as weanlings or stores, others are fattened, then sold to the factory (Irish Country Meats) where they are killed and the meat exported to markets in Europe and the Middle East. The heavier lambs are sold to local butchers and the lighter ones to the factory for the French trade. Some milk is produced and sent to the creamery (North Connacht Farmers).

Silage was first made in the village in 1951 by Mike Hopkins. It was cut by horse-drawn mower, loaded in a cart and placed in a pit. It was then tramped by the horse and covered by straw and topsoil - a far cry from today's 100-plus horsepower tractors with phones and radios, making clamps and round bales of silage. Even with all these modern methods and complicated machinery having made farming much easier, yet, as we see Mary Kelly's free-range hens and ducks and Mary Morley's geese, we are reminded that in some respects at least, old ways are best. Today there are fifteen houses occupied in the village with two others used as holiday homes. The population is in the mid forties. Some are full-time farmers, some part-time and others make their living outside of farming. As we look back we see that the years gone by have brought many changes and the years to come will, no doubt, bring their changes too.



The Next Generation in Island, taken c.1990: Left to right: James Hopkins, Michael Hopkins, Johnny Kelly.



## *The Ballad of Island Farm*

Ye gallant men of sweet Mayo  
Now falling into line  
From stormy Bangor Erris  
To pleasant Ballindine  
Come lend me your attention  
And unto you I will tell  
How Frank O' Boyle from Corick  
Before the people fell

He took the Island farm  
Although the traitor knew  
That food for Mayo's people  
Once upon its bosom grew  
And all around were waiting  
The honest sons of toil  
Who would live where now are  
grazing  
The bullocks of O' Boyle

He took the Island farm  
And then the leaguers came  
And soon the heart of Mayo  
With passion was aflame  
O'Brien spoke at Westport  
And all the county o'er  
Lit up and blazed their watchers  
As in gallant days of yore

From his own door at Corick  
To Mayo's Plains and back  
O'Kelly and O'Donnell  
Were on the grabbers track  
Since we marched out of Con-  
nacht  
Old Cooley to despoil  
No beasts e'er caused such ruc-  
tions  
As the bullocks of O'Boyle

Cunnane and Mike Delaney  
Then Freeley lent a hand  
Frank Burke and Tom Mullarkey  
They bravely took the stand  
And many another true man  
Stout sons of fair Mayo  
For Mayo's soil was ready  
To strike a ringing blow

Away from Ballyhaunis  
The grabber's cattle stole  
No decent man would touch them  
To save his tortured soul  
And wearily from Balla he went  
In hopes the boys to foil  
But they kept their thorn sticks  
Upon the bullocks of O'Boyle

It was next to sweet Claremorris  
The wandering cattle came  
The herds were spent and broken  
And bowed to Earth with shame  
The peelers thronged around  
them  
To baton, stare and spy  
A thousand came to laugh and  
chaff  
But not a man to buy

So now I'm really thinking  
When I am old and grey  
I'll read about those animals  
In regions far away  
A sovereign of cannibals  
In some Pacific Isle  
may yet feast on those bullocks  
And likewise on Frank O' Boyle.

*Patrick Cunnane, Erriff*

NOTE: another song was composed about the struggle for the Island Farm by Patrick Delaney of Island.

## Ballyhaunis Apostolic Work

**B**allyhaunis branch of Apostolic Work started in 1962 and we are glad to report it's still a strong organisation. 1995 has been a successful year for our branch and we look forward with confidence to 1996. We are delighted that our President and founder member Miss May Moyles has made a great recovery and is back with us every Monday night.

**By Bridie Brennan,  
Secretary.**

Our annual display was held in June; we were happy to have our parish priest Fr. Joe Cooney to perform the official opening. We had a lot of work on show and greatly appreciate all those who supported us. The display is very important in the parish as it helps create mission awareness, as well as letting people see what Apostolic Work is all about.

A Mini-Vigil was held in Knock for Apostolic Workers from the Archdiocese of Tuam and it was very well attended. We are grateful to the priests of the parish and the Augustinian Fathers, also the Sisters of Mercy for their continuous support of our organisation.

We appreciate the financial help received from our honorary members each year - without their support we could not survive. We would like more members as materials and mission requisites tend to get dearer each year. A very special thanks to the Golf and Bridge Clubs for their much appreciated donations during the year. Our active members work very hard during the year, we would be very happy to get new members. We meet in the Parochial Hall each Monday night from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.



In the Box-Office, McGarry's Hall - Ballyhaunis Carnival: Left to right: Eamonn Dwane, Jim Connell, Con O'Brien.  
(Courtesy Eamon Dwane)



# "Stop the Lights"

By Eamon Murren

**Y**ou're a sixties Guru, write something about the sixties," so said Jim Landon to me last October. Jim, being a Kerryman, probably thinks that I am as old as he is. I think of myself as more of a seventies man. However, to include all, this article will try to relive some memories of both the sixties and seventies.

The big happening in our lives in the sixties had to be the advent of Television. The first TV in Upper Main Street I think was in the house of the late Michael and Delia Waldron. My own first memory of TV was watching the 1963 All-Ireland Final between Galway and Dublin in Tom Hopkins' kitchen. Keegan's was another great house for watching TV. Indeed, I was in Keegan's when Charles Mitchell announced to the Nation that John F. Kennedy had been assassinated. On Thursday nights, I would call to Mick O'Connell's to watch "Top of the Pops", "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." and of course "The Fugitive." Who can ever forget Richard Kimble's quest to find the "one-armed man"?

Vinnie Caulfield's was the house for sport. Vinnie had a great passion for sport which meant that any sport to be seen on TV was shown in Caulfield's. I recall one night there were soccer highlights on BBC. Vinnie couldn't get a picture and he spent an hour twisting and turning knobs but to no avail. The next day we read in the paper that the Provos had blown up the Enniskillen transmitter the night before.

Quiz shows were also very popular. One of the first shows on Teilifís Éireann was "Jackpot" presented by Terry Wogan with the beautiful Olive White spinning the wheel to select the topics for questioning. Most people's favourite quiz-show would be "Quick-silver" presented by Bunny Carr with Norman Metcalfe on the organ. This programme gave rise to the well-known expression "stop the lights."

My first memory of colour TV was watching the 1970 World Cup through the window of Paddy Ruane's shop in Knox Street. This event was

held in Mexico but it also brought great crowds of kids to Knox Street.

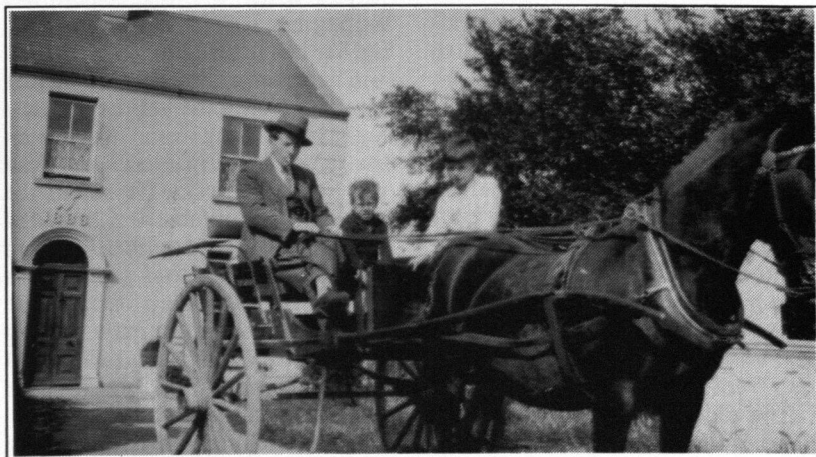
The radio in the sixties and seventies was also a great source of entertainment. I remember a good many neighbours calling to our house on a Sunday night to listen to "The Sunday Play." We, being the youth at the time, were more into music. A lot of the music came from sponsored programmes such as "Ruby Records", "Release Records" and of course the famous "Walton's Programme" with Leo Maguire. Radio Luxembourg was also popular at this time. Tuesday night we would tune into "208" for the "Top Twenty."

Music in the sixties and seventies also meant the ballroom and the bands. I was a bit too young for Tooreen Ballyhaunis (Eclipse), Kiltimagh (Diamond), Claremorris (Town Hall) would be where we did most of our dancing. The music ranged from Pop to Country-and-Western. Bands at the time were the "Freshmen", "Memories", "Indians", "Mainliners", "Cotton Mill Boys", "Smokey Mountain Ramblers", and the "Plainsmen" to name but a few. We also had some local bands at the time - the "Riviera" were the first local band I can remember. John

Conway of Bridge Street played guitar with them. They made a few records of which "The Country Where I Love To Be" was one. The Niagara were another local band. Pat Halpin of Main Street was a member of this band. John Kelly of Knock was the lead singer. Among their recordings was "The Isle of Inishfree". Around this time "Doc Carroll and the Royal Blues" from Claremorris made number one in Ireland with "Old Man Trouble." Peter Hannon from Devils was their road manager.

One of the dance highlights of the year used to be the "Show Dance." This was a dance to which both young and old went. Indeed, for many of the youth this was the first dance to which they were allowed to go. Johnny Flynn and his band provided the music on most occasions.

Before we took to dancing in the ballrooms, most of us went to the "hops." Very often these were organised by the Youth Clubs or Macra na Tuaithe clubs. In Ballyhaunis we had a Macra na Tuaithe club which was dubbed by many as the "Wrecker's Club." I recall one time we paid a band called "Milo and the Echos" £20 for playing at a "hop." How did the "Wrecker's Club" get its name? Well maybe Dom Byrne or Kieran Folliard will write an article next year to explain.



The horse and trap used by Brother Tom O.S.A. for "Questing" or collecting dues for the Abbey. Pictured are left to right: John Halpin, senior, Jack Ganley, Abbey Street and Jack Halpin. Taken in front of the Priory c.1927.



# Derrylea National School Reunion

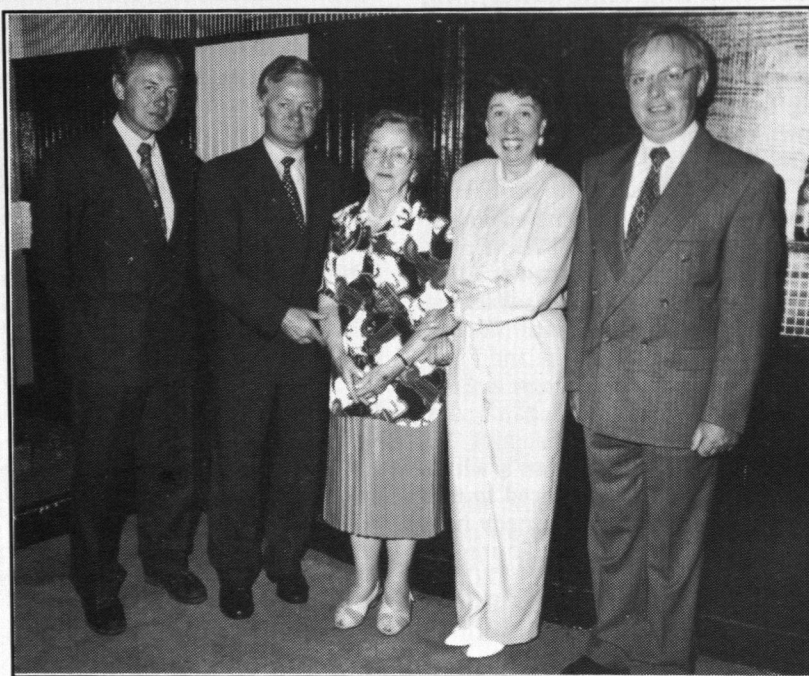
Back once more at the old school table where we parted just a year ago after a trip along winding roads back to the old school-house. On that occasion we blew the dust off the roll books and volumes of memories came drifting back. In the meantime our reunion had taken place, leaving us with a further legacy of memories.

**By Jim Cribbin**

Not easy to get started on compiling a few notes on the subject as I am distracted by Frank Lyons' loud laughter which is still ringing in my ears. We are happy to report that Frank, and all who travelled home for the occasion, were the ones who enjoyed themselves the most and gave things that extra sparkle.

Leading up to the event, lots of beverages were consumed in Paddy Delaney's Lounge Bar, where the committee meetings were held. Lots of petrol and midnight-oil were burned by secretary Helen Meehan and treasurer Joe Byrne. Lots of envelopes and stationery were deposited on the secretary's desk by Jim Higgins. At an annual meeting, it became clear that contacting all living past pupils would be a worldwide exercise. Taking this into account, it is not surprising that we chose as our chairman John P. Dowling, a man with a great grasp of geography and related subjects. As a man well accustomed to dealing with difficult questions in quiz contests, matters such as the venue, the menu and the revenue were merely "two-markers" to him. He had, however, on more than one occasion, to deal with calls, through the chair, for a "recount."

The oldest person contacted by Helen is living in the U.S.A. She is 106 years old: Delia Hunt, formerly Delia Moore of Carrowbeg, who was a pupil in Derrylea school the day it



Higgins Family at the Derrylea N.S. Reunion; Left to Right: Pat Higgins M.C.C., Jim Higgins T.D., Mrs. Mary Higgins ex. N.T., Martina Jordan Kistner (neice), John Higgins.

opened a century ago. The most distant location Helen wrote to was Invercargill (on the South Island of New Zealand) - the most southerly town in the World with a Lord Mayor. When Sr. Bridie Cribbin was writing her reply, she was also writing her last letter to Ireland.

There were distractions at our meetings from time to time, like the night young Tony Moran - back from the states to get married - was having his stag party. He called for drinks for the house and included the entire committee in the round. Another meeting that got off to a slow start was when committee member Jim Higgins - newly appointed as Minister in the Government - placed a wall-to-wall order with Paddy Delaney.

There was a very large attendance at Mass in the parish church, which was celebrated in the evening to mark the occasion. In the words of

one lady member of the congregation "You felt you belonged" and that you were welcome. She was impressed with the relevance and symbolism of the gifts carried in the offertory procession. The gifts included a globe, roll books, bell, passport and catechism. The catechism carried by Pat Doyle caught her imagination: "He held it a lot like a referee producing the yellow card".

Then it was down to "Midas" for the evening's entertainment. Many of our visitors may have been at a loss as to the location of the venue indicated on the ticket. There would be no bewilderment if the tickets read "Eclipse Ballroom" or "McGarry's." Those names would strike a chord with the class of '41 or '51. It was here we came in droves to the dances in the heyday of the showbands. It was here romances blossomed or wilted. It was here many a farewell hand was shaken as





Group at Derrylea N.S. Reunion; Left to right: Bridie Colvin (née Coen), Noreen Coggins (née Lyons, Redford), Jerry Coen, Cathy Maughan (née Moore), Bridie Cleary, Paul Coggins.

we were about to hit the road and go our separate ways. The premises thus held its own quota of memories for many who came through its doors that evening.

I had hoped that we would have the impressions of a few different people to include in this report. More than one request was made for a few paragraphs. More than one promise was made. Maybe even at this late stage somebody will remember the promise made and, in a burst of inspiration, let us have a masterpiece. However, as I await the postman, I beg your indulgence as I relate a few of my many memories. Just inside the door with the formal greetings over, Phyllis Eagney, in her charming manner, reminds me of a £10 bet we had with one another shortly before she left home for the city. Long forgotten by me and never aware of who lost or won until now. I hope she does not charge me interest when she calls to collect her winnings. A betting slip was bad enough but, when she told me that she had a photograph of me holding two heads of cabbage I had pinched from her uncle Luke's garden, alarm bells began to ring. Her recollection was that the two heads of cabbage were not intended for culinary purposes. We are joined by Phyllis' mother Julia and sisters Irene and Mary. Their relation John McGuire is here. He has travelled from the U.S. When he comes over to join us he has no bets to collect, nor photographs to worry me with; instead, he recalls our experiments with sulphur and salt-petre down by the river

that runs alongside the school, as we enjoyed the first pint we ever had in each other's company. I wave a greeting to a group from Gurrane seated at a table near the entrance. Angela Finn leaves the group and we renew old acquaintance as Oliver Ruane hands me a glass of whiskey. I am still only a few yards from where I entered fifteen minutes ago. Such was the pace that was set for the rest of the night. I was told it was as hectic for everybody else as well. Handshakes everywhere, and an odd kiss here and there. Confusion now and again caused by heads of hair once varying shades of black, brown and red, now varying shades of grey. Snap decisions to be made as to which of the sisters was Kathleen and which was Freddie, or Mary, or Rita, and so on.

Throughout the evening many tributes were paid in private to Mrs. Mary Higgins who spent most of her teaching career in Derrylea. Public tribute was paid in the form of a presentation. Her short acceptance speech was listened to with respectful silence and greeted with loud applause when she had finished.

It was a short night, but a great night. Being a short night meant unfinished business - somebody spotted in the distance who must be talked with, but later; the night passed, the conversation never took place. Somebody else saying "hello," but not recognised as they passed along. Martin Fitzmaurice and his band are playing good music, must have a dance, too late now they are playing the National Anthem.

## The Old Schoolhouse

The Schoolhouse is lonely  
No clatter or din  
For gone are the dear ones  
I once knew within  
They are scattered in distant  
Lands over the sea  
While more rest with God  
In Eternity

I see the old school room  
Where I spent my young  
years  
And see them all there  
Through eyes dimmed in  
tears  
I hear the clock tick  
And I hear the rook call  
But there's no one to answer  
Oh no one at all

Its so lonely and silent  
Save the rook over-head  
The place is so eerie  
So empty and dead  
I see the old boren  
The footpath and stile  
Where often we sat  
And chatted awhile

No more will we roam  
Down that lovely boren  
And hear the birds sing  
'Neath the sweet evergreen  
No more will we play  
On the footpath or stile  
Or hear the school clock  
That we loved to hear chime

How I picture there beds  
That we drew on the clay  
For games that we played  
With pals now far away  
It recalls happy memories  
And what grief it arouses  
Of days that we spent  
At that dear old school  
house

© Michael Godfrey



# Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce

As yet another year draws to a close, Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce can look back with some satisfaction on its accomplishments. It was, like 1994, yet another twelve months of hectic activity. Executive meetings, sub-committee gatherings and BRCIE meetings were held on a frequent basis to review progress and to map out the work that had yet to be done. My report highlights the main achievements of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce, placing the emphasis on the Enterprise Centre plans, road resurfacing and the attempts to procure an adequate system of lighting for the town in addition to highlighting the problems with the water and sewerage system within Ballyhaunis.

The high point of the year for the Chamber was undoubtedly the handing over of a four and a half acre site for the proposed construction of an Enterprise Centre by the Chief Executive of Avonmore Plc, Mr. Pat O'Neill, in the Central Hotel on Saturday, 16th September. Mr. O'Neill, in his address to the large gathering, said that Avonmore Foods Plc were making the donation to Ballyhaunis and District as good corporate citizens, and that it was only right to give something back. He added that Avonmore were content with their position in Ballyhaunis and, after three years, had settled-in well. He then presented the "Deeds" of the site to the President of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce, John Durkan.

Mr. Pat Rabbitte, T.D., Minister of State for Science and Technology, spoke of the growth of the Small Business Sector, and the major contribution it was making to the Irish Economy. He was followed by the Chief Executive of the Western Development Board, Mr. John Higgins. In an excellent address, Mr. Higgins emphasised the importance of the local economy, adding that he was delighted to see a positive move in this direction. For too long, he said, the country had ignored local economies in order to focus on the global econ-

## By Willie Ryan PRO

omy, to the detriment of what could be done locally. He complimented Avonmore Plc on their magnanimous donation, stating that it wasn't the first time that the Company were supportive of local development in the area in which they were operating. He also said they had shown considerable interest in the workings of the Western Development Board. He concluded by suggesting an integrated action plan for Ballyhaunis and District to ensure development in the future.

Mr. John Martin Flannery, Chairman, Mayo County Council welcomed all present and the meeting was also addressed by the aforementioned Mr. Durkan, Mr. Peter Cunnane, Chairman of BRCIE and Mr. Des Mahon, Mayo County Manager. Also in attendance were Mr. Pat Higgins, M.C.C. and Mr. Frank Fullard, County Enterprise Development Board. Gerry McGarry of European Consultancy Services was commended on the detailed Feasibility Study which he prepared for the proposed Enterprise Centre as was Mary Smyth for her organisation of the Press Conference. The M.C. for the occasion was Mr. John Dillon-Leetch.

A number of important meetings of BRCIE - the development arm of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce - took place in Halpin's Lounge in July and September respectively. At the September meeting its Chairman, Peter Cunnane, said that the acquisition of an Enterprise Centre site was a great boost to Ballyhaunis and district.

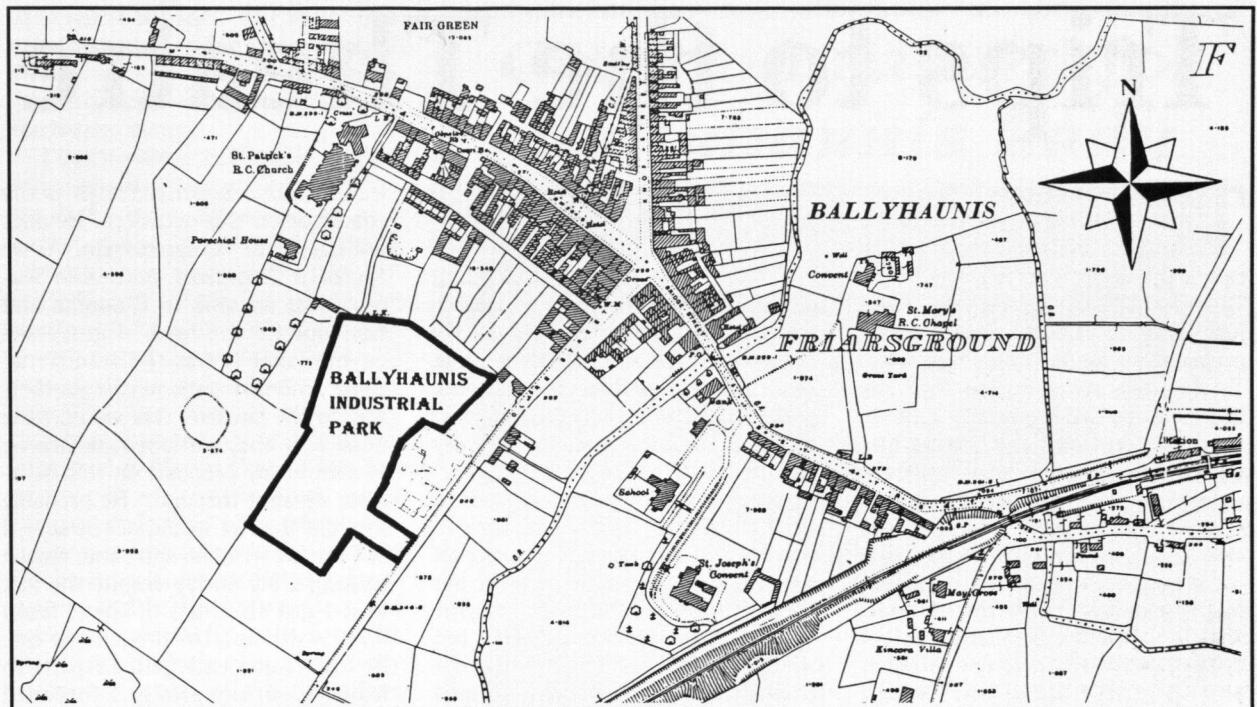
The Feasibility Study indicated that there was a need for such a Centre in Ballyhaunis. £25,000 had already been raised but another £75,000 would be required over the next year. He went on to say that its construction could cost up to £300,000. He expressed the wish that BRCIE would be able to ensure a sizeable grant allocation to defray, to some extent, the costs associated with its construction. An

Enterprise Centre could encompass food-processing, crafts, mechanical engineering sector in addition to distribution. It should be pointed out, however, that the Committee are receptive to any other business ideas which people may have, and would also be interested in hearing from people who may be interested in taking a "Unit" within the Centre when it is built. An encouraging start has been made, but a considerable amount of work must be done before such a Centre becomes a reality.

At the Chamber's April meeting, serious concern was voiced by a number of delegates at the poor quality of the water supply within the Ballyhaunis area. This followed frequent complaints from residents to Chamber members. Consequently, a meeting was sought with Mayo County Council in May. The gravity of the water supply situation was impressed upon their representatives at the meeting in the Central Hotel. Chamber officers exhorted them to do everything possible to ensure Ballyhaunis had a modern sewerage and water system. At a more recent meeting in September, the County Manager, Mr. Des Mahon, stated that the Council was pushing hard at both Government and European Union level to ensure that Ballyhaunis would have such a system. As Claremorris was recently connected with the Lough Mask Scheme, Chamber members were of the view that piping could be extended to Ballyhaunis from Claremorris to enable it to also join the Lough Mask scheme.

The contentious question of town lighting was also raised with the Council at the September meeting. Council officials informed the Chamber delegation that there was National Road Authority funds available for National Secondary routes, which would encompass Knox Street, Bridge Street and Abbey Street. It is anticipated that this will be done in the near future. Main Street is classed as a county route and consequently does not have access to such funding. Some dele-





The area donated (outlined) by Avonmore Foods Plc. to Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce for Ballyhaunis Industrial Park.

gates became rather irate when learning of this, and felt it was imperative that some form of temporary lighting be installed on the street. It may, however, require some private funding to do this. It was pointed out by Council representatives that the fortunes of Main Street and the provision of an adequate lighting system are inextricably linked to a new sewerage system in Ballyhaunis. The latter would necessitate the taking up of underground cables after consultation with the ESB, and, when completed, could be followed by the installation of lighting facilities.

During the year, County Architect, Mr. Peter Hynes, visited Ballyhaunis and was most impressed by the FÁS Scheme being run under the auspices of the Chamber. 1995 also saw Ballyhaunis and district sanctioned for participation in the Rural Renewal Scheme.

The question of resurfacing Barrack Street, as well as the demolition of the "wall" at Curley's corner, also came up at the May meeting with the Council. At the time of writing, the Chamber are delighted to be able to report that the road from Horan's Public House to the bottom of the hill at Barrack Street has been resurfaced and plans are now afoot for a similar operation to be carried on to Curley's corner off Main Street, in addition to the demolition of the wall adjacent to it.

At the Chamber's April meeting, Mr. Pat Higgins was congratulated on being co-opted to Mayo County Council. Pat has been a very dedicated and committed member of the Chamber, in addition to being one of the driving forces behind the BRCIE initiative. At that particular meeting he outlined the developments that needed to be carried out within Ballyhaunis and District, and had taken the step of submitting a "Notice of Motion" to Mayo County Council. He further strengthened the Ballyhaunis case when he requested, and succeeded in getting P. J. Morley, T.D. to act as co-sponsor of the Motion. Shortly afterwards, the first of the two aforementioned meetings with the County Council took place.

The Easter Parade, once again, proved to be an outstanding success. At the May executive meeting, Secretary, Bernie Jordan, and Committee member, Denise Moran, were lauded for the trojan work they did in ensuring that it becomes a permanent fixture on the Chamber's programme of activities. Chamber President, John Durkan also thanked the local vintners for their co-operation. A small profit was made on the Summer Festival. The October meeting, however, had members posing the question: "Why is the latter not as successful as the Easter Parade?" Should it be abandoned or should it be restructured?

The consensus was for its retention, but some innovation was necessary. It was felt, moreover, that preparations for this undertaking must begin earlier in the year.

Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce wishes to tender sincere thanks to: Jim Higgins, T.D., Minister of State at the Departments of the Taoiseach and Defence; P. J. Morley, T.D., Pat Higgins, M.C.C., Paddy Joe McHugh, M.C.C. for their assistance throughout the year and their unequivocal support for the Chamber's efforts to further develop Ballyhaunis and District. The development of an Enterprise Centre is a major undertaking; consequently, the officer board urge more people to become involved in the Chamber's work by joining one or more of the sub-committees. Ballyhaunis and district can make the vision become a reality if we all work together. The Chamber Executive and its sub-committees will continue to work assiduously to promote Ballyhaunis and district.

Officers for 1995: President: John Durkan; Secretary: Bernie Jordan; Treasurer: Tim Shanley; P.R.O.: Willie Ryan; Chairman of BRCIE: Peter Cunnane

Editor's Footnote: The Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce A.G.M. report, compiled last February by Willie Ryan, was published in the National Year book of the Chamber of Commerce of Ireland entitled "Inside Business." Congratulations to all concerned.



# Trips to the Theatre

By Jim Cribbin

There is always frenzy at the commencement of trips I take to the theatre. Maura O'Neill was to call at five o'clock on her way to the Taibhdhearc Theatre in Galway. I was just about to perform some hurried preparations for the expedition when Teresa Healy called and told me she had a cow in the "Maternity Unit" in need of attention. Everything else takes second place in life or death situations whether the "patient" is man or beast. As it happened, this was a case where a little help was worth a lot of pity, with a successful delivery taking place within a few minutes. My appointment with Maura was not delayed by more than a few minutes, and, in quarter of an hour after I leaving the "Maternity Unit", Maura, Jack Greene and myself were having one a-piece for the road in Margaret Keane's.

My next trip to the theatre involved me in the role of mime artist who wrote the script as the show proceeded. Not a word was spoken to John Joe Lilly who transported me into town, or to Dr. Delaney, who probably was aware that some people would consider the fact that I was silenced a charity. He didn't venture to restore the use of my jaws but gave me a reference to be handed in at Castlebar Hospital. Eddie Mulhern must have thought to himself that, at last, he had found the model passenger. Not once was he distracted from his driving by a single word - good, bad, or indifferent.

On the way down, I thought I would take a peep and see what kind of a reference Alan had given me - could not read a single word. I had forgotten to bring my spectacles. There I was, shortly before "curtain up time" without a "reading", not to mention a rehearsal. As well as being my chauffeur, Eddie also acted as my spokesman. This was the first time in my life I had both a chauffeur to drive me, and a spokesman to issue statements on my behalf. After my spokesman had gone through the formalities of arranging bed and breakfast for me, I was

enthroned on a trolley - this being all part of the act. Soon a sizeable audience had gathered round. My sister Teresa, on duty upstairs, came rushing in, probably leaving some poor devil who was in greater need of attention than I was. As they say "blood is thicker than water." Another sister, Margaret, arrived soon afterwards, as did a number of doctors and nurses. The questions I was asked were easy to answer, but the method available to me for answering was proving awkward; but when I sat up on the trolley in order to be able to pen a readable script I got the feeling that one or two of the doctors present would have preferred if I stayed lying down pretending I was badly.

There was nothing wrong with me. It was just that my jaws had got decommissioned and were jammed together. When I sat up, I found that I was well able to handle my own public relations business, so I sacked my spokesman. I was questioned and cross-questioned. My sisters were asked a lot of supplementary questions. I still don't know why they laughed when asked "could he ever talk?" Next, down to the X-ray room. Pictures taken with a big awkward camera, temperature checked, hydraulic pressure checked and so on. "They're making a mountain out of a molehill", I thought. I never believed in exaggerating an illness or injury by word, while able to talk, or by deed when I wasn't, because an illness will come that will require no exaggeration. After much coming and going a conference was held by what appeared to be "The Big Four." I could not hear everything said, but I heard enough to be able to brief John Joe Lilly on the procedures he was to follow in the event of the problem cropping up again.

It is a beautiful September evening and I am on the road once more on another trip to the theatre. My second trip to a theatre in Gal-

way in fact. Seamus Walsh is my chauffeur on this occasion. He does not have to act as spokesman. As we approach Cloonfad I indicate to Seamus that we stop in Cloonfad and have one for the road. I impressed on him that it was the traditional thing amongst stage people on their way to the theatre. He would have none of it and, without Jack Greene to second my proposal on this occasion, we shot through. He probably thought that we would not be served as I was wearing no shirt and, maybe looking a bit untidy despite the fact that I got the loan of towel from Vona Walsh and Dr. Brogan had carried-out some emergency repairs to leakages on my arm and forehead and had also given me a visa to travel to Galway. There was slight bleeding from my forehead and, as everybody knows, a little blood goes a long way when used for cosmetic purposes.

I did not bother admiring myself in the car mirror on arrival at the Regional Hospital. I joined the queue in Casualty Admissions and we were moving up slowly when a fellow in front turned round and looked at me. "Jesus", he said, and stepping briskly aside "you go first." Definitely a case of mistaken identity. The mistake would be compounded if he asked me to inscribe my initials on his autograph book. That was the second time the makeup had proved convincing. Kieran Webb and family were ahead of me in Dr. Brogan's waiting room. When their turn came they waved me on in the direction of the surgery.

The same procedures as I had observed in Castlebar two years previously were followed. Seamus accompanied me down to the X-ray room. It was nearing midnight now and things were quiet in that area. We did a fair bit of bell pushing before a lady with a cup of tea in one hand and a bickie in the other appeared. We put a bit of chat on her in order to give her a chance to finish her cuppa. "I know Carmel", said she, "how is she?" That took the



wind out of our sails. She went on to say that she and my sister had started their training on the same day and shared the same cubicle in the Nurses Home.

I encountered nothing but courtesy in the Regional and later in Merlin Park. A bit of courtesy from a doctor, nurse, porter and anybody working in a hospital all have the same therapeutic value. As to the nurses, I fully agree with sentiments I once heard concerning them: "It does you good just to look at them." When the X-rays were processed they indicated that I would be taking the high road to Merlin Park. I had two choices of wheels - Seamus would take me or, I could go by ambulance. I impressed on Seamus the lateness of the hour and the distance from home, and furthermore, it would look more official if I arrived in "The Park" by ambulance. I got my marching orders in a big envelope which contained the X-rays and, I presume, documents explaining why I was considered an unsuitable patient for the Regional and deemed to be suitable for Merlin Park. Somebody must have hailed an ambulance so, my swag I lightly shouldered and hit the road at once. The two ambulance men were civil fellows and, in reply to their enquiry as to how I was feeling, I assured them that I had often felt worse after a feed of drink and survived. The driver got the message and we motored along at a leisurely pace with no colourful or noisy display. The log book was produced. I knew the litany off-by-heart. This was the fourth time (or was it the fifth?) I had, during the course of the evening, been asked (always politely) name, address, phone number, occupation, next of kin, who lives with you? Doctor's name, cause of accident, have you a medical card? etc. etc. All my answers were consistent, with just one exception: the third time I was asked "who lives with you?" answer - "a black pussy cat." She laughed, but I don't know what she wrote down. On arrival at the Park the ambulance-men accompanied me to the admissions room where I found that reservations had been made on my behalf concerning bed and breakfast. The log book was produced and questions were asked with such grace and charm that I

## Citation Award for Ballyhaunis Lady



On March 10th, 1995 New York City Councilman Morton Povman presented a Citation Award to Bridget Cleary. Bridget is an outstanding citizen who is worthy of the esteem of both the Irish Community and the great City of New York.

Bridget Cleary has successfully completed a four-year college degree in Business Management and Marketing from Mercy College. Due to her outstanding academic achievements, she will be featured in the college yearbook 1995-1996. In September of this year, Bridget intends to pursue a

Masters Degree in both Business Administration (MBA) and Psychology to enable her to contribute even more to society. Bridget is also a graduate of the John Robert Power's Modelling School, as is evidence by her unmistakable beauty, poise and charm.

We wish Bridget every success in her future endeavours. Bridget is better known as Bridie to her many friends around Ballyhaunis. She hails from Johnstown and visited Ireland last August to attend the Derrylea past pupils reunion.

enjoyed answering them and I didn't mention the cat. I was then taken into protective custody by a charmer. Ah well, that's the way of the world "once a man, twice a child."

As the nurse prepared me for the feathers I thought to myself "this venture into second childhood is going very well." When she had me tucked in and made sure I was snug, she left an electric rattle beside the bed which I was to use if I wanted anything. I'm telling you I kipped in worse digs and paid on the nail. It was very early next morning when a

nurse breezed in, and, playing the role of Aurora Goddess of Dawn, she drew back the curtains. With the confidence of a Goddess she goes through the often repeated procedure - temperature, pulse, blood pressure, drip replacement, injections and so on. Then she is gone, following on the footsteps of "the lady with the lantern" to another bedside, and another patient with a different illness, a different personality, a different response to her enquiries. Her efforts responded-to with gratitude here or indifference



there. Where illness is the reason for ingratitude or difficult behaviour, it is understandable and forgivable. In other beds lie patients as arrogant and pompous in illness as they are in health. As they lie on their backs they still retain the urge to walk on others and, with incessant and often unreasonable demands, they do their worst to make life hard for those who are doing their best to make life easy for others.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, all gates, doors and fixtures that have in the past been held in position with bits of wire are now being secured with proper hinges and brackets under the Rural Environment Protection Scheme. Under this scheme wire is taboo as a method for holding things together. When the doctor called round with his files and X-rays he told me I would be going to the theatre in the afternoon where my arm would be operated on. Imagine my surprise when he told me they were going to tie the broken bits together with wire.

When the time came to go to the theatre, the trolley was wheeled in. I told them I was well able to walk and would prefer to do so. If I had time to think I could have put up a great case for walking. I could have told them that I was under doctors orders to walk three miles a day. I could also have hit them with a biblical quotation "take up thy bed and walk." I was out-voted four to one. I had only one arm decommissioned, yet there were more steps and gadgets provided to facilitate my embarkation aboard the "rickshaw" than you would provide for an old lady of a-hundred-and-five with one arm, one eye, and one foot in the grave. We parked outside the theatre door. The nurse was a lady of mature years and very zealous about her job. She had more files than a headage inspector, which she deposited on my chest and commenced to check carefully. Apparently satisfied with the files, she commenced to look at my bad arm, she looked at my good arm, she looked at my hands. A more inquisitive woman I never met - she even looked between my toes. Suddenly she stepped back in horror: "You've been walking round in your bare feet", "All Summer", said I. "Since they were washed", said she. "Cover

them up with the blanket", said I, "and if they make any fuss outside I'll tell them I'm not sick at all and I'm only here on a FÁS scheme." That tickled both her and the fellow who pushed the rickshaw. I don't feel one bit guilty about proposing a cover-up. There never was an outfit yet that didn't engage in one form of cover-up or another. Shortly after she had parcelled my feet with the blanket, and with files piled on my chest, I was pushed from one jurisdiction into another.

The doctors and nurses inside responded well to my "hello." I was weighing-up the lights on the ceiling, I opened my eyes - the ceiling was bare. "Where are the lights gone?" I asked the nurse standing beside me. "Your operation is over, you're in the recovery room now, everything went fine." I did not ask for permission to walk back to the ward.

I don't believe this, two pillows under my head and the nurse is fluffing up a third. I hear an angelic voice: "I'm going to lift your arm now and move you over in the bed." I must have died and am now in the recovery room in Paradise.

Later that evening, Gary joined me in the ward. He too was able to walk, but with the aid of crutches. A horse he had been training pranced on his foot. The following day we were watching Dublin and Tyrone on the television when the doctor called round. He watched the match but it was plain that he had little interest in it. I figured he was from one of the countries where cricket is popular, so I said "I suppose you're a cricket man yourself." Yes, he knew a bit about the game and indicating in the direction of the television "That's a great game for our job."

Young Gary's big problem was whether he would be able to attend the fair at Ballinasloe this year. He attended every year since he was seven, which in his case was only twelve years ago. He had a bigger problem when his visitors departed. They had left him eighty cigarettes and, with the place wallpapered with "No Smoking" signs, it was not easy to get full satisfaction out of such presents. He was a smoker but had not thought of cigarettes since he came here until now. The temptation was now too great. He asked if I

minded him trying one. "Smoke away while they're plentiful." This was the second time the student nurse called into our ward to-day. It was easy to see how much she envied Gary enjoying his fag. Being an ex-smoker, I know the feeling. She would love a cigarette, but dare not have one. Rules were made to be broken and I volunteered to act as lookout while they kindled up. "Young blood will have its way and every dog its day." Who said that the youngsters of today are an unthankful lot? Their response to my little gesture did not suggest so. The stickers one of the nurses attached to Gary and myself in the plaster room read "I have been plastered today in Merlin Park." "We usually only give them to children", she said. The student nurse accompanied both of us from the ward. Gary's foot was plastered first. She stood close by and took an unusually keen interest. Unless I am greatly mistaken, cigarettes were not the only thing kindled while I was on sentry duty. We were not long back from the plaster room when a nurse came into the ward and announced "the terrible twins are going home today."

An early arrival home from hospital in good condition is usually a disappointment to a certain class of people. I am of course referring to the ancient and dishonourable society of rumour-mongers. On hearing of an injury or illness, members of their society, in their imagination, install the person concerned in a wheel chair for life - that is if they happen to be in a generous mood on the day. It is not that their fantasies in themselves are of any problem or concern, but it is when they proceed to broadcast those fantasies that their value becomes questionable. Now I do not propose that the society of rumour-mongers be disbanded. With some changes, they could play a very positive role in society. If, on hearing of an injury, they spread the rumour that the man cut himself shaving, or that he had injured his hand when it got entangled in a suspender, a lot of premature arrangements to attend funerals would be avoided.

Personally, I don't care whether the rumour-mongers reform or not, they can have their bit of fun so long as I have the last laugh.



# Ballyhaunis Harvest Festival 1995

**T**he Ballyhaunis Harvest Festival took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend - 3rd to 8th August. It was decided that the activities and entertainment would be provided on a different street each day of the festival, with Tuesday being the Traditional Fair Day. The business people and residents of each street formed separate committees which reported to the main committee.

**By Gabriel Smith**

The Festival was opened on Thursday 3rd by Mr. Jim Higgins, Government Chief Whip and Minister of State at the Department of Defence. On Friday 4th, all activity was centred in Main Street - activities including a balloon release, shopping spree, sheaf-throwing competition, table quiz, pub-talent competition and a "beat on the street." On Saturday 5th, Bridge St., Abbey St. and Devlis amalgamated to host the following events - a shopping spree, "beat on the street," fancy dress competition, line dancing competition, duck racing, relay race and an open-air



Festival Stage painting by Claire Griffin, Clare Street.

Mass, which has followed by the blessing of the lamp on the bridge. Knox St. was host to a series of buskers on Sunday 6th. On Monday 7th, all activity was centred in Clare St. and the activities included live music, a fun cycling obstacle-course and the meeting of the Islamic Community. Tuesday 8th was Traditional Fair Day. Besides the Traditional Fair Day activities, other events included a street art

competition, sumo-wrestling and a bouncing castle. That night, the Festival Dance was held in Midas Nite Club.

Preceding the Ballyhaunis Harvest Festival, the Chairman thanked the following for their input into the festival: The numerous sponsors including publicans, shopkeepers, traders and the limited companies; The clubs, societies and organisations for organising events; The Parish Church and the Friary; The Garda Siochana; Mary Smyth and Tommy Commins, supervisors of the FÁS group, and the employees involved; The Annagh Rose - Noreen Freyne - for attending selected events; The organisers and supervisors of events in the different streets; Billy Nestor who organised the Traditional Fair Day; John Durkan and Bernie Jordan, President and Secretary, respectively, of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce; The Festival Committee which consisted of Denise Moran, Rita Lundon, John Halpin, Michael Horan and Seamus Conneally.



Heave ... Tug-O-War in the river, left to right: Denis Hannan, Tommy Moran, George Hannan, Tony McDonagh and Niall Delaney  
*Courtesy of Nuala Fitzgerald.*

# Belonging

By Chris Pratt

**M**y wife, Xanthe, and I arrived in Ballyhaunis from England in August 1973 on our second wedding anniversary. We lived in "Mill House", Clare Road. We came to Ireland firstly because Xanth's mother (and therefore half her family) is Irish. Xanth spent many happy childhood holidays with relatives in Co. Kilkenny and brought me on a hiking/hostelling holiday to Co. Wicklow in the summer of 1970, when, like many before and since, I fell in love with the place. Secondly, I was very unhappy in my first teaching job where I struggled in a very difficult inner city school in Leicester. We arrived in Ballyhaunis because we thought there was no point in making the move to Ireland and then living and working in the middle of Dublin or Cork. St. Joseph's Secondary School in Ballyhaunis just happened to be looking for an Art Teacher at the same time. My interview with Sr. Joan (Fahy) was the first time I had ever spoken to a nun - and here I was in the convent itself!

Ballyhaunis in 1973 represented to us the challenge of an exciting new life. We were young and enthusiastic and this was where we wanted

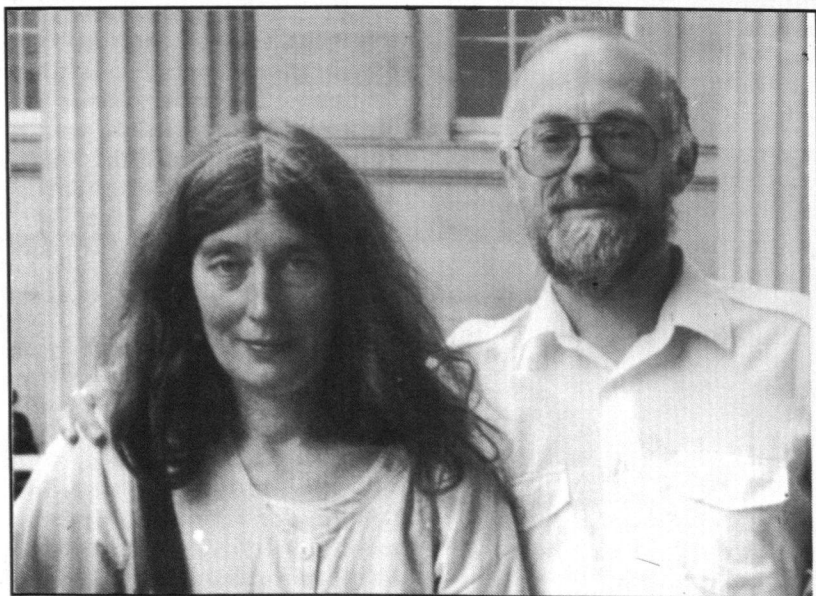
to be. We liked everything, and everyone we met was fantastic, especially when you consider my hair was shoulder length and I had a beard to match. We were open, had no prejudices and were very happy to accept things as they were - because "things as they were" was much better than "things as they had been." We will always remember our first days in "Mill House" which we thought was idyllic and which at that time was out in the country (incidentally we can remember Mr. Rafiq knocking at our door one dark winter's night in 1974 looking for somewhere to live, although we didn't know it was him at the time of course).

I will also always remember my first days teaching in town. Quite simply it was the nearest I have ever come to paradise, particularly because of the hell of teaching in Leicester. It was no effort to meet people half way, in fact it was a pleasure, and certainly everyone we met and came to know was prepared to go the other half. We didn't come to tell people what to do or to tell people that things were better elsewhere, we

came to live a new life. Xanth was a newly qualified Art Teacher and we were already about to start a family (Gabriel was born in January 1974). When we moved to Scrigg in 1976 - a move most people couldn't understand - we had had a second child.

In 1973 I was immediately thrust into the centre of community life as a teacher. I worked very hard (with Jim Higgins) to pass an examination, within my first year, in Oral Irish at the Department of Education in order to qualify as a registered teacher. I involved myself heavily for a number of years in the work of Junior Chamber, and was presented with "Man of the Year" awards on two occasions. I played soccer for the club and maintain an involvement to this day. Western Care has been an integral part of our lives for the past 15 years as Caleb, our second son, is autistic. I will be Chairman of the County Association next year. Xanth was a founder member of Cantairí Beal Atha hAmhnais in 1981 and we have sung together in the Choir since 1983. It has been a privilege to be part of the Parish Choir on some special occasions, most recently at the Knock Novena in the Summer.

So, after 22 years of school, Junior Chamber, Soccer, Cantairí, Western Care etc. I am asked to write this article and the request came as an uncomfortable shock. Everyone knows the story of the lone white hen brought up in a clutch of black hens - the white hen sees itself as the same as all the others, whereas the black hens all see her differently. I suppose I have nestled in as unobtrusively as possible but now I am being "flushed out" into the full exposure of the spotlight. There is a security in belonging but we will always have a strange name and an English accent, even though the only time I'm aware of it is when I meet people who don't know me or when my voice is recorded and I listen to the playback. We do come from very different backgrounds; whatever about Xanth, I am completely Anglo-Saxon! However, and I know this is a terrible cliché, differences between people are what



Chris and Xanthe Pratt.



makes families, communities and life in general so interesting; it is the way we approach these differences that is the important thing. I must say overwhelmingly we have found people open, interested, questioning but accepting of us. From our point of view, and here comes another cliché, when you have personally peered over the chasm and looked death in the eye, as we did when our third son Adam died tragically at the age of five, it places differences between people in perspective.

To be realistic and practical certain basic things are denied to people in our position, most obviously perhaps the "belonging" that comes with going to Mass or supporting one of the mainstream political parties or following the GAA but this is becoming less and less a barrier as the attitude of the next generation towards the establishment changes.

People often ask me what I miss most about living here and I have to remind them that I have lived half of my life here so I can hardly remember! Clearly, however, moving away from a close family is the one thing which has always created a problem, for my family as well as for me.

Things have improved drastically, however. In 1973 we had no car and when we telephoned we had to take a bag full of 5p pieces to the kiosk with the old crank-up operator assisted call frequently taking twenty minutes to put through. We used to send little audio cassette tapes back and forth and, of course, write letters. Now, we have a car, a telephone in our own home and Knock Airport only twenty minutes away. In fact, I've just returned from a long weekend visit to my ageing parents, something unthinkable twenty years ago. I also regret living with the near certainty that our children will themselves have to emigrate to find employment - ironically, probably to England! Finally, as an Art, Craft and Design teacher I still find it hard to accept that I am the only teacher of this subject in a school of over 700; for example, the school I came from had 550 pupils, two Art teachers and a specialist Pottery teacher. Just different perspectives and priorities, I suppose.

We have gained much, however, otherwise we wouldn't still be here. I am fortunate to be very happy in my work and to be teaching in a good

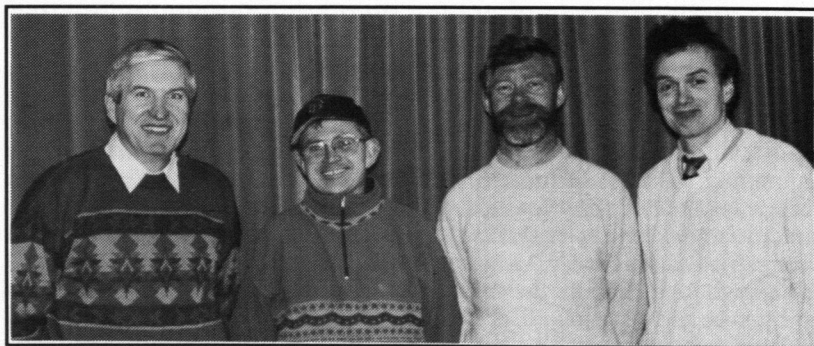
school; this love of my work would be much harder to find in England. I never take for granted the fact that I can, and frequently do, walk out of my front door and take to the hills, fields and bog. The peace of this clean, fresh space is priceless and, yes, like every "outsider", I do prefer the much more natural pace of life to be found here. From our slightly different perspective the two things we would most want for Ballyhaunis in the future are that we would continue to live here in peace and that we would all learn to appreciate how easy it would be to destroy the environment in which we live; clean air, seas, lakes, rivers and unspoilt landscape which is the envy of the rest of Europe. On a glorious day last Spring, for example, we took off to the coast after lunch and in an hour of traffic free driving we were at a deserted beach. I climbed the hill and when I looked around me I was conscious of the fact that thousands of people would pay hundreds of pounds to be where I was at that time. I don't think we should take this quality of environment for granted or assume that it will always be there for us.

## Annagh Wheelers Cycling Club

The beginning of this year 1995 saw us join with two other Mayo Clubs: Hollymount Cycling Club, and Ballinrobe Cycling Club; the reason for this was to make cycling stronger and more popular in the County. We called the new club "Mayo Wheelers" and we have had some good results. Namely eleven Western Region Championships Medals and one Under-12 All Ireland Championship Medal, won by Joseph Murray and 1st and 2nd in the Western League.

### By Martin Connery.

The Annagh Wheelers Mayo 200 km, proved a very successful event. It was a beautiful day in June which made cycling very easy. It took us all over our County; if you have not done it on a bike you have missed something. We will be doing it again in 1996 so why not give it a try? It is not a race but a tour - a slow tour.



"Annagh Wheelers"; Left to right Bernard Jennings, Des Woods, Martin Connery, Michael Cleary who successfully completed 250 miles in one day of June 1994.

Our Keane's Kitchens Annagh Grand Prix though the weather was not at all favourable, again proved to a great success. It is safe to say that on that Sunday 16th July, during the three hours of the race, one inch of rain must have fallen, leaving the cyclists and stewards rather wet; not only wet, but caked in mud as well, which was to be expected after sev-

enty-five miles of cycling. That was three laps of Ballyhaunis, Knock, Claremorris, Ballyhaunis.

Our thanks goes to Keane's Kitchens for sponsoring this event, to the Gardai, Knights of Malta, Stewards, John Durkan, Mid-West Radio, Mike Byrne, Swimming Pool Committee, Mayo County Council, and the ladies who made the sandwiches.

# "Profile" a Profile

I was lucky enough to spend this summer writing for *Profile*, the monthly magazine already familiar by now to most people in its catchment area: Ballyhaunis, Began, Knock, Claremorris, Aghamore, Ballinlough, Kilkelly, Brickens, Cloonfad, Granlahan, Tooreen, Gorthaganny and Tulrahan.

**By Joan O'Malley.**

When I began to write for *Profile* in June, it had been in existence only six months and had run only six editions. Despite being such a short time in circulation, it already had an established format and content. Each edition contained news coverage of local people and events, regular items such as Fr. John O'Connor's series on the history of Ballyhaunis and Moira Stratford's series on helping preschool children learn through play, an advice column compiled by the Ballyhaunis Citizens' Information Centre called "Know Your Rights", cookery, and of course, the series from which the magazine took its name, the monthly profile.

Each profile takes the form of an article about a prominent local person or family. So far, "victims" have included local entrepreneurs and business people and people involved in any kind of work of benefit to the community. The list includes Billy Rochford of the Rochford Motors, the Durkan family, owners of Durkan's Mineral Waters, Joe Jordan, owner of Ballinlough Refrigeration, the Keane family, who own Keane's Kitchens, the Lannon family who own Western Brand Chickens, John Aldridge, organist and director of music at Knock Shrine, John Higgins, since last February the Chief Executive of the Western Development Partnership Board, and Cormac Hanley, owner of Claremorris Equitation Centre.

I had better leave the explanations of the original idea behind *Profile* to its "founders", who in getting the magazine off the ground turned a great idea into both a means of



The original editorial committee of "Profile", left to right: Sean O'Domhnaill, Phillip Stratford, Fr. John O'Connor and Mary Smyth.

employment and a source of information and entertainment for the people of the area. They were Mary Smyth, Moira and Philip Stratford, Sean O'Domhnaill and Fr. John O'Connor. I spoke to all the past and present members of the editorial committee for their views on the continuing progress of *Profile*...

Mary Smyth is the supervisor of the FÁS schemes based on the first and second floors of the Credit Union Building in Main St. She runs "Wardrobe", a theatrical hire costume company, from the second floor, and the *Profile* office from the first.

The Ballyhaunis Community Workers, who are based in *Profile*'s editorial office in Main St., are: Catherine Muldowney, who is from Coogue, Maureen Neary from Tulrahan, Olivia Fleming from Cloonfad, Amanda Howard, also from Cloonfad, Margaret Kerrigan from Ballinlough, and Teresa Fitzmaurice from Gurteenbeg, Ballyhaunis.

The scheme involving *Profile* began in September 1994. The idea of a magazine came about late last year when Mary Smyth and Fr. O'Connor discussed publishing his history of

Ballyhaunis and the surrounding area. Broadly speaking, they went on to discuss a magazine which would promote local successes and initiatives, and enterprise. The history would be published in the form of a monthly history supplement. As Mary told me, it was hoped that the magazine would "marry the past and the present", that is, that the history supplement would give an added dimension to the articles detailing the way of life in the area in the present day. Mary added that the magazine "coincided with a time in the community when we were beginning to see that we had missed LEADER 1... there was a general enthusiasm for self-development in the community."

In the beginning Mary saw the magazine as potentially a new business. "We hoped that *Profile* would become a commercial concern - not just in Ballyhaunis but in the wider community". Producing a magazine also promised to be very worthwhile work for the FÁS workers involved. It would involve writing articles, selling advertising, typing and proof-reading the contents of each edition, meeting printing deadlines, distributing the



magazines to the shops and balancing the accounts - work which would be sure to give experience in salesmanship and organisational skills.

Philip Stratford has played a vital role in Profile from the outset. He was a studio manager in an advertising agency until December '93, when he and his wife, Moira and their children left England to resettle in Moira's father's native Larganboy. Philip is a photographer and has skills in desktop publishing, and from the start he has designed and laid out the magazine by computer. The contents of each Profile are collated on a computer disk in the editorial office in Main St., and it is Philip's job to turn the advertisements, articles, MWR schedule and everything else into a magazine. "Behind the scenes, there is an enormous amount of work done by a very committed production team, who ensure that the work is ready for me to meet the print deadlines" he said.

Moira Stratford has only been an official member of the editorial committee since October, but in fact she also has been heavily involved in Profile from the beginning. A nursery-school teacher by profession, she wrote a series on pre-school education through play which was published in Profile, and is now one of the magazine's most regular contributors. The main idea for Profile, she says, is to "collate any local interesting information about the area and to make sure there's something in the magazine for everyone. In the last few issues, we feel we got the balance right."

In future it will be part of Profile's policy to deal with at least one national issue per month - for example, the divorce referendum, which was discussed in the October issue. "The issue was dealt with in a perfectly balanced way.....I think we have to look at social issues to a certain level; what we wouldn't like is to express a dogmatic opinion on anything." Moira told me that she felt that new elements such as the crossword (which was compiled by Amanda Howard) and the wordsearch (provided by herself) make the magazine look more family-oriented - "there's something in it for everyone." When I spoke to Moira she was very enthusiastic about the magazine but did say that she would like to see more people using Profile as a resource to spread

information, and they would always welcome new blood to the writing team."

Fr. John O'Connor was originally a member of the editorial committee, but at the moment he acts as history editor and still contributes the history supplements to each edition. Fr. O'Connor was very definite that Profile has what he calls a "positive brief" to promote the area. "In this age of super-communications and media utilisation, every possible public means must be used to better one's own locality - to assist in its self-awareness in all the areas of life that matter (present and past): social, educational, moral, religious, occupational, vocational, sporting, recreational, health-caring, artistic, community related, historical, cultural," Fr. O'Connor believes. "These and others are all strands in the fabric of our society, of our local community, and Profile has a burning interest in them as well as in our locale itself and its features and infra-structures."

"So I saw Profile as a magazine of the present - that factually reports (with a minimum of negative editorial comments) on the present growing face of each community in the locality and the local positive achievements....; I saw it as a magazine that (in time) carries actual limited artistic work, which, because of size strictures, must be confined to the sketch or photography, poetry or quite short stories or some other short expression. I saw it also as a magazine for the past, as one, that in an ongoing way, will have some few limited pages in an history supplement at the end of each issue (and they must be few, because things historical are not so easy to digest) devoted to putting on record the story of the town and locality in as scientific a way possible (from pre-Norman times up until now)....So the magazine will home in mostly on the present, but also on the past (out of which the present grew)."

Sean O Domhnaill, who as everyone knows is the Western People's correspondent in East Mayo, became involved in Profile late last year. The magazine was to benefit from his experience through to the next September, when he stepped down from the editorial board.

"I came upon a meeting to set up the magazine by accident, and a cup

of coffee later, I was on the editorial board!" As Sean saw it, the aim of the magazine was "to promote and support local development and initiative, with over ten years of European funding available, and it might sound opportunist, but it was important that Ballyhaunis and the surrounding areas should benefit from that. Maybe it makes me a bit of a "politician" but I felt that people in Ballyhaunis should maximise that funding which was available for self-help, and which is now completely over, and that's in the context particularly that Ballyhaunis missed out completely on LEADER 1. We felt that it was important to support the great efforts of people like Peter Cunnane and BRCIE which has resulted, for example, in getting the site from Avonmore for an industrial park. Also we wanted to support, for example, the efforts of people in Granlahan and their FÁS scheme, and the Cloonfad Community Centre."

"The magazine was an effort to provide a community service, to foster that sense of community and co-operation which is better for people economically and socially and which makes an area a better place to live in. It was a great credit to the ladies in the FÁS. scheme, thanks to whose professionalism and interest the magazine continues, and also to the voluntary people who have an input. And it's good to see new people involved. I think there's great potential for it - I think local people and businesses should go out of their way to support it, because if it was successful it could be a great service to the area," he added.

It could be said now that Profile has gone past its first phase of development. Mary Smyth told me in September that the magazine was going through an "experimental period." Efforts were being made to widen the market and particularly to gain the interest of young people. With these changes came new faces on the editorial board. The two new editors of the second generation of Profile are Tony Nestor and Margaret Byrne. Margaret, who is from Johnstown, has worked in the distribution and advertising ends of the magazine since the beginning, but only officially joined the editorial board in October. She says the group are "far more optimistic about Profile than three or four

months ago." She told me that "sales are improving, and we now find people are phoning the office to place advertisements in the magazine, as they believe they benefit from them ... "we intend to concentrate more on Claremorris, we are trying to get more news reports from there and more outlets in the town."

Margaret stressed that they would like more writers from the different areas Profile covers: "anyone interested is invited to write on anything they like of local interest." New items like "Doctor's Corner", and the "Kid-stuff" section have received very good feedback, and she was encouraged by the growth in the town sales for the October edition. "If sales keep rising only twenty or thirty copies a month, Profile will become a viable endeavour. All in all, I'd say Profile is good value for £1 - you can leave it on the coffee table and browse through it, it's not like a newspaper that has to be read within one or two days before it's old news."

Profile is steadily building up a core readership of about 3,000. According to Tony Nestor of Island, who joined the editorial committee in September, the magazine is "growing marginally, enough to cover the costs, but the grass grows upwards!" Although not directly involved in the magazine until September, Tony had been taking a keen outside interest in Profile and its progress. "I personally liked the idea of a local magazine. The whole concept of a local magazine is that it must have a local interest factor, a local feel. If it doesn't have that, it has nothing ... Profile will be as good or as interesting as the people who write it want it to be," Tony added, echoing Margaret's call for more writers, and said that Profile hopes to develop its junior input, at present somewhat limited to young children, by having regular correspondents in the schools. In Profile, these contributors would be given a forum in which to talk about issues that concern them.

Tony added that Profile is only eleven months old and is still in a process of evolution. While this is certainly true, there can be no doubt that if the same degree of hard work goes into its second year as its first, Profile will continue to develop in a successful way. Personally, as a journalism student, I very much enjoyed my work experience with Profile, and I hope to contribute again.

On my first day in the Profile office in June, all the Ballyhaunis Community Workers and the then editorial committee had a mini-party upstairs in the "Wardrobe" workshop to celebrate the fact that Profile was six months old. As the youngest person present, I myself was asked to blow out the candles on the cake. In January the magazine will celebrate its first birthday, and although I probably won't be at the party (I trust there will be one), I hope to be the first to wish everyone in Profile many happy returns, and every success in the future.

# St. Patrick's Dramatic Society

## REVIEW 1994/'95

The 1994-95 season was a relatively quiet one for St. Patrick's Dramatic Society. It was, nonetheless, a successful one with the group receiving an unprecedented four nominations in the Regional Drama Awards.

In November 1994 rehearsals began in our production of Maeve Binchy's "Deeply Regretted By." This play is based on a true story set in County Mayo and centres around a young English widow who discovers that her recently deceased Irish husband also had a wife and nine children in Ireland. It was a well-received radio audience play with a cast of: Anna Henry, Kevin Henry, Martin Forde (who also directed the play), Jimmy Cribbin and last, but certainly not least, two newcomers to our society - Tom Colleran and Martina O'Rourke. Anna Henry and Tom Colleran

By Anna Henry

received nominations for Best Actress and Best Actor awards whilst Martin Forde was nominated for Best Director. The group also received a nomination for Best Overall Play. An enjoyable night was had by all at the award presentations in "The Travellers Friend" in Castlebar.

Pat Doyle undertook the production of John McGahern's "The Dark" but unfortunately, this was cancelled owing to the sad and untimely death of Padraig Lyons. Padraig was a long-standing and highly respected member of our group who gave many memorable performances over the years. In particular, his portrayal of Tadhg in John B. Keane's "The Field," will long live in the memories of drama

enthusiasts in Ballyhaunis. He will be sincerely missed by all of us who were fortunate to have known and worked with one of nature's gentlemen. "Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh a anam dílis."

Rehearsals are now underway for Brian Friel's "Dancing at Lughnasa" under the able direction of Frankie Ralph. This is an ambitious production but, with the commitment of a very able cast and crew, all indications are that we are in for a great success. The cast include: Michael - Noel Armstrong, Kate - Sheila McInerney, Maggie - Mary Caulfield, Agnes - Anne Grealy, Rose - Martina O'Rourke, Chris - Stella O'Neill, Fr. Jack - Tony Carney and Gerry - Leo Forkan.

The officers for 1995 are: Chairman, Martin Forde; Treasurer, Moira Noone; and Secretaries, Aisling Toal and Anna Henry.



# Scottish-Irish Links

**O**n an October evening in 1992, a travel-weary group of nine Scottish visitors arrived in Ballyhaunis. They had come from Dundee via Stranraer-Larne. They were planning a pleasant long weekend in the West of Ireland. Their choice of hostelry for refreshments, Paddy Delaney's Bar, Abbey Street, was apt as the topic of music was quickly raised. I had just returned from school and before long a session of Scottish-Irish music began. This was to be the first of many such sessions.

**By Moira Delaney.**

The organiser of the trip was John Huband, a well known Dundee accordionist whose range of music is tremendous. He has led several Scottish bands including "The Tayside Sound," has featured on many albums and is rated as one of the top jazz accordionists in these islands. He teaches an accordion band in Muirhead, near Dundee and their music is accomplished and varied. They have produced a number of albums, presented programmes on BBC and toured Europe. The diversity of their recorded work creates a musical rainbow of tonal colour in a repertoire consisting of Scottish, Irish, French, Italian, Austrian and

***"Music is Life and like it, is inextinguishable"***

American tunes.

The first visit to Ballyhaunis has led to a "twinning" of sorts. At Easter 1993, The Muirhead Accordion Band and their supporters arrived in Ballyhaunis - a total of forty people. The band played at the square during the Easter Parade, a Scottish-Irish night was held in the Horseshoe Inn and several mini-sessions were held in bars and lounges in Ballyhaunis and Knock. In the Spring of 1994 and 1995 the Band and supporters have returned in even greater numbers and their vitality and enthusiasm are palpable. They have featured on several programmes on Midwest Radio and are gaining in popularity among the local people on each visit.

So strong have the bonds of friendship become that, now, groups of young people from this area have begun exchange visits to Dundee. In July 1994 almost sixty people, including young musicians from Began National School and pupils from the King School of Dance, spent a most enjoyable week in Dundee. We presented a variety show in a number of venues arranged by our Scottish

friends and were almost overawed by the generosity extended to us. The proceeds of a barbecue - £800, were presented to us on the eve of our departure.

In July 1995 another group of musicians with local links spent a most enjoyable week among our Scottish friends - the welcome was warm, the music was superb and the week was too short!

Apart from the group exchanges which have evolved from our 1992 encounter, several smaller groups from the Dundee area have come to Ballyhaunis from time to time. John Huband, his wife Pat and their family; George Adam, (affectionately known as "Wee Duddie" and one of the staunch supporters of the band) his wife Nan and members of their family; Jim and Judy Bennett and Dougie Taylor (a Frank Carson lookalike) are among the regular visitors. They have made many firm friends among us.

We look forward to April 1996 when a group of fifty members and friends of the Muirhead Accordion Band will once more visit Ballyhaunis.

***"Good music is that which penetrates the ear with facility and quits the memory with difficulty,"***

***Sir Thomas Beecham.***



The Muirhead Accordion Band.

Photo: Philip Stratford.

# Mrs. Mary Regan

## From Clonakilty to Ballyhaunis in the 1920s

**O**n a golden Autumn evening, I went over to Tooraree to visit Mrs. Mary Regan. As usual, she met me at the door with a beaming smile and a warm handshake. She was delighted to see me and soon we were having a great chat over a cup of tea beside her cosy fire. On the 16th July this year she reached the magic age of ninety-five years, and is now one of the oldest residents in our parish. She is still very active mentally and physically, fresh and youthful looking and living life to the full. A woman of deep faith, she attributes her long life and energy to the blessing of good health, wholesome food and the fact that she never smoked.

She was born and brought up in the beautiful West Cork town of Clonakilty and is now the last survivor of a large family of four girls and six boys. After her school days,

### By Agnes Heaney

she went to work for a local Bank Manager and his family and when they were changed to the National Bank (Bank of Ireland now), Ballyhaunis she came with them. It was on the 22nd of August 1922 that she said farewell to her family and friends and set out for Ballyhaunis. It was also a very historical day because close to her native town, and the road that she was travelling on, the great Irishman Michael Collins was killed in an ambush. After living for some time in our town, she became acquainted with James Regan from Kilmovee. Soon a great romance blossomed and a few years later they walked up the aisle. They lived in the town for many years until their family were reared, trained and well equipped to take their place in the world. Then they went to live in one of the new houses in Tooraree, where Mrs. Regan still resides.

In due course, all the family emigrated and her husband James died in 1952. Down the years her many

interests have kept her occupied: knitting, crochet, gardening, and as a cook she is second to none. Her brown bread, and flowers, etc. have won her many prizes at the local show, and she still bakes the delicious bread and Christmas cakes. Mrs. Regan thinks that the world has changed upside down since she was a young girl. She said times are far better now and she thinks that modern air-travel is wonderful. Now that family can come home to visit her very often and she herself has crossed the Atlantic many times over the years. Last October, she travelled on her own to Boston to attend a family wedding and stayed on for a six week vacation. When I told her that I was writing about her precious memories for "Annagh Magazine", she said "why don't you write about our long journey to Lourdes?"

## A Grand Tour Across Europe

**F**or many years I had the secret hope that some day I would visit Lourdes to join one of the many annual pilgrimages flying direct from Dublin to that far-famed shrine, but it just did not happen that way at all, so I will now write briefly about my most unique and fascinating journey mostly by road across five countries to see that beautiful Shrine at the foot of the Pyrenees. Early in the Spring of 1972, I decided that I would try and fulfil my life-long ambition, so I made inquiries amongst friends if they would be interested in a Lourdes pilgrimage in April or May, but the few people that could go would prefer to wait until Autumn. Then I met Mrs Mary Regan and she was making plans to visit her family in West Germany. She said that her daughter Winifred was to travel with her, but had to cancel her trip until a later date, owing to the fact that herself and her husband had just opened a supermarket, but their son Timothy aged eight years would be happy to travel with his grandmother to



Mrs. Mary Regan with her sons, Michael, Sean and Paddy and her daughter, Winifred.



Europe and I was invited to travel with them. About this time my husband and I were invited to a niece's wedding in Birmingham. So we made our plans first to attend the wedding and afterwards Mrs Regan, Timothy and I would continue our journey to Frankfurt and then to Lourdes.

On the first day of our holiday, we left Ballyhaunis very early in the morning to drive to Dublin and then to fly on to Birmingham. After an enjoyable wedding we spent a few days on a tour of the Cotswolds, including Stratford-on-Avon, a place full of storied and poetical associations. By the end of the week, we set off again for Heathrow and a three hour flight to Frankfurt. Michael Regan and his three-year son, Sean, were waiting to meet us at Rain-Maine Airport. The drive through modern Frankfurt was very interesting. During the last World War most of its old and historical buildings were destroyed by bombs and were replaced by so many skyscrapers that its now known as the most Americanised city in Europe. At the time, Michael was in service there with the U.S. Army and close to its headquarters had a lovely home where his charming wife Alice made us very welcome. For the rest of the week we were taken on many sight-seeing tours, including one with the children to see the Zoo, with its 650 species - it's one of the best in the World.

Of the many delightful towns and villages that we visited, I thought that the ancient university town of Heidelberg had a special charm. Its setting is quite exceptional overlooking the beautiful River Neckar. We had to climb steep hills and many steps to view its great galleries and museums. At a pavement cafe, we joined other people who were chatting and drinking coffee at little tables set under striped awnings. Then two Irish students came to our table. One from Galway and the other from Foxford. They were delighted to meet people from home and were there at school, training to be chefs. Afterwards, we were taken on a pleasure-boat cruise down the river to view the wild mountain scenery where we caught glimpses of many fairytale castles, their red pointed turrets gleaming in the evening sunshine. On a morning

of misty warmth in Our Lady's beautiful month, we were ready at four o'clock a.m. to leave Frankfurt for a fifteen-hundred mile journey to Lourdes. Michael, Alice, the two children, Mrs. Regan and myself set out in Michael's comfortable American car. On the long drive to the Swiss border we drove through quaint villages, rich farmland and wooded estates.

Shortly after we arrived in Switzerland a breathtaking panorama became visible, there we found every combination of mountain scenery, massive snow-clad peaks, high cascades and magnificent glaciers. As we sped through this enchanted region a succession of lovely Alpine villages came into view. Most of their beautiful white chalets were ornamented with stag heads and surrounded by tall palms and exotic flowers. Deep in the valleys cattle were grazing on lush green pastures, one could hear the jingle of their cowbells which are used to keep away the wolves living in the thickly wooded foothills. Our scenic route brought us to the large cities of Bern and Lousanne and it was a very enjoyable trip all the way to Geneva. When we were close to this City we could see the tall spire of its gothic Cathedral, then we went over the wide bridge spanning the Rhone River to an old city with narrow streets, colourful open-air markets and superb old mansions. After crossing the French frontier, the road climbed into steep turns giving us a spectacu-

lar view of the High Alps. The most awesome is Mont Blanc, its peaks a frozen world of ice and snow high up against the clouds, and soon after we had to drive through a long tunnel beneath those mountains. On we sped through this wild landscape of high cliffs, narrow gorges and tumbling waterfalls, we were on our way to the South of France. Along this route are some of the most famous vineyards in the World with their beautiful old chateaux tucked away in the valleys. We stayed overnight in Avignon, a lively, fortified city with pleasant tree-lined streets and flower-covered fountains. As we still had a long distance to travel, we left early and, leaving the age-old highways, we continued on minor roads through the pleasant, rustic countryside. After many hours driving in a south-west direction, the Pyrenees came into view and we were so happy that, at last, we were close to our goal and soon after we could see the tall spires of the Rosary Basilica in Lourdes. As we entered this "City of Miracles" we met a procession of pilgrims - they were of every age and race - including the invalids in vast numbers. Then, we made our way to the Grotto at Massabielle to pray the Rosary and to thank God and his blessed Mother for a safe and memorable trip, and of course, I offered a special prayer of thanksgiving for Mrs. Regan and her family for bringing me all the way to Lourdes and making my life-long dream come true.

## Community Games

By Kay Curley.

The long, hot summer saw some sizzling performances at all levels in this year's Community Games with teams taking part in Soccer, Football, Basketball and Quizzes.

On the Athletics field, Yvonne Byrne represented Mayo and Ballyhaunis at Mosney in the Long Puck Girls Under-16. Lisa Travers took part in Marathon Girls Under-17. Both girls gave their best in the finals.

Our thanks to Seamus Durkan for use of the Den for meetings; to the GAA for use of the pitch for matches

and athletics; to the Credit Union for their sponsorship; to the schools and parents who helped to organise the various events.

As 1996 approaches let us keep in mind: "Allow children to watch and you will please them for a moment, Have children participate and you will occupy them for a life time."

President: Jim Lundon; Chairman: Pat O'Connor; Treasurers: Tony McDonagh and Paddy Phillips; Secretary: Kay Curley.

# St. Patrick's Church

I came into work one Monday morning in September 1994, Fr. Cooney was sitting at his desk, expression - serious, mood - intent and decisive. "I have to do something with the altar in the Church", he said. "It is too far removed from the congregation and I feel so isolated from everybody during Mass." Thus began phase one of a number of alterations and improvements carried out in the church over the past year or so.

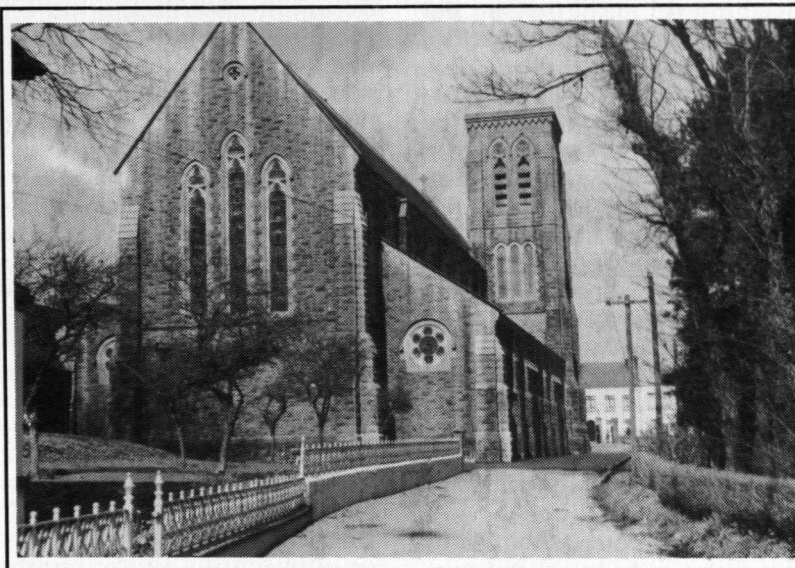
**By Mary Donnelly.**

Not being a man to hesitate when he feels something needs to be done, he set about developing his idea right away. An engineer was consulted, measurements taken, drawings prepared, altered here and there, redrawn, and in a short time work was under way. The altar was dismantled and removed, and a new platform erected approximately eight inches higher and projecting 12 feet into the main body of the church. The altar was then re-assembled and placed in its new location approximately eight feet forward. After much deliberation about colour, practicality, etc. a pale green carpet was chosen and the whole sanctuary area is now beautifully carpeted.

This was the second occasion on which the altar was moved. In 1974, several years after Vatican II, when it was decided that the celebrant should face the congregation at Mass, it was brought forward six feet. Incidentally, of the two men who worked on the most recent move, one of them was also involved on the first occasion and one was a son of another.

The baptismal font was restored with some new marble panels and relocated in front of Our Lady's altar. The electric wiring was found to be defective so the church was completely rewired and some new lighting installed to highlight the ceiling.

At about the same time work



St. Patrick's Church from the south.

began on the new Blessed Sacrament Chapel. It is located to the right, inside the main door, in an area which at one time housed the baptismal font before it was moved to a more prominent location near the main altar. A partition was erected to separate the area from the main church, and a new ceiling was put in place - well insulated to conserve heat. A separate heating system was also installed. With the assistance of generous donations and sponsorship from a number of parishioners, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel was tastefully fitted-out and furnished. It was blessed and opened on January 22nd this year (1995). Since then, adoration takes place every Friday from 10.30 am to 8.30 pm. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel provides a warm, comfortable, private atmosphere for silent prayer and meditation. It is used extensively by the parishioners both on a regular rota system and on a casual drop-in basis.

In May the whole exterior of the church was power-washed and coated with a sealant, and the shuttering in the tower painted. Shortly afterwards, a completely new lightning conductor system was installed.

While all this work was in progress, Fr. Cooney was in consultation with Abbey Stained Glass Studios in Dublin with regard to the restoration of the stained glass windows. He tells me that shortly after he came to Ballyhaunis he became aware of the deteriorating condition of the windows. Having been involved in the restoration of the windows in Tuam Cathedral a short time before, he was able to identify the extent of the problem. In fact, one day he drew my attention to the crows flying freely in and out through the small window at the very top of the church. But it was not until the storm-glazing was removed that the full extent of the damage became apparent. The windows were very badly buckled, in some places the stained glass was pushing against the storm-glass. Some sections of stained glass were cracked and broken. The fitters had to apply a sheet of clear contact to each panel of the windows before removing them in order to prevent them from disintegrating.

The representative of Abbey Stained Glass Co. explained that the distortion of the windows is caused by the heat from the sun and the darker colours of stained glass



attract more heat than the lighter colours. When the lead gets warm it becomes pliable and the weight of lead and glass makes the window sag just a little. When it cools it does not revert to its original shape and so every day heat is generated, the window sags a little further. Eventually the windows become quite buckled and then extreme pressure is exerted upon the individual glasses. The glasses start to crack and the artwork which is painted on the surface of the glass flakes off at the edges of the cracks and begins to look most unsightly. The lead in windows of this style has a useful life of fifty years after which it perishes and loses its strength.

The original sum quoted for the restoration work was £46,000, but after some adjustment to the amount of work to be done and Fr. Cooney's not inconsiderable negotiating skills, the final figure was agreed at £35,000. Work duly commenced in early June and was completed in early October. Each panel of stained glass was removed and taken to the company's studios in Dublin where they were dismantled, cleaned and completely rebuilt with new lead. The only remaining task is to pay for the work and this is being done over a three year period at the rate of £1,000 per month from the basket collections at weekend Masses.

Looking back briefly over the history of St. Patrick's Church, some changes have taken place at various

times but these have not altered its original design and character to any great extent. The construction of the church was undertaken by the late Fr. John Canning in the early years of this century and has been described as the accomplishment of his most cherished dream. The foundation stone was laid by Most Rev. Dr. Healy, Archbishop of Tuam, in September 1903. Six years later, on 10th October, 1909, he officiated at the dedication of this large and beautiful building.

Built on Gothic lines after a design prepared by Messrs. W.H. Byrne, Suffolk St., Dublin, there was no contractor and only local labour was employed. Some of the tradesmen employed were Mr. John Charles Fitzmaurice, Mr. John Gilmore, Clare St., Mr. James Infant, Clagnagh and Mr. Edward O'Malley, Knox St. Hammered limestone, which was quarried in Hazelhill a quarter of a mile away, and facings of cut stone from Hollymount were used throughout. The red granite pillars and their bases of grey Aberdeen granite, together with the timber for roofing were imported. Most of the stained glass windows were designed and made in the Joshua Clarke Studios, North Frederick St., Dublin. Joshua Clarke was the father of Harry Clarke, the well known stained glass artist. Much of the funding for the church was raised in America. At local level, several events such as dances, concerts, bazaars etc. were held in the

convent school rooms in aid of the buildings, the pulpit, the tabernacle door, etc.

The organ was installed in 1930 by the late Canon M. J. McHugh. My aunt Josie Boyle was a member of the choir at the time and she was one of many people who did a house to house collection to fund it.

The present cedar floor was put down in 1960 by the late Fr. Thomas Rushe. At this time stiletto-heeled shoes were the fashion in ladies footwear, and I can remember Fr. Rushe vehemently denouncing these heels from the pulpit for the damage they were doing to the floor!

In 1974 the altar rails in front of the main altar were removed and the altar moved forward as already mentioned. The pulpit was removed from its elevated position near one of the pillars and relocated in its present position closer to the main altar. Other improvement measures which took place over the years include an improved heating system and the installation of amplification.

I think it is fair to say that the church has been greatly enhanced by all the work carried out over the years. It is evident that each parish priest in turn has done his utmost to maintain the church to a very high standard, to incorporate the needs and liturgical standards of more modern times and to honour the enormous effort and commitment of our forefathers who put such a magnificent structure in place in difficult circumstances in the early years of this century.



The altar in St. Patrick's Church in its new position.

## Why Not Turn Over a Few New Leaves?

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# Hurling in Ballyhaunis

**H**urling, the game of the Gaels, has been described as the fastest field game in the world. Anyone who plays or follows the games will know the exhilaration of playing, the thrill of winning and the devastation of losing.

In Ballyhaunis, in this year of 1995, all the emotions have been endured, but above all else, the love and enjoyment of the game persists with the players. Whereas there were no county titles won in 1995, an increasing number of players are participating and this year, up to twenty Ballyhaunis hurlers represented Mayo at different levels.

Teams were entered in the following competitions: Mini-Sevens, National School; Under-12, Under-14, Under-16 and Under-18.

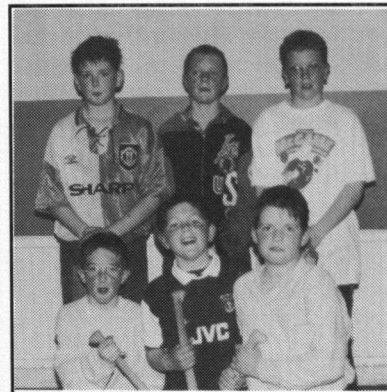
The Mini-Sevens Blitz was played in Ballyhaunis on 29th April 1995. Ballyhaunis first defeated a fancied Westport team and then accounted for The Quay, Ballina, to win a place in the finals against Knock National School. However, the two previous games had taken their toll and when

## By Peter Higgins

Knock got a lucky pair of goals early on, the task ahead was too much and time ran out. Knock ran out winners by a margin of 4-3 to 1-2 and thus went on to win the Connacht Title. Well-done Knock National School!

In the National School Competition, held in June 1995, Ballyhaunis comprehensively defeated Tooreen by a margin of 1-8 to 0-2. They then met Knock N.S. in the East Mayo Final held in Ballyhaunis. On the day, a howling north wind made hurling difficult for both teams. However Knock N.S. made better use of the wind in the second half and, thanks to some great long distance points from frees, they ran out winners by a margin of 0-4 to 0-1. Knock N.S. went on to win the County Final.

The Under-12 Blitz was held in Westport on 30th September 1995. Ballyhaunis easily accounted for Ballina and, though narrowly beaten by



Back (left to right): Alan Lucey, Paddy Coffey, Derek McConn. Front (left to right): Shane Buckley, Brian Mulrennan, Liam Lyons.

Westport, still went on to the semi-final stage. Here they met a strong Tooreen side, made up of teams from Tooreen, Aghamore and Knock National Schools, and were comprehensively beaten. Tooreen went on to win the Final, again by a large margin.

In the Under-14 League there were a record number of teams entered this year. We knew that Ballyhaunis Hurlers faced a huge task, as all but two of the panel were under 13. However, this fact did not deter the Ballyhaunis team from putting in some sterling performances. Despite the youthful team, Ballyhaunis defeated Castlebar with outstanding performances from Anthony Lyons, Michael Walsh, Thomas Murphy, Derek McConn, Christopher McCrudden, Yvonne Byrne, Tadhg Buckley, Shane Conlon, Brian Mulrennan and Keith Higgins. Defeats by the two finalists - Ballina and Westport - ensured that Ballyhaunis would not feature in the final and further defeats by Tooreen and Belmullet did not reflect the enormous efforts by the Ballyhaunis team.

In the Under-16 competition, Ballyhaunis had a big margin over Castlebar, winning by a score of 5-9 to 1-5, with great individual performances by Paul McConn, Michael Regan, Niall Tighe, Michael Lyons, Micheál Walsh, Paul Finn, Michael



Mini Sevens '95: Back (left to right): Jason Powers, Alan Lucey, Martin Kilbride, Christopher McCrudden, Derek McConn. Front (left to right): Patrick Waldron, Brian Mulrennan, Keith Higgins, Hugh Carney, Paul Jordan.



John Nolan and Don Regan.

The second-round game against Ballina ended in a draw with the score 1-5 to 1-5. Seamus London was outstanding in that game with Robert Morley, David Murphy, Derek McConn, Adrian Muldowney and John Gallagher playing well. The replay was going very well for Ballyhaunis, but, with two minutes to go, Ballina crashed home a goal and went on to win by the narrowest of margins: 1-5 to 1-4. It was a devastating blow to a very committed Ballyhaunis team, who had trained hard and long, but the general feeling among the players was that they have a long way to go and will not be discouraged by the set-back.

In the Minor competition, Ballyhaunis had high hopes, having won the Under-16 title two years ago. Preparation was intense and committed and plans were going well with a win over Belmullet of 4-9 to 0-1, and a win over Tooreen of 5-9 to 0-2. In the County Final, Ballina Stephenites provided the opposition. On the 23rd September, an afternoon that will be regarded as the end of Summer 1995, the final was played in McHale Park Castlebar. Ballyhaunis played with the wind in the first half and went ahead with a score of 1-8 to 1-0. In the second-half, just as the sliotar was being thrown in, the wind turned into a gale and the rain came crashing down. Aided by the elements, Ballina took the game to Ballyhaunis but Ballyhaunis withstood valiantly. Despite a number of injuries, Bally-



Under-14s '95: Back (left to right): Stephen Gately, Anthony Lyons, Micheál Walsh, Keith Higgins, Brian Mulrennan, Gareth Morrissey. Middle: (left to right): Padraic Carney, Shane Conlon, Tadhg Buckley, Martin Kilbride, Derek McConn, Hugh Carney. Front (left to right): Yvonne Byrne, Jason Powers, Stephen Carney, Paddy Coffey, Christopher McCrudden, Alan Lucey, Paul Jordan. Missing: Tomás Murphy, Paul Cunnane.

haunis were ahead by one point after thirty minutes in the second half, but two goals in injury-time stole the game from Ballyhaunis. One could pick out a number of outstanding players from Ballyhaunis, but the fact remains that the total panel of twenty-three players were all heroes. It is our hope that all of these players continue hurling, as they will form the basis of future hurling teams in Ballyhaunis. Four of this team: Pierce Higgins, Michael Curley, Hugh McKermitt and Brian Flanagan were members of the historic Mayo Minor Team which, for the first time ever, won the All-Ireland

Minor C Title for two consecutive years, and all four players played a significant part in this victory.

In the Under-16 County Hurling Team, Michael Regan, Don Regan, Michael Lyons, Seamus London, Paul Finn, David Murphy, John Gallagher, Paul McConn and Adrian Muldowney featured strongly, and indeed the team was unlucky to be knocked-out of the Competition by Longford.

At National Schools level, an annual competition between Laois National Schools and Mayo National Schools has been started. We would like to congratulate Derek McConn and Anthony Lyons who starred for Mayo.

A special congratulations to Yvonne Byrne who represented Mayo in the "Poc Fada" competition in the Community Games in Mosney and performed exceptionally well to finish in the top-ten in Ireland. Well done Yvonne!

Ballyhaunis do not have a Junior or Senior Team, so some of our members play with Tooreen Hurling Club. We would like to congratulate the following on winning another County Senior Title: John J. Hoban, Michael Gorman, Tom Phillips, Pierce Higgins, Hugh McKermitt, Derek Walsh, Brian Flanagan and Michael Curley.

One of the highlights of hurling in Ballyhaunis in 1995 was the



National School Hurling, Spring 1995: Back (left to right): Gareth Morrissey, Paul Cunnane, Martin Kilbride, Tadhg Buckley, Alan Lucey, Christopher McCrudden, Jason Powers, Anthony Lyons, Derek McConn. Front (left to right): Paddy Coffey, Padraic Carney, Keith Higgins, Patrick Waldron, Hugh Carney, Brian Mulrennan, Fergal Walsh, Stephen Gately.

Indoor Hurling League played in the Scouts Den. The game is played with hurleys with a rubber "bas" and lightweight sliotars. Approximately fifty children took part in this league, and it is regarded as an outstanding success. We would like to thank Geraldine Conlon and Seamus Durkin for making the Scouts Den available, and the players who provided transport each night.

Congratulations to Ballyhaunis Community School and in particular to Ms. Áine Whelan on winning the Connacht C Hurling Final in Spring of 1995. It was a great team effort and Ballyhaunis should be very proud of the team's success.

Our sincere thanks to all the hurlers for a very enjoyable year, to Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club and Executive, Bord na nÓg, managers, trainers and selectors. Also, to the parents who helped out every week and who provided transport to the games; our sponsors who are always so generous, and to all who by their generous help and assistance made it possible to field teams in so many levels each year. It is truly a great team effort.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.

### TEAMS

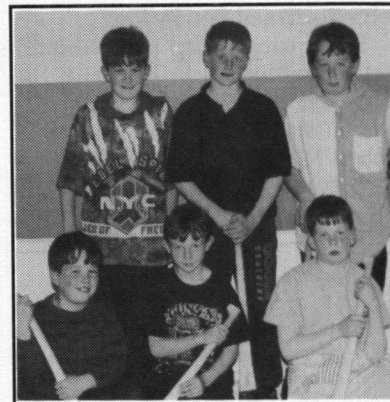
**Under-11 Mini Sevens:** Patrick Waldron, Christopher McCrudden, Jason Powers, Derek McConn; Keith Higgins, Hugh Carney, Brian Mulrennan, Paul Jordan, Alan Lucey; Martin Kilbride; Selectors: Eugene Morley, Peter Higgins, Martin Kilbride.

**Under-12:** Patrick Waldron, Jason Powers, Patrick Freeley, Paul Lynch, Hugh Carney, Derek McConn, Keith Higgins, Fergal Walsh, Stephen Gately, Alan Lucey, Barry Collum, Liam Lyons, Paul Jordan, Shane Buckley, Padraic Carney, Gareth Morrissey; Selectors: Martin Kilbride, Peter Higgins, Ray Lucey, Eugene Morley.

**National School:** Patrick Waldron, Christopher McCrudden, Anthony Lyons, Fergal Walsh, Brian Mulrennan, Derek McConn, Tadhg Buckley, Keith Higgins, Jason Powers, Hugh Carney, Alan Lucey, Paul Cunnane, Martin Kilbride, Paddy Coffey, Padraic Carney, Stephen Gately, Gareth Morrissey; Selectors: Peter Higgins, Eugene Morley, Martin Kilbride, Ray Lucey.

**Under-14:** Martin Kilbride, Christopher McCrudden, Anthony Lyons, Yvonne Byrne, Jason Powers, Shane Conlon, Brian Mulrennan, Tadhg Buckley, Micheál Walsh, Keith Higgins, Derek McConn, Stephen Gately, Hugh Carney, Alan Lucey, Paddy Coffey, Stephen Carney, Paul Jordan, Thomas Murphy, Padraic Carney, Gareth Morrissey, Paul Cunnane; Selectors: Ray Lucey, Eugene Morley, Peter Higgins.

**Under-16:** Seamus Lundon, Dermot Murphy, Paul McConn, Robert Morley, Michael Regan, Niall Tighe, Michael Lyons, Don Regan, Paul Finn, David Murphy, John Gallagher,



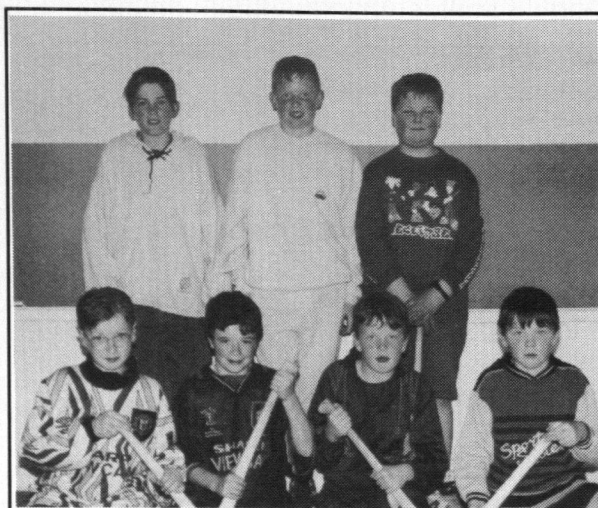
Back (left to right): Stephen Carney, Christopher McCrudden, Gareth Morrissey. Front (left to right): Mark Kelly, Keith Higgins, Christopher Morley.

Michael J. Nolan, Micheál Walsh, Shay Walsh, Adrian Muldowney, Derek McConn, Christopher McCrudden, Thomas Murphy, Anthony Curley; Selectors: David McConn, John J. Hoban, Ray Lucey, Michael Gorman, Jim McKermitt.

**Minor Panel:** Seamus Lundon, Kenneth Kirrane, Peter Healy, Mark Neenan, Niall Tighe, Derek Walsh, Darren Conlon, Pierce Higgins, Hugh McKermitt, Brian Flanagan, David Conlon, Michael Freeley, Paul Finn, Michael Curley, David Murphy, John Burke, Michael Regan, Don Regan, Michael J. Nolan, Sean Fitzmaurice, Michael Lyons, Paul McConn, John Gallagher; Selectors: John J. Hoban, David McConn, Michael Gorman, Jim McKermitt, Ray Lucey.



Back (left to right): Jonathan Murphy, Paul Cunnane, Padraic Carney, Hugh Carney. Front (left to right): Jarlath Mellett, Cian Higgins.



Back (left to right): Jason Powers, Tadhg Buckley, Jonathan McNamara. Front (left to right): Barry Collum, Patrick Waldron, Ciaran Griffin, Michael Jordan.



# Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool – a Record-Breaking Summer Over!

Even though the Ballyhaunis Pool was almost "No More," it proved to be the place to be this summer with over 4,500 swims recorded this year. With only hours to go, the big clean up started, many thanks to all the members who set-to with brushes, paint-brushes and power-washers in the hope (miracle) of brightening up the pool and grounds. But yes, we did it, with the area looking brilliant - the Ballyhaunis Pool became a "Sun Trap" for young and old.

The official opening took place on Saturday June 10th - kindly blessed by Fr. Cooney. The number of children using the pool got bigger and bigger every day. The pool was also opened evenings for one hour for adults wishing to cool off. This was all run very smoothly, thanks to our two lifeguards Gillian Keane and Imelda Flynn.

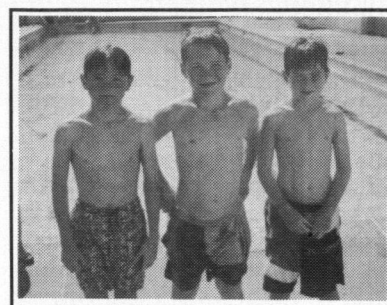
Over 130 children completed the two Water-Safety, Survival and Rescue Courses which took place this summer with very high standards. Another great event which took place was the swimming Gala with many of the children competing.

The committee now have received quotations on heating the pool, so with help from the Council and other agencies, hopefully, in the not to distant future the phrase "break the ice" will not be so painful. This year, we also had a full-time office clerk - Catherine Healy - who turned out to be a great asset: because of the turnover of children using the pool on

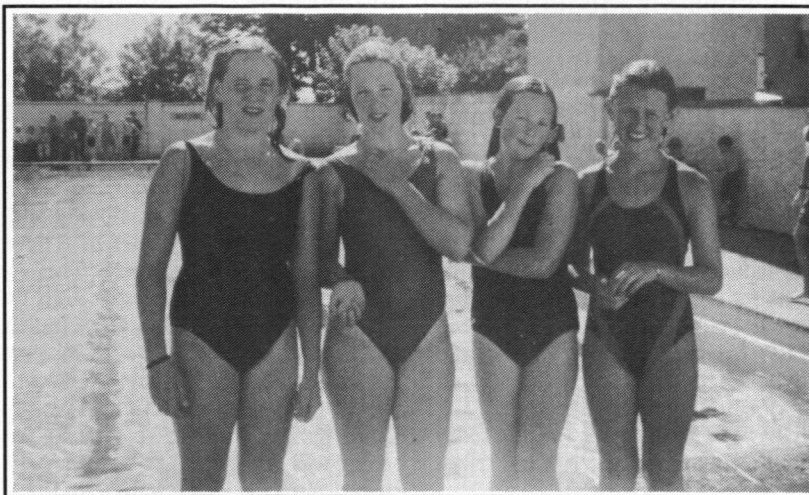
**By Agatha Higgins.**

a daily basis, it left the parent on duty time to help the lifeguard keep peace in the pool area.

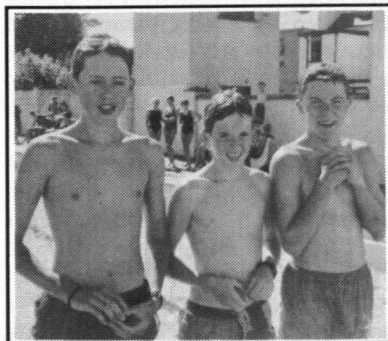
We would like to thank all the parents who gave their time and help voluntarily to supervise the children around the pool area and dressing rooms. We are looking forward to more success and enjoyment next year.



Graham Egan, Aodán Healy, Robert Potter-Cogan.



Left to right: Noelle Barrett, Joanna Butler, Siobhán Halpin, Lisa, a holiday-maker.



Nathan Murphy, Oisín Cleary, Eddie Murphy.



Cleaning the pool; Left to right: Tony Flynn, Ray Lucey, Alan Lucey.

# Nuns on the Move

Almost a century ago, under the guidance of Canon Canning, the Convent of Mercy was built in Ballyhaunis. In 1898 the Sisters of Mercy first came and took up their abode in Mount St. Joseph's, as the Convent was named. There would have been tears as the Sisters bade farewell to their community in Westport and settled down to carry on the works of Mercy here in Ballyhaunis. As the years passed by, we are assured that the Sisters had very good times here, loved their work and enjoyed many moments of laughter.

## By Sr. Assumpta

However, what changes have come ever since then? We are all very aware of the fact that we living in a time when changes came fast. This fact affects the lives of Sisters too. At one time there were seventeen Sisters in the community. This, by degrees, was reduced to eleven. The time had come for us to examine our situation. Was it feasible to have such a big house for eight people? We would have loved to have deferred or shunned the problem but we faced it. This is part of the reality of life today which brings its own trials and tribulations.

After much serious discussion and

*"There is a time for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven: A time for tears; A time for laughter."*

ECCLESIASTES.

examination we realised there was a need to explore other alternatives to living in a big house. Our Leadership Team was consulted with and we were encouraged and supported in our discernment for what was best for the community. With much deliberation it was decided to build a new house. As we watched the building rise, we were reminded that the time was coming when we would leave Mount St. Joseph's for Hazelhill.

During this time another project was being considered - a place for the sick and the elderly Sisters of the diocese. As a result of this, Cuan Chaitríona was built in Castlebar. Three of our Sisters were going there. They had been consulted and accepted the change graciously and faced the challenge of life in a new community with courage. This is what God was asking of Sisters Dymrna, Paschal and Magdalen in the latter years of their lives. In all this trauma of change, this was the upsetting part - to sever the bond with their Sisters. To think of one Sister going was very difficult but three Sisters seemed like death to us.

Sr. Dymrna had spent fifty-eight



Sr. Paschal and Sr. Dymrna.

years in Ballyhaunis. She worked unceasingly in different ministries - music, secretarial class, Vincent de Paul, flowers and linen in the church and social work. She has been ill for some time but her interest in life has never waned.

Sr. Paschal had spent forty-eight years here. She was our cook for many years and she was famous for her home-made brown bread. She had a great care for the fowl. She also has a fantastic memory: how often when one of us would be doubtful about a nephew's or niece's birthday, Sr. Paschal was asked and the answer would be prompt. She can still recite poetry learnt in school.

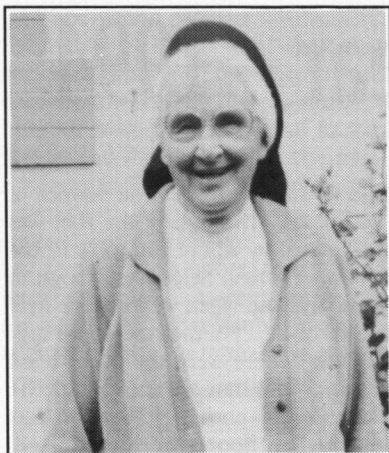
Sr. Magdalen had thirty-four years in Ballyhaunis. She was a Primary School teacher and loved the school. She had a great bond with her pupils. She is very keen on crosswords. She has a great wit and we often quote her witty answers.

The 22nd August, Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, was the day arranged for departure. Before leaving Mount St. Joseph's, we had a special Mass for our Sisters. Need I say that when the time for departure came, tears flowed freely. It was a day not to be forgotten. The Sisters were welcomed to Cuan Chaitríona by other Sisters who were also forming the new community. The Sisters



The new Convent of Mercy, Hazelhill, Ballyhaunis.





Sr. Magdalene.

have settled-in very well. Knowing the Sisters are well cared for spiritually and physically is a source of consolation for us. Now that the pain and ache of facing unknown ground is over, the Sisters enjoy life together and have their fun and laughter.

Those of us remaining in Ballyhaunis spent the next week preparing for the move to our new home in Hazel-hill. We are very pleased that our furniture and many other items were suitable for the house. There was much coming and going from house to house. Anyone coming to the house never left with an empty car – there was a chair, small table, a box or a case to be brought. There is some work to be attended to in the house but that will be done in time.

We decided to leave Mount St. Joseph's on Tuesday 29th August. Before leaving, we gathered together in our chapel for the last time where we had a special liturgy. The Blessed Sacrament was brought from our old home to our new home. Fr. Joe Cooney P.P. and Fr. Vincent McCarthy O.S.A. arrived and the house was blessed by Fr. Cooney. Then we had our first meal in the house. We have settled in very well, thank God, and after all the pain and ache of the summer we are happy and content and our time for laughter is as good as ever. While we were leaving the physical building in Abbey St., and moving to a new one in Hazelhill, we were bringing with us the charism and spirituality of Catherine McCawley, our foundress. Our rich heritage of memories and traditions will support and nourish us as we set out on a new stage of our journey as Mercy Sisters in Ballyhaunis.

# Twinning News

**By Bernard Freyne.**

**I** am glad to report that the twinning arrangement with Guilers is alive and well. Already, preparations are being made for a forthcoming visit next Easter by the French. It is expected that there will be about thirty-five of them arriving on the weekend of the 13th or 20th of April. They will be in town for one week.

We are hoping, at some future date, to arrange sporting activities between the two towns such as Basketball and Soccer. We believe that if we can generate a bit of competition between the two towns in sporting activities, be it between the schools or clubs in the towns, it can do nothing else but strengthen the ties between us.

Whereas most of the people coming are already twinned with families here, there will be a few couples

coming who have not been here before, so if there is a family out there that can spare a bed for a week next April we would be delighted to hear from you. It is expected that the return trip by the Irish will be the following Easter twelve months or it may even be next fall.

On the 18th of October 1995, we held our AGM and the following were elected on the committee for the next year: Honorary President: Jim Higgins T.D.; President: Bernard Freyne; Secretary: Mary Finan; Treasurer: Barry Butler; P.R.O.: Marie Elwood; French Liason Officer: Kevin Flanagan. Also on the committee are: Kevin Hora, Mary Jo Hora, Dolores Jordan, Rosaleen Curley and Dr. Michael Brogan.

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

**By Matt O'Dwyer.**

**W**e hold our weekly meetings on Wednesdays in the Sacristy at 8.30 p.m. We help people in need in a confidential way. Should you, or any of your friends, experience a financial difficulty – even a temporary one – do not hesitate to approach us and we will do the best we can to help. Any of the Priests or Sisters of Mercy will pass on the message to us. We do not confine our help to people on Social Welfare.

During the year we lost a great member, Sr. Dymphna, who has retired to Castlebar. She was an inspiration to us and a great friend of all the poor and needy in Ballyhaunis. She was our own "Mother Teresa" who believed that we should help people even when our finances were low because "God

would provide." Thanks to your generosity she was proved right. We wish her good health and God's blessing for the future.

Our President, Luke Lawlor also retired from his post after five and a half years of very dedicated service. Luke never spared himself in hospital visitation, calling on needy families and representing our Conference at Regional and National level. We are glad that he will remain on as an active member.

Finally we would like to thank you, the public, for your continued support and please be as generous as you can in supporting our Annual Collection.

# Mayo Person of the Year – 1994

**F**r. Frank Fahy - 1994 Mayo Person of the Year shares some early memories of Ballyhaunis.

"I was born in Lavallyroe so I was one of the country lads as distinct from "the townies." Ballyhaunis was "the town." My earliest memory of it was cycling to Sr. Dymrna's piano lessons. I got to grade-two when football intervened. I made my debut coming on as a sub in a Juvenile match against Charlestown at Belaghy. I was only eleven at the time and was delighted when I scored a point with my first kick. I thought it was very sporting of the Charlestown players to congratulate me until Paddy Waldron came on to tell me I was playing the other way! Thankfully, this was not the end of my career."

## Backroom staff

"The GAA headquarters was in Pat Keane the shoemaker's. Pat was a most genial host and would dispense his wisdom at intervals, as he usually had a mouthful of tacks. Pat had a great way with youngsters. The two Kilroy Brothers would emerge from time to time from the back-kitchen to regale those present with tales from the past about people like "Hocker Waldron." Michael Tarmey graced the scene to retell his most recent experiences in his own inimitable way."

## Objections

"In underage football, objections were the rule! If you lost the match you could always win the objection and vice versa. You had average players, players from the "next parish" or players representing two clubs. At one Minor Match (Under-18) I remember a young boy running up and down the sideline urging on the centre-field man for the opposition with cries of "come on Daddy!" until he was bundled out-of-touch by an anxious official. A fracas was also a common occurrence. When I'd come home, my mother would ask three questions. "Did anyone get injured?" "Who won the football match?" and "Who won the boxing match?"

**Fr. Frank Fahey**  
in conversation with Matt  
O'Dwyer. Fr. Frank is son of  
Martin and the late May  
(Lyons) Fahy, Lavallyroe.

## Minors

"Travelling to matches was a great experience. People gave cars and lorries freely and with great generosity. The main thing was to get there. The minor competition in those days assumed great importance when Ballyhaunis minors won the County Title in 1952. Mick O'Connell would write glowing reports of the Ballyhaunis team. My favourite was the description of Andy Smyth (Dr. Smyth's son) as "the rock on which many a goal hungry forward perished." I remember Mal Nally, Val Byrne, Doc Healy, John Biesty, Denis Curtis and many others."

## Level Playing Pitch

"The stadium was Prenty's field on the Knock Road. It had a hollow in the middle which was a great advan-

tage to Ballyhaunis, as the bounce of the ball and the angle of the shot was determined by where you were in the hollow. Football fields were rough in those days and when we lost "the field was terrible." My mother would quietly ask "where were the other team playing?" When we moved to the Clare Road, another dimension was added when Sports were organised. Pat Kilroy was the official starter and he was not without his Ballyhaunis loyalties. Once at the start of the 100 yards sprint Joe Greene was left behind twice and Pat declared the start void. As they lined up for the third attempt Pat whispered into Joe's ear "If you don't move this time I'll give you the contents of this gun ...", I'll leave it to your imagination as to what part of his anatomy it would enter!"

## Lessons learned

"These experiences were most valuable in the years ahead. First of all, a group of people such as Paddy Waldron, Mick Tarmey, Pat Kilroy and Eddie Webb gave their time, energy and vocal support to promoting the



Fr. Frank Fahey at the Mayo Person of the Year reception, left to right: Jarlath Fahy, Mrs. Ita Fahy, Fr. Frank Fahy and Frank Walsh, Chairman, Muintir Mhaigh Eó.



GAA and young people's involvement. Secondly, they had an ideal which they backed up with great commitment and hard work. Thirdly, there was always humour from the remarks of Eamon Meath and Pat Kilroy and the post-mortems in Pat Keane's. These experiences also helped me in my future enterprises. I have learned that there are three things necessary to bring anything about: 1. A wishbone to have an ideal; 2. A backbone to try to achieve it; and 3 a funnybone to keep ones sanity."

### The Ballintubber Community

"Here in Ballintubber we have a community who have inherited an ideal in "The Abbey that has refused to die!" They have developed that ideal and have included Tóchar Padraig - an ancient road to Croagh Patrick - and Lough Carra with its rich heritage of Church Island's monastic settlements, castles and Bronze Age peninsulas. It is a community that has worked hard and co-operated to bring this development about. The concentration is on people and community development over product development."

"The recent AIB Community Development Award of £25,000 was given in recognition of this. We bought a hedge-cutter and tractor for £14,500 to include every road and breen and to make everybody feel a part of the developments. Working with community is never easy because in any community enterprise community tensions and battles which were not resolved twenty years ago begin to emerge. As one wit said about a group water scheme "everything came to the surface except the water." One needs a great sense of humour and a deep faith in the ultimate goodness of people to avoid ending up in St. Mary's."

"Cantairí Béal Atha h-Amhnais have already graced us with their carol singing at Christmas 1994. Their harmony was enhanced by its contrast with the cacophony that emerged from the Ballintubber angels around the Nativity scene when the said Angels - infants and first class - insisted on playing Silent Night with their newly acquired tin-whistles! We hope that the Cantairí will come back again and we invite your readers to come down to visit the Abbey which has a history almost as rich as the Ballyhaunis Friary."



Kathleen Hunt Neilon, Larganboy, Ballyhaunis presenting Mrs. Maureen Haughey (wife of the former Taoiseach) with a Bouquet of Flowers on the occasion of Mrs. Haughey's 70th birthday in September 1995.

## The Abbey Male Choir

By Eamon Murren.

**T**he past year has again been a busy and eventful year for our choir. It has also been the year in which we lost two of our founder members. I refer to Dermot Eagney and his son Daragh. Dermot and his family have moved to Dublin as a result of Dermot's promotion in his job with the Burmah-Castrol company. Dermot was a great servant of the choir and indeed of the Abbey in general, and we will miss him. Daragh has been our organist since the choir began and his loss has been a huge one for us. We wish Dermot and his family every happiness and success in the future.

Recently we have engaged in fund-raising to try to purchase a new organ. On October the 20th we held a very successful variety concert in the Abbey. We would like to thank all those who took part and all who supported the concert. We will be undertaking some more fund-raising ventures in the near future and we ask your support.

Practices take place most Sundays after 11 am Mass for the choir. New members are most welcome and you don't have to be a Pavarotti, or even a Mike Byrne to join.

# Chernobyl

By Rachel O'Connor.

**I**t was a wet, cold day, and I was waiting for the school bell to ring. Yes, that day the two girls were arriving. It was going to be a great two weeks - well, that is what I thought. Thankfully the school bell went. I ran out to the car, but my Dad told me that the girls had not come yet because one of their suitcases was lost in the Airport. We found out that their names were Tania and Veronica. When we got home there was still no sign of them coming, so Dad drove up to the "Manor House Hotel." Just before I saw them, I said to myself "What will I say to them?" My two sisters - Jane and Katie - were very excited about the two girls staying in our house, in fact, so was I.

Tania and Veronica walked into the house and had a good look around, but they weren't speaking a word of English. It seemed very strange at first, but eventually we

got used to it. The first week went well, but they ate an awful lot, as we said "like horses." In my opinion, I think the girls enjoyed their first week in Ballyhaunis. Of course, they weren't always good - we basically had our ups and downs with them. We had a few bad experiences with them like, for example, they would not go to bed, and when we once brought them to the beach they both refused to put on sunscreen. "But they are only being children," we thought to ourselves. We played outside a lot with them, seeing as the weather was so good. The girls seemed to get more and more playful every day. We had water-fights with them and taught them many new games.

Eventually, the two weeks came to an end, but we all thoroughly

enjoyed it all. I think it was a fantastic idea to bring those children over for a few weeks. It did wonders for them. It is to me "an experience never to be forgotten by anyone." There are a lot more children who need help like Veronica and Tania. These children are very outgoing and, at the end of their stay, nobody wanted to let them go home. We all loved them like brothers and sisters.

In my opinion, these children were kind, loveable and loving, slightly bold, but I loved them anyway. It was a great two weeks for them and many other people. I hope that, in the near future, more children can be helped in the same way that these poor children from Chernobyl were. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the people who helped and supported these children and to ask them to keep up the good work in the future.



Rory O'Connor presenting Lyudmila Baturina and the Children with "Kodak Gold" Knapsacks; Back (left to right): Rory O'Connor, Lyudmila Baturina, Sacha Romashkevitch; Front (left to right): Vadim Vintesenko, Alesya Lasarenko, Vova Skorokhod, Sergi Metelskyi, Veronika Broshkina, Antonina Krasnichenko, Svetlana Klochlova, Valentina Isakova, Elena Tchernichenko.



# Impressions from Russia

*Ten children and an interpreter from Chernobyl in Belarus, formerly part of the U.S.S.R. spent a months holiday in Ballyhaunis. This holiday will increase their life expectancy by two years. Here, the Interpreter gives her impressions of this experience.*

Our group, as well as many others, were given a wonderful chance of visiting Ireland for a month's holiday. All the children were looking forward to this trip. It was their first experience of living in a foreign country. Their excitement was to the utmost when the plane landed at Shannon Airport. We were given a big welcome and at once felt the hospitality of Irish people. The thousands of miles separating us from our homes and motherland didn't seem so many when we saw happy and kind smiles everywhere.

Ballyhaunis is the place our group are staying with host families as part of a rest and recuperation time for

## By Lyudmila Baturina Interpreter with the Chernobyl Children's Group

the children. All of them are victims of the world's worst nuclear accident in Chernobyl. They live in contaminated areas at home and suffer Chernobyl-linked health problems. Surely one month of staying here in Ireland will do a lot of good for the children in terms of rest and recovery. We were greatly delighted by the warm reception in Ballyhaunis. Lovely scenery, un-polluted environment and warm weather made our stay here very pleasant and most beneficial. But what impressed us

most was the kindness and generosity of people of Ballyhaunis. Ms. Adi Roche, director of the project, was absolutely right describing support in Ireland for these children as incredible.

The people of Ballyhaunis contributed greatly to the project. They showed real concern and compassion for the children. Host families do their best to please them. The children are treated with great love and care. I'm happy to say that none of my group feels homesick. The children don't feel any language barrier at all. I can't help mentioning the committee led by Patricia Hunt, the families, all the companies and individuals who sponsored the project and helped out in any way. Our visit has been well planned and organised. The programme offered to us was really great. We had picnics in the country, visits to the schools of Ballyhaunis, to the swimming-pools here and in Claremorris, day trips to Westport and Galway. It was a great honour for the group to be greeted by the family owners of Westport House - the Brownes. The Zoo, fun train, slippery dip were the greatest delight. "Peter Pan" in Galway impressed the children greatly, they had a lot of fun and laughs there.

The children had a really nice holiday - the best holiday in their lives. They enjoyed every moment of staying here. It was a nice opportunity to learn more English, more about Ireland and its people, their way of life, customs and traditions, wasn't it? All of them described their trip to Ireland as unforgettable and fabulous. It brought sunshine to their lives. It will be no exaggeration to say it was a holiday to beat all holidays. Thank you all for everything.

On my own behalf I want to express my deepest gratitude and respect to my host families Edward and Frances Mulhern, and Helen Hoban for their kindness and help during my stay. I really do appreciate their hospitality. Thank all of you; Cnachbo! Go raibh maith agaibh.

*Ballyhaunis, Ireland, July 14th 1995.*



Chernobyl Children with Interpreter Lyudmila Baturina and Cathal Carroll.

# The Matchmaking

*Bill Naughton was born in Devlis, Ballyhaunis on 12th June 1910. His father was from Knockroe, Carrowkeel, Ballyhaunis and his mother was from Tubber, Aghamore. He became famous for his short stories, children's books and plays. The third volume of his autobiography "Neither Use Nor Ornament" (Bloodaxe) was published in June 1995. Bill died in January 1992. The following article "The Matchmaking" was submitted by his wife Erna Naughton who lives on the Isle of Man. Erna has visited Ballyhaunis to attend the Kenny/Naughton Autumn school for the past three years. She is also a Patron of Annagh Magazine.*

**M**y mother spoke seldom of her stay in America: "I was a long time there," she once said, "before I went to sleep on a dry pillow." It may seem hard to conceive - when one takes the superficial look at the lonely acres of Mayo, much wild bogland and green plains with barely a tree - how Ireland holds the native emigrant in such powerful nostalgia for the better part of his life. Maybe the melancholy climate and balmy air, soft and sweet-smelling, turns the mind to some inner sense and the often lonely voids make one value more human relationships, and prize human idiosyncrasy. However, my mother never spoke but admiringly of the pace of work in America - how, unlike the Irish, the Americans went at it with great gusto. And she used tell of the morning she was cleaning the front steps of the house in Hoboken, where she was employed by the family of a Judge, when the news came in the morning papers that President McKinley had been assassinated.

Back home to Ireland she came on a visit after a few years - but surely she could have had no intention of returning to America? - and the local matchmakers began to consider her. It should be understood that this matchmaking was no hit or miss business, and was in most cases largely disinterested. In a way it had to be a sort of inspired judgement, and usually there would be some woman or man of the village who would take on the task - in my Mother's time there was a great pair of matchmakers, a man and a woman, who chatted away in the evening and planned matches together, and were highly skilled at this delicate task. The operation

## By Bill Naughton (R.I.P.)

would be made practicable by their wide knowledge of the various families - for indeed they might go so far as considering the character traits of the persons they were matchmaking over - for a fiery-tempered man you'd naturally need a passive sort of woman, and vice-versa - although such considerations would be of a secondary nature, since basically a wife was a wife and a husband the man of the house, and let them each make the best of the other. A number of unobvious practical considerations of a somewhat subtle nature, had to be taken into account. The average match would be that of a man nearing thirty - usually the eldest son who would be inheriting the land, for the rest of the family would be scattered in England and America - with one or both parents who could be pension age, or near it, the land maybe a bit run down, short of money and stock; and the woman chosen could be a Yank, or the daughter of some publican or shopkeeper - someone who could bring money into the home. And in most cases they would be from different villages, since in their native village it would be hard to find a couple not debarred by consanguinity. Good looks and intelligence played some part in getting the match fixed, but the main consideration from the man's side was the sum the woman brought in (the word dowry was not used), and of course it was of absolute importance that the woman enjoyed good health and could work about the place when himself had to go over to England to earn money during the hay season. And there

were many old men, bachelors who had a place and fancied a young wife: "An' a fine little place - that handy, you know, that you put the kettle on the fire an' you could be back from town before it boiled." To which the young girl said to her mother: "Isn't it preparing for his death, he should be, God save us, in place of thinking of getting married."

Once the match had been mooted and diplomatic soundings taken all round, and it was learnt that the sets of parents or near relatives were not wholly against the idea, and the parties to the marriage let it be seen they were not entirely unwilling, the discussions, of an unbelievably tactful but fairly specific nature, would continue - the actual details being at a tentative stage, since each party was inclined to hint at unreal demands. The next step would be an invitation to the proposed bride's people to visit the home of the would-be groom, on some Sunday evening - that is around four o'clock. This hour of the day had a sort of non-binding informality about it, and the uncommitted aspect of the affair would be continually stressed. The young man and his family would have worked very hard, in most cases, to meet this situation - white-washing, repairing fences and doing a dozen jobs that may have been left for years. They would be the party on trial, so to speak, for matters on her side were simpler and more open, being the potential bride herself and the amount of money.

The sort of man the young woman needed to represent her on such an errand was a capable uncle or elder cousin, preferably one not too close to her, like a father or a brother, but someone who could appear to be detached, and whose praise would sound convincing rather than extravagant and also, he had to be a man who had a keen eye for land. There would be a party of maybe three or four - a brother would attend, but never the girl herself - and when they arrived they would be offered tea before they looked around the place - but usually



they preferred to wait, as harmless as taking a cup of tea might be. The words of the inspecting party to the place would be little indication to a stranger of their true feelings - although clear enough to the young man's people - if they decided that the whole transaction would be out of the question and that the place was not fit to put a daughter in, let alone money - and a nod and a wink would be enough amongst themselves - they might be inclined to the lavish compliment and to seek out anything that might merit it, although it would not need too sensitive an ear to detect a certain hollowness of tone or even irony. They would then politely refuse tea, saying they had someone to meet and were in a great hurry, and they would certainly not bring out the bottle of whiskey they had brought along with them to give some sort of a convivial seal to the bargain. No actual refusal would need be spoken, for that sort of directness would be considered thick. But, where a place met or possibly exceeded their expectations, the woman's people would be measured in approval and sparing of praise, so as not to weaken their bargaining power. They would bring out the bottle, but since the young man's people had asked for too big a sum they would get themselves into a haggling mood. The amount of money at the time to be brought-in by the bride - around the end of the last century would be around £75, although in a big place it might be as much as £100 or more. This sum of money, on a good fair day, would buy a lot of stock. It was sometimes customary for only half the amount to be paid on marriage, the rest on the birth of the first child - for it would be too much to give out to another place, such a large sum, if there was no issue from the marriage. All this however, is only the bones of the proceedings, for there were many other adjustments to be made.

"A great match was made for your mother when she came back from America between herself an' a man beyond in Caher," my Aunt Ellen once told me, "an' wasn't it fixed that on this saint's day that was just coming up, wouldn't herself and myself go into Kiltimagh after Mass, and the man himself would be seen talking to someone we knew - Pat Mac' it was,



Photograph taken c. 1945 of Bill's father, Tom Naughton, who was born in Knockroe, Carrowkeel, and Bill's youngest brother, Jim, born in Bolton, England.

(Courtesy P. J. Tighe)

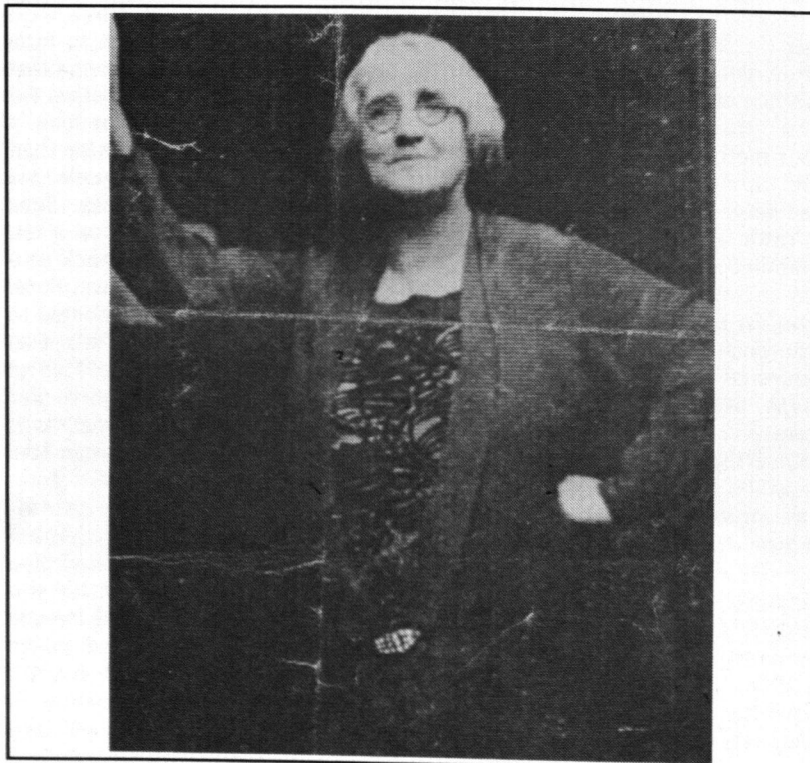
our Uncle, and that was how we'd know your man, for neither your Mother nor myself had set eyes on him. Now I need hardly tell you, your mother wasn't altogether for it. She didn't know the man - indeed had never heard of him - and she was a Yank - but just the same she wouldn't go against the matchmakers entirely - and in any case she wouldn't want to hurt the poor man's feelings, but above all she would go just out of a bit of devilment, for as you know she was a woman very fond of a laugh. And of course there was always the chance he would be a fine-lookin' man anyway, for we'd heard powerful reports of him." My Aunt Ellen was smoking her clay pipe as she was telling me: "Anyway, we got there into the town of Kiltimagh after Mass, and I remember Maria and myself were laughing and joking a bit as we went down the street. Now sure enough, there was your man himself talking to our uncle, who was one of the matchmakers. I remember the sight of him well, the proposed husband, a

stiff-built little man, not so little at all but would maybe give one that impression, and he was dressed for the occasion, and I liked the look of him - for he was surely better than the ould gloggera I got myself that never came back from the hay. True enough, he was putting it on a bit, swingin' his shoulders back and laughin' away, for after all wasn't he on trial an' the poor devil wanted to make a good show of it, I suppose. But, do you know, when your Mother saw him she put her hand to her mouth and whispered to me: "Is it expecting me to marry a man like that!" So I said to her: "It's great match altogether - hasn't he near fifteen acres of land - and only himself and his mother - and isn't he a fine splinter of a man." "But don't you see," said your Mother, " - he has the two tabs at the back of his boots sticking out a mile!" "Sure haven't you only to tell him to put them back inside," I said to her, " - it will take only two seconds for him to do it, an' what finer man would any woman want?" So your mother said: "I won't

marry any man I have to tell put his tabs back inside his boots!" Now your man was walking ahead of us amongst the people that would be out throngin' the streets on a holy day, and he was talking away to our uncle, and I suppose the poor maneen must have felt our eyes on him, for what does he do but put on more gimp than ever to impress us maybe, makin' out he was a great man altogether, that the street would hardly hold him, and, as bad luck would have it, at that very minute he happened to be passin' a shop where the shopkeeper had set out a tremendous huge pile of buckets in front of the door, and sure didn't he give an extra swagger altogether and strike his shoulder against one of the buckets, and that sent the whole pile swingin' from one side to the other and the next thing the buckets went clatterin' an' bouncin' an' rollin' all over the place so that there wasn't a one in the street but was turnin' and laughin' to hear the commotion of the buckets scatterin' and rollin' everywhere! "Well, whatever doubt I had before," said your Mother, "that is a sign from Heaven surely. I wouldn't marry that poor one if he had a mil-

lion acres." (And the odd thing was, after I heard that story from my Aunt Ellen I found it hard not to sympathise with that poor man - for when I wore boots I could never keep the tabs in, and if there was anything to be knocked over I would knock it over. In fact I began to imagine this little man as the father I almost had - and this grew into seeing him as almost a spiritual father, who missed being my real father simply on account of boot-tabs and an encounter with pile of buckets. May God rest his soul.

And so it was, my mother somehow met my father in Ballyhaunis, where he was then working for a provision dealer called Richard Henry - for whom he had worked, and with whom had lived since he was a fourteen year old shopboy. He had neither money nor land, but they got married and set up in a little shop in Devlis, a village on the road out of Ballyhaunis. My Father then got a job as a plate-layer to help things on. But early in 1914 he went over to England, where he could earn more money in the coalmines. And finally we left the shop, and our home, in December 1914 and followed over to England to settle in Bolton.



Bill's mother, Maria Fleming, born in Tubber, Aughamore, who died in Bolton in 1949.  
(Courtesy of P. J. Tighe).

## Annagh Rose

At the lake-side I met her one evening in May  
That beautiful Colleen with her wild winsome way  
Of all the fine flowers by the wayside that grow  
There will never be any like my own Annagh Rose

At the dance or the wedding or wherever the crowd  
She is always the Queen that does Annagh proud  
They love her they seek her and for them she must pose  
As they all want a picture of my own Annagh Rose

She's kind and so gentle what a pleasure to meet  
In the shop or the office or a stroll in the street  
She's admired and respected wherever she goes  
That Angel from Heaven my own Annagh Rose

Some day in the future that lovely colleen  
We'll crown her and make her our Festival Queen  
As she's everyone's darling wherever she goes  
That God-given beauty my own Annagh Rose

I know that fair creature of beauty and fame  
Will make that man happy who will change her name  
Some day with God willing to her I'd propose  
And pray God will make her my own Annagh Rose

© Michael Godfrey



# Ballyhaunis Musical Society

The second annual production of the Ballyhaunis Musical Society last year was "My Fair Lady," quite a challenge and also quite a change following their exceptionally well received production of "Calamity Jane" the previous year.

Greatly hailed and eagerly awaited when it was first produced, the story relates how Professor Higgins (played by Micheál Horan) takes to the challenge of making Eliza Doolittle (Anna Henry) go from her strong cockney working class accent to such a high standard of English as to be able to pass herself off as a member of the gentry. It included such popular songs as "I Could Have Danced All Night," "On The Street Where You Live," "The Ascot Gavotte," "Wouldn't It Be Lovely" and "Get Me To The Church On Time."

Staging such a musical is a big challenge, calls for great commitment from everyone involved, and is costly in terms of time and money, but, thanks to the commitment and dedication of the cast, the support of the sponsors and patrons, the attendance of large crowds, and the very many back-up people and back-stage crews, "My Fair Lady" proved to be every bit as successful as "Calamity Jane" and, perhaps in some ways a better show.

Musical Director for the show was John Aldridge, while the producer was once more the very able and experienced Ray Leonard. Chorus person was Nuala Fitzgerald, while the choreographer was Aine Whelan. Other leading parts were played by Michael Byrne

**By Sean O Domhnaill**

(Doolittle), who once again delighted with his easy humour; the love-struck Emmet Keane (Freddy Eynsford-Hill); Martina O'Rourke (Mrs. Hopkins), who will, incidentally, be playing the lead part in next year's show; Colonel Pickering, excellently played by Tom Colleran, who is just back from playing in Rome with the Charlestown Theatre Group; Una Shields (Mrs. Eynsford-Hill); Sheila McNerny (Mrs. Pearce); Moira Stratford (Mrs. Higgins); Kevin Henry as the redoubtable Karpthy; Micheál Smyth as Harry and Adrian Murray as Jamie.

These leading parts were backed up by a large and representative cast who greatly enjoyed taking part in the show, which was, at the end of the day, a joint community effort with many people involved behind the scenes and in that sense it was a great success. That's not to say there weren't difficulties, as in life itself. The most obvious one, perhaps, was the fact that many of the cast were affected by a very serious 'flu that swept the town during the week in question from February 13th to February 18th, so that the producer was never sure who exactly he had at his disposal on a given night as people were struck by the illness. However, a brave cast and their leading parts carried on nevertheless, in the best traditions of showbusiness!

Talking of leading parts, such illness about them must have been an extra



"Maids a hopping", Paula Moran and Madeline Niland.

Courtesy: Nuala Fitzgerald.

strain on the leading man and woman, Micheál Horan and Anna Henry, but both managed to avoid illness and turn in sterling performances which were relished by the large audiences. And so, the show must indeed go on and already much work has already been done on this year's production "Oklahoma!" which should be another treat for the locality. The Musical Society also took part in the Easter Parade and did a fund-raising event with the "Wren" on St. Stephen's Day.

The committee for last year's show was as follows: Chairperson: Aiden Kelly; Vice-chairperson: Pat Doyle; Secretary: Sean O Domhnaill; Treasurer: Moira Noone; Committee: Nuala Fitzgerald, Mary Smyth, Aine Whelan and Anna Henry.



Some of the cast of "My Fair Lady" with Musical Director, Ray Leonard.

Photo: Philip Stratford.

# A Glorious Weekend in Dingle with Paddy Bawn Brosnan

As one grows older one tends to look back and endeavour to recall various events in ones life. Usually, a person getting on in years looks back to their childhood with a certain amount of nostalgia, and pinpoints some episode which would have left a deep imprint on the mind. For the purpose of this article, I do not intend to delve back into the distant past, but to recount some of the activities of a very enjoyable and highly entertaining Whit week-end spent in glorious sunshine in Dingle, Co. Kerry, as recently as 1989.

The reason we made the long trek south on that occasion had, of course, to do with Gaelic football. The Mayo senior footballers were playing a challenge against Kerry, and to coincide with this match the Ballyhaunis GAA Club arranged a challenge match between Ballyhaunis and Dingle to be played as a curtain raiser.

**By Mick O'Connell.**

The Ballyhaunis team and officials travelled on Saturday and returned on Sunday, but our party consisting of Tom and Breeda Waldron, Cave, Ballyhaunis; Tom McCormack, c/o Dillons, The Square, and myself travelled on Sunday morning and returned late on Monday.

## Kindness

The main reason why our sojourn in Dingle proved so memorable was because of the kindness shown to us, and the time given to us so unstintingly by that legendary Kerry footballer and doyen of full-backs – fisherman-cum-publican Paddy Bawn Brosnan - who sadly departed this life earlier this year.

Indeed, Tom and Breeda Waldron, Tom McCormack and myself could endorse in no uncertain manner all

of the glowing tributes paid to Paddy Bawn at the time of his death, especially those relating to his unassuming disposition, his gentlemanly demeanour and his effervescent sense of humour. He seemed to have a special regard for the Mayos, especially our group, as he took to us straight away, singling us out for his personal attention. He introduced us to John B. Keane, the well-known writer, storyteller and playwright who kindly consented to be included in a photograph with Paddy Bawn and the Ballyhaunis group.

## The Missing Photo

During the course of a great night's entertainment in the inner sanctum of his pub with his daughter Maura acting as his genial co-host we pointed out that in the display of All-Ireland winning teams in the outer bar, the Mayo teams of 1950 or 1951 were not included in



The Ballyhaunis Gaelic Football team, winners over Dingle in a challenge match on Whit-Sunday 21st May 1989 in Dingle; *Back (left to right):* Tom Caulfield, Paul Webb, Richard Phillips, Tony Waldron, Enda Moran, Paddy Phillips, Brian Phillips, Tony Morley, James Reidy; *Front (left to right):* Jimmy Walsh (Hon. Sec. Ballyhaunis GAA Club), Cathal Phillips, Tom McGuire, Eamonn Cunnane, John Durkan, Johnny Cribbin, Mike Phillips, Kevin Henry.



what only could be described as a formidable line-up with practically every county in Ireland represented. Paddy Bawn absolved himself from all blame for the omission stating that despite several entreaties to Mayo people the relevant pictures were not forthcoming. We promised to rectify the matter, and before the year was out, a picture of the Mayo 1951 All-Ireland winning senior football team was dispatched to Dingle, and I understand that it now occupies a proud place in the Paddy Bawn Brosnan "Hall of Fame."

It would be remiss of me not to return the thanks of all in our group to Maura Brosnan for making us so welcome and for the excellent manner in which she catered for our enjoyment that night.

The next morning (Whit-Monday) we arose early intending to visit every nook and cranny of the Dingle peninsula, but we first called to Paddy Bawn for a briefing as to what to include in our itinerary. To our utter delight Paddy Bawn took the unusual and highly irregular step of offering to become our guide for our tour of the area.

### With Paudí O Sé in Ventry

We set off for Ventry to visit Paudí O Sé, one of Kerry's all time great footballers, and as we drove along the picturesque scenic coastal route Paddy Bawn pointed out various landmarks and places of interest including the location where the screen epic "Ryan's Daughter" was filmed.

In the course of conversation Paddy Bawn was asked about Tom Langan's decisive goal against Kerry in the 1951 All-Ireland semi-final replay when Paddy Bawn was Kerry's stalwart full-back. Paddy Bawn was quick to point out that at the time the goal was scored, Langan had been moved from the full-forward position, and Sean Mulderrig had been moved in to replace him. Consequently the responsibility for the goal was lifted from Paddy Bawn's



Outside Paudí O Sé's in Ventry; *Left to Right:* Tom McCormack, Mick O'Connell, Paudí O Sé, Breeda Waldron, Paddy Bawn Brosnan, Tom Waldron.

shoulders.

On arriving at Paudí O Sé's pub in Ventry there was no sign of Paudí himself, but Paddy Bawn soon located him and introduced him to the members of our party. He graciously consented to be pictured with us and we then set out for Dún Chaoin in the heart of the Kerry Gaeltacht. There we visited "Kruger" Kavanagh's pub and we became briefly familiar with an area which is an oasis for poets, musicians, professors, students, storytellers, etc. for generations. "Kruger" Kavanagh got his name from the Boer Leader because in his youth he was captain of the local football team and was himself a great teacher.

It is not readily known that when "Kruger" died, his nephew leased the pub to Paudí O Sé, then in his football prime. Paudí, who is now Manager of the Kerry Under-21 football team, winners of the All-Ireland over Mayo following a replay earlier this year, ran each day from his home in Ventry eight miles across the mountains to his work in "Krugers."

### Dingle

This gives an insight into Paudí O Sé's commitment to personal fitness at that time.

His own pub, now located in Ventry, is the Mecca of football fans from all over Ireland. Our short but eventful visit to Dingle ended that evening, and as we took our leave of Paddy Bawn we promised to return in the future for another helping of the lavish Kerry hospitality. Sadly, it was not to be as Paddy Bawn is not amongst us anymore. Go ndeanaigh Dia trócaire ar a anam.

It can truly be said that he has left us with abiding memories of a never to be forgotten brief period of our lives.

### Compliments

I cannot conclude without complimenting Mr. Jim Landon, Principal Teacher at St. Mary's Primary School, Ballyhaunis, who is a native of Dingle, for playing such a leading part, together with the chairman and other club members, in organising the trip to Dingle. Having first hand knowledge of the area he carried out his role as co-ordinator with his usual efficiency and thoroughness, and his work in this regard contributed in large measure to the undoubted success of the trip.

For the record both Ballyhaunis and Mayo recorded victories on the occasion!

# Ballyhaunis Foróige

**B**allyhaunis Foróige Club '94/95, proved to be a great success. Members ranged from first year to fourth year. Meetings take place at 8 p.m., in the Scout Den every Friday night, from September to June. Last years committee were as follows: Chairperson: Evelyn O'Connor; Vice chairperson: Séamus Lundon; Secretary: Jennifer McCafferty; Treasurers: Clare Butler and Michael Walsh; P.R.O.: Karen Muldowney; Games Committee: Patricia Mulhern, Patricia Gaffney, Caitríona Fahey, Anne Marie Keane and Audrey Keane.

We kicked-off the year with inviting Tooreen Foróige to a party held in the Scout Den. It was a very interesting night! A kiddies' disco was held in the Parochial Hall at Christmas, where Santa Claus visted. Also, a number of members raised £100 for Saint Vincent de Paul by carol-singing in the square on Christmas Eve. In March, the club went to Castlebar bowling, which was greatly enjoyed by all. Easter came and we entered a float in the parade: its theme was "The Holocaust, It's Happening Again." We came joint-first and were duly

**By Maria Rochford  
P.R.O. and  
Caitríona Fahy  
Secretary.**

awarded £50 for our efforts. As the year came to an end, some members represented Foróige by attending meetings for the re-opening of the pool. Our annual tour was a trip to Dublin, where we went ice-skating and shopping. It was a great year for Foróige.

In September, we elected a new committee for 1995-6: Chairperson: Jo-Anne Butler; Vice Chairperson: Brídann Halpin; Secretary: Caitríona Fahy; Assistant Secretary: Deirdre Finn; Treasurer: Aileen Gallagher; Assistant Treasurer: Nathan Murphy; P.R.O.: Maria Rochford; Assistant P.R.O.: Carol Donnelly; Games Committee: Selina Gallagher, Michelle Conlon, Aoife Curran, Eddie Murphy, Lorraine Moroney and Rachel O'Connor. We would like to thank last year's leaders: Jim Lundon, Fr. McCarthy, Justina Lyons and Cáit Webb, and extend a warm welcome to Fr. James O'Grady, our new leader.



Our entry in the Easter Parade: "The Holocaust is Happening Again". Left to right: Michael Nolan, Amor, Karen Muldowney (partly hidden), Rachel Cleary, Evelyn O'Connor.

## Chief Executive of Western Development Board



Mr. John Higgins, Chief Executive of Kiltimagh I.R.D., who has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the New Western Development Partnership Board. Mr. Higgins, a teacher by profession, who lives at Knock Road, Ballyhaunis, has been working with Kiltimagh I.R.D. for the past few years and has spear-headed many local initiatives to revive the socio-economic fortunes of the town and area. He is brother of East Mayo Fine Gael T.D., Mr. Jim Higgins and Mr. Pat Higgins M.C.C.

*(Published in Western People 8th  
Feb. 1995)*

## Alcoholics Anonymous

*Meeting held in the Old  
Convent School: Sunday  
Nights 8.30 pm (Win-  
ter); 9.00 pm (Summer).*



# Down Memory Lane with the Brennan Sisters

**A**ngela Hartigan from Kent in England and her sister Patricia Cuffe from Sydney, Australia, stayed with their sister Kathleen Gallagher in Castlebar for a two weeks holiday this summer. Here, they offer some reflections on a visit to their native place.

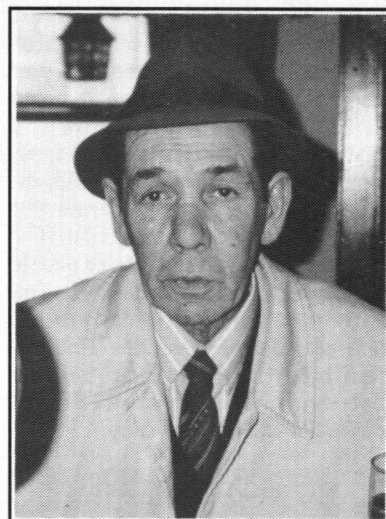
Who would have thought, growing up in Clare Street so many years ago, that one day we would fly into an Airport at Knock? We decided to have three days in our native town of Ballyhaunis. We stayed in Val Byrne's Bed and Breakfast where we were made very welcome by Val and Mrs. Byrne and their friendly staff.

Ballyhaunis is very much home to us. We are two of ten children who grew up in Clare street. It was lovely to walk around town and look up some old friends. Our first chat was with Jack Halpin. Then off to see Tom Hopkins who, in the old days, never closed shop until the Brennan

**By Angela and  
Patricia Brennan**

sisters had called-in on Saturday nights. Then we called to see Pauline Curley and her lovely daughter Anne, next May Moyles, then Mrs. Grogan, also the Kilduff family at Barrack Street. Who could forget our dear friend and neighbour for years Mrs. Regan? While at the same time having a lovely meal at Val's with Carmel Waldron.

We took photos of our Convent School, where we spent many years. Each year, every member of our family, though miles away from Ballyhaunis, get the Annagh Magazine from our sister Kathleen. It is a joy to sit and read all the news from our home town. It is much appreciated from all the wonderful people who put it all together. Ballyhaunis will



Billy Brennan, Clare Street. Visited Ballyhaunis in March 1995 for the first time since 1951.

always be home to us, so we do hope to be back again in a few years.



The Brennan sisters with Mrs. Regan; Left to right: Angela Hartigan, Kent, England; Patricia Cuffe, Sydney, Australia; Mrs. Regan, Tooraree; Kathleen Gallagher, Castlebar.

# Memoir of Derrylea

Often when I'm in a pensive mood my mind goes back to my teaching days and inevitably I focus on Derrylea and my teaching days there, but August 1995 and the reunion of past students to celebrate the centenary of the school's establishment caused me to focus like never before and what came floating back were happy, happy memories of happy children, wonderful parents, a wonderful happy supportive community - memories of a community of people in a mutual learning situation. The many past pupils who call on me each year as they visit their homes from many far-flung lands tell me that we prepared them well both spiritually and academically.

**By Mary Higgins**  
*B.Comm, N.T., retired.*

The school building isn't what makes a school as seems often to be mistakenly believed today and the building that housed our school wasn't the plush place that is demanded as essential in today's world - no carpets, no central heating, no indoor flush toilets or none of the many other conveniences believed to be essential today. There were no caretakers to have the rooms swept or the heating on. Ours was the big iron-grate fireplace, the turf fire and the large wire fireguard. The fire had to be lit in the morning and depending on the quality of the turf it might just have reached its maximum heat-output, which was never anyway sufficient for the large room, by closing time. So the fireguard became the clothes dryer on which hung the steaming wet clothes of the children, almost all of whom had to walk to school, hail, rain, sleet or snow. Many of the children would have taken the shorter cut across the fields rather than the easier but longer route around the road; indeed one of my vivid memories of those is that the Redford, Curries and Bargariff children would inevitably take the half-



Presentation to Mrs. Higgins, left to right: Joe Byrne, Johnstown; Mary Kenny, Carrowbeg; Mary Higgins (ex-N.T.), Abbey Street; and Helen Meehan, Curries.

mile route across the fields at the back of the school rather than the three mile or more road trip and I could not but reflect on Derrylea and its people as I read the many similarities to it in Alice Taylor's "To School Through the Fields."

It was in Derrylea that I spent most of my teaching career. In many, many ways teaching was my life and in many ways I can truly say Derrylea was my life - a very happy fulfilling life. In the earlier years I lived at home in Aghamore or in less clement weather in digs in Ballyhaunis. Joseph Cooney was Principal when I was first appointed there, and we would often meet up to cycle the three miles from town to the school. As a colleague, I came to know Joe as a man of tremendous wit, a side of him that was not seen, by either pupil or parent, behind the stern "Schoolmaster" front that was the norm of that period. By the time Joe retired I was no longer Mary Jordan, but Mrs Mary Higgins, and my husband Johnnie succeeded Joe as Principal and Derrylea School became "family run" like so many small businesses of the period. Our life together as a husband and wife teaching-team was a happy one.

Johnnie too loved the Derrylea children and would often be heard regaling relatives and friends with the many humorous anecdotes of what the children had innocently asked or said during Bible History or Catechism or some other class and which he diligently had noted in a special small notebook kept specially for that purpose. His real upset when he discovered that this notebook, which he cherished so much, had gone missing during repairs to the school one Summer holidays, spoke volumes - it was as if he had lost part of himself. We really worked very hard as a team and got the wonderful co-operation of parents. I believe that there is a real and valuable lesson to be learned, by the modern parent from that parent-teacher co-operation; the positive home attitude to teacher and school, and the positive school attitude to parent, generated a learning atmosphere that was both, I believe, very productive and very happy, and from a teacher perspective most rewarding and enjoyable.

I have a clear memory of a homely atmosphere in Derrylea school; of teacher and pupil pitching in to get things done, as parents and



children would at home in those times. If the day was cold the various classes would take their turns near the fire as they recited their lessons or did their sums or learned the rivers of India or the Cotton Towns of Lancashire. Indeed past pupils have told me how they have recalled these days when they finally went to work in Manchester, Liverpool, Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn or one of the other towns of the rhyme and how in some little way their familiarity with the town, through the rhyme, lessened to a little degree their sense of absence from home. On very cold days the pupils might trot around the large classroom chanting O Domhnaill Abu or something similar, in an attempt to help blood circulation and keep warm.

There were other seasonal problems too that had to be solved by both teacher and pupil. I often recall how the crows would build their nests in the chimneys, particularly taking advantage that the school closure for the weekend offered. This necessitated a major work scheme for the senior boys each Monday in Spring. The productivity and persistence and optimism of the crows both amazed and was admired as they returned again and again - the more, the longer and the merrier the job. Another annual Springtime problem was the nest building by the swallows under the eave-runs, which necessitated both ingenuity, with the invention of a special implement in the form of a long pole topped by a hooked wire, and skill to remove them. One could not but help to observe that certain pupils were always to the fore when these very necessary but at the same time lessons-avoiding jobs were to be done. Indeed I enjoyed hearing the past pupils telling on the re-union video of their own personal lessons-avoiding antics. Johnnie and I applied the maxim of all wise teachers and parents - see everything, check a little and ignore a lot - and everyone is happy.

One class I always enjoyed was "Needlework." The Senior girls would come in to my room from the "Master's Room" for sewing. We had an hour a week together. The girls loved it and I loved it. As well as a sewing session it was a chat session. All the local news was aired and I

went home for the weekend with all the local gossip. It was a pleasant hour of relaxation and work.

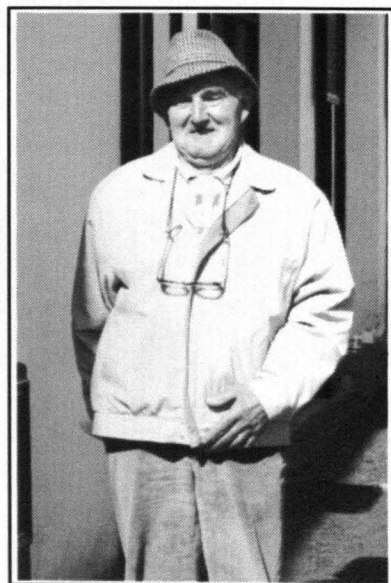
Another memory I have of those days is of the big clean-up before the Summer holidays. I clearly recall the army-like troop of senior boys that could be seen, each with his yard brush, rifle-like on his shoulder as "he trudged", to paraphrase Shakespeare's Hamlet, "most willing to school" for the innocent excitement of the fun of it all. Buckets of water were drawn from the nearby river and the floors and walls were thoroughly scrubbed - no bother getting rid of the water it was flushed down the big rat-holes at the end of the room - a feature of all such schools of the time.

The "Stations" were a very important aspect of the socio-religious practice of the time and there was always the invitation to the teachers to the stations house in the evening. These invitations were so homely and welcome that our boys would know the venue months in advance and would frequently remind us as we passed the road - "that's where the stations are next time" - and my God what a sumptuous fare there would always be - chicken, jelly and custard, and minerals go fluriseach and indeed a little stronger. These were special occasions. The innocence and ordinary expectations of everyone of the time would often be demonstrated. I recall one time a particularly poor person who felt he could not have the stations in his house, and such were the circumstances and attitudes of the time that no great commotion would be made of this. So the station mass was said in the school and all the village came. After the mass everyone went home but we invited the priest, Fr. Hugh Curley, to have breakfast with us in the school, as he would have been fasting since mid-night. We had no cooking facilities other than the open turf fire. We had borrowed reasonable cooking utensils from Mrs. Ruane. So the breakfast was to consist of a boiled egg and toast. The toast was made by holding the bread on a fork in front of the turf fire where it got a particularly smoky flavour. But when Fr. Hugh's egg was opened it was very soft. "Put a coaleen on the top of it there Mary, for a few minutes" says he. That I

did with the opened egg and it was an ashes-sprinkled, smoke flavoured egg with similarly treated toast that the priest tucked into that morning.

The notified or expected visits of the Religion Examiner or the Schools Inspector were no great cause for concern, that's not to say there wasn't full scale preparation - there was. However, we could always depend on the Derrylea children to perform well both in lessons and in manners. But it was the unexpected visits that caused the panic, not in the matter of the children's performance but in the matter of catering for the visitor. When I think of it, how innocent we were, indeed what fools we were. Panic would set in. Senior girls would be dispatched to Mrs. Judge's for whatever "goodies" were available and others to Nora Ruane for utensils and a white tablecloth. Poor Nora Ruane, what patience you had with us!

You know, I could go on and on, and I feel, do another "Alice Taylor" on it; but that's not appropriate for Annagh so I'll finish with saying how lovely it was to meet and talk with so many past pupils on the night of the Reunion. I would love to have spoken in-depth with everyone. Sincere thanks to you the organising committee for your lovely presentations and for getting us together for such a wonderful experience to add to my host of wonderful experiences and memories of Derrylea.



A Summer visitor, Paddy Henry, Devlis.  
(Courtesy Joe Greene)

# Fr. McCarthy celebrates his Silver Jubilee!

**O**n March 14th 1995, Fr. Vincent McCarthy O.S.A. celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination - twenty-five years in the priesthood. Father is a native of Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. His father was English and his mother was Welsh. After Primary School, Father attended the Christian Brothers' Secondary School, Dungarvan. On finishing his Post Primary Education, he decided on becoming a priest and chose the Augustinian Order. His novitiate years were spent in Orlagh, Dublin. Having graduated in University College Dublin, he was sent to the Augustinian House in Rome where he continued his studies. It was in Rome he was ordained to the priesthood on 14th March, 1970.

His first assignment was to Nigeria where he spent six and a half years. They were happy years, and he still delights in telling stories of his times there. Returning to Ireland, he ministered in Drogheda, Orlagh, as Prior in Galway and as

**By Sr. Assumpta**

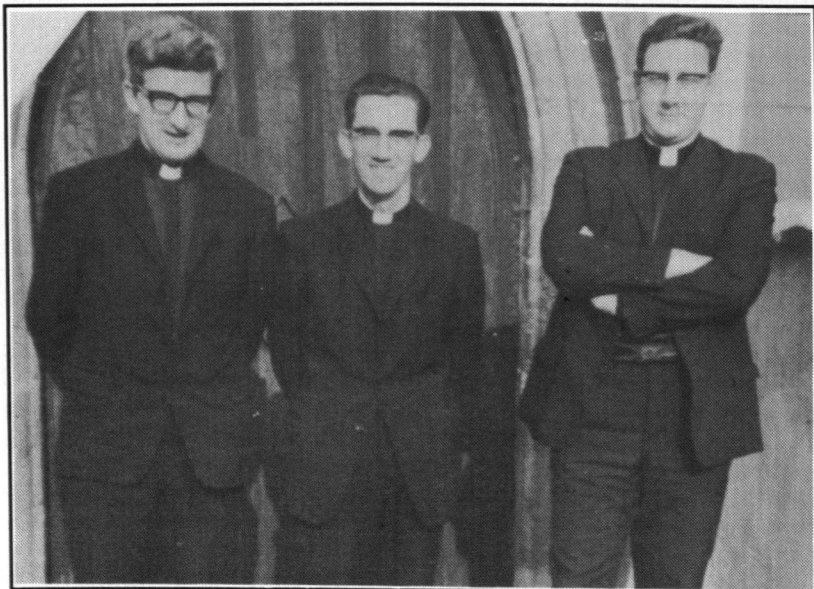
Prior in Orlagh. He was next appointed as Prior of St. Mary's Abbey, here in Ballyhaunis. Father Provincial gave him a mandate - renovate the Friary, make it habitable and comfortable for the elderly Friars. Then the church and grounds were to be organised. So with all this work to be done, Father McCarthy arrived in Ballyhaunis in June 1991.

Father McCarthy set to work on the house - a major project. It was hard work, but the result is very satisfying. Then, with the same enthusiasm, the car park at the rear of the church was enlarged and now there is ample space, at any time, for parking. Father has a great civic pride in the Abbey and its connections with the past, and also with the town. This led him to organise a display of many old chalices and artifacts connected with the Abbey. There are photographs of the Abbey when it

was a ruin to be seen there. A short historical account is given of the artifacts. A plot of ground has been set aside, along the Abbey Path, as a "Garden of Remembrance." Here, people may sow shrubs, flowers etc. in memory of family, a deceased member of the family, or for whatever memory they wish. The garden is now thriving under the careful attention of Fr. John O'Connor, O.S.A.

During all this time, Father McCarthy was, and is, very devoted to preparing for the Eucharist and all liturgical ceremonies. No effort is spared in order to portray the full significance of any ceremony. His interest in people, and the work done by them for the Abbey is evident and very much appreciated by him. Proof of this was when he applied to the Holy See and obtained the bestowing of Bene Merenti to Frank Connolly and May Moyles for their outstanding service to the Abbey over fifty years. Also, Frank and May were affiliated to the Augustinian Order. They were the first ever citizens of the town to be honoured with one of the highest and most prestigious awards which the Vatican can bestow on members of the church.

Towards the end of 1994, word was getting around that Father McCarthy would have his Silver Jubilee in March 1995. Now was the time for Ballyhaunis to show its gratitude to, and appreciation of Father McCarthy. A small committee came together and it was decided to celebrate the Jubilee on 21st April, 1995. The greatest thrill of the occasion for Father was that his mother, Nan McCarthy, was able to come. This was the first time she had visited an Augustinian house where Father was living or worked. She was accompanied by her son Jack and his wife Brenda, her daughter Anne and her husband Michael. Mass was cele-



Father McCarthy (on the right), photographed c.1970 during his Novitiate at Clare Priory, Suffolk, England with Father Cooney (on the left), and a friend.





Fr. Vincent McCarthy O.S.A. with his mother, Nan; brother, Jack; sister, Ann; sister-in-law, Breda, and brother-in-law, Michael, on the occasion of the silver jubilee of his ordination.

Courtesy: Sr. Assumpta.

brated by Fr. Tom Cooney, O.S.A. and concelebrating with him were Fr. McCarthy O.S.A., Fr. Delaney, O.S.A., Fr. Walshe O.S.A., Fr. O'Connor O.S.A., Fr. Matt Cooney O.S.A., Fr. Joe Cooney P.P. and Fr. Mattie Greaney C.C. Archbishop Michael Neary presided at the Mass. Fr. Tom Cooney paid a glowing tribute to Fr. McCarthy for the work he does in helping to keep the Augustinian tradition alive in the Ballyhauinis community, some six-hundred years after its foundation in the town. Archbishop Neary expressed his gratitude for being invited to the ceremony and paid tribute to Father and the Friars for their co-operation with the Parish Priest Fr. Joe Cooney and with Fr. Greaney, C.C. After Mass, Fr. McCarthy went to the Garden of Remembrance where he planted a tree in memory of his father, John, R.I.P. Later, Father was joined by many well-wishers at the "Manor House Hotel." A "cuppa" was enjoyed by all. Frank Connolly made a presentation of a silver tray and a wallet to Fr. McCarthy. Father thanked all most sincerely for their gift and good wishes. Mrs. Noreen

Horkan presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Nan McCarthy. Father and his mother then cut the cake. The entertainment and dancing continued for some time. Our local and popular band "Tempo" kept people on the floor all night.

Perhaps a fitting finish to this article is the quotations from Father's personal Ordination card, 1970, which has become his living and working motto and in which we, the parish, have a role to play: *"My brothers, accept us as we are: men who, like you, need the mercy of God; poor men, weak, sinful, with faults and limited talents. Though we are the men called by God, chosen by him to be the servants of the altar in your holy community, we too grope through the darkness of the world. All we can do is travel with you into the light of God, our Father, who loves us, forgives us, and sends himself in Jesus Christ and in the grace of the Holy Spirit. So you see, you must carry us just as we must carry you. And we can only beg you: pray for us. Have patience with us. Carry us. Accept God's word and his holy mysteries from us."* Karl Rahner.



Eddie Egan, Clagnagh, with sons and daughter, at his surprise 80th birthday party in "The Horseshoe Inn." Back (left to right): Jimmy Egan, Claremorris, Tommy and Eamon Egan, Clagnagh. Front (left to right): Eddie Egan, Mrs. Bridie Keane, Ballinrobe.

(Courtesy Pat Higgins)

# Ballyhaunis Bridge Club

Last season the Bridge Club was in operation from mid-September to early May. Membership now stands at eighty-four, unlike most clubs in the surrounding towns where numbers are decreasing. Major competitions during the year included Simultaneous Pairs, the Murphy Cup, Christmas Prizes, Turkey Competition, the Bankers' Prize and Easter Prizes. A welcome feature was the number of new faces among the prizewinners.

The President's Prize was the highlight of the year - the preparations made by the very popular Martin Winston ensured that we all had a great night. The Annual Dinner and presentation of prizes on the 5th of May brought the Bridge year to a close. A Charity Drive in aid of St. Mary's National School was held on the 14th of May. We were very apprehensive about this game because of the glorious weather. We need not have worried - the hall was filled to capacity. Prizes were donated by the parents and by local firms. Albertos catering surpassed itself and visiting

## By Peggy Cruise

players all commented on the excellence of the supper.

Bridge lessons have been given in the Community School for the past few years under the direction of Corinne Flatley, a player of great ability and an excellent teacher. It was felt that her pupils needed an opportunity to gain experience and practise the fundamentals they had mastered. The innovation of a second weekly game was suggested. This takes place every Thursday night in Albertos at 8 p.m. It is well attended and is much less serious but just as competitive. It is envisaged that some of the younger members will be able to run this session themselves, by the end of the current year.

The A.G.M. for 1995-6 took place at the end of May. Officers elected were: President: Kathleen Cribbin; Vice President: Mary Walshe; Treasurer: Leona Connery; Tournament Directors: Angela Joyce and Peggy Cruise; Committee: Martin Winston,



Kathleen Cribbin, incoming President.

Kay Higgins, Michael Cameron, Michael Caulfield, and Justina Lyons. Our excellent Secretary, Frances Gaffney, was prevailed upon to continue in office for another term. Interest among the members indicates that this will be a good year for Bridge in Ballyhaunis.



Some of the Killinaugher past pupils of Clooncan National School at a reunion held earlier this year in The Michael Glavey Complex, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon. Back (left to right): John Greally, Paddy Diskin, Anne Greally Brehony, Linda Greally Cunney, Michael Connolly, John Connolly, Catherine Connolly, Evelyn Greally. Front (left to right): Kathleen Doory McNamara, Michael Greally, Tom Greally, Pat Doory, Joe Diskin.

(Courtesy Joe Diskin)



# Tourism and Development in Ballyhaunis

**B**allyhaunis Tourist Information Point opened its doors to the public for the first time on the 26th of June 1995. It was set up by the now well known BRCIE together with FÁS, in an all-out effort to both develop and enhance the town and its surroundings. So far, the development part of it speaks for itself, with a lot of major work being done: landscaping, creative stonework, planting, to mention but a few. This will all come together to make Ballyhaunis a town that will be noticed, not only for its enterprise, but also for its interest in looking good.

The Tourist Information Point in itself is a great asset to Ballyhaunis. Throughout the summer it served as an information point for tourists and indeed the general public. It provided them with all sorts of information from the time of the next bus to Knock, to where the nearest historical site could be found. As Ballyhaunis is teeming with historical sites there was no difficulty in pointing them in the right direction, much to

**By Josephine Ganley.**

their delight. This summer was a bumper one for tourists in the area, and all of them remarked on the advantage and convenience of having this service in the town. However, as the summer comes to a close and the tourist season declines, a lot of work regarding tourism, will be going-on behind the scenes. Information will be gathered on the local area: its lakes, its scenery, its entertainment, and indeed many other items of information which will be collected and will be of great interest to the general public in the future. The end result of this information will be an informative brochure which will deal with a wide variety of interests, and where these places can be found. It is almost certain that this will play a vital part in attracting people to the town, and indeed keeping them here.

Ballyhaunis is well known as being the "Gateway to the West" and

the tourism project in the town will indeed make sure that it will always be that way; it will continue to promote, develop and indeed enhance Ballyhaunis and its surrounding areas for a long time to come.



Left to right: Catherine Morley, Moira Stratford and Josephine Ganley.



Three Ballyhaunis friends meet in Manchester, September 1995; Left to right: Gus Lanigan, Michael Gavin, Paddy Fox. (Courtesy Peg Greene)



"Music Enthusiasts" Pictured on their way to the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil in Swinford, 1961. Left to right: Michael Freeley, Island (R.I.P.); Pat Moran, Bracklaghboy (R.I.P.); Michael Hopkins, Island; John McGarry, Agloragh. (Courtesy John McGarry)

# The Barn Dance

For the past decade or so there has been an enormous upsurge once more of traditional set-dancing and they are quite similar to the house dances of yesteryear. In days gone by, sets were traditionally danced only in rural areas, never in towns or cities. Now this pattern is changing and people of all ages are gathering together at Céilithe in halls all over the country. Sets were at the height of their popularity for as long as country house dances continued, a custom which sadly disappeared after the first quarter of this century. Perhaps one reason why the sets are enjoying a come-back is that there are not many outlets for adult dancing nowadays, with the ballrooms gone and the discos for young people under eighteen years. However, it's always important to foster our Irish culture particularly our traditional music and dancing. So let's hope that this present céili revival is here to stay.

**By Agnes Heaney.**

My Grandfather told me that when he was young, these dances were usually held on a night before the departure of a young emigrant to America, and that sad occasion was known as "the American wake," because in those far off days many of our emigrants never returned, it was often a one-way, one-time only journey. Country house dances were also hosted by a farmer for his neighbours who helped him out with seasonal work. Down through the years these dances were held at crossroads in the summertime or in the large kitchens of the old three-roomed Irish cottages and sometimes in a big barn or granary.

I have many cherished memories of my introduction to this "house dance" scene. When I was about twelve years, an elderly neighbour came to tell us that he was hosting a dance, or "spree" as he called it, for some overseas visitors, and that he would need a helping hand with preparations. This man, I'll call him Mick, lived alone in his three-roomed



Mulrennan's house, Bracklaghboy, the last occupied thatched house in the parish of Annagh.

cottage for many years; his wife died young and his family had emigrated to the States. In those days it was customary for neighbours to give mutual aid and as a result the problems of one family were the concern of all. So when the word went out that Mick was looking for help a few of the local lads arrived at his cottage to see how they could assist him. Even though this house was always neatly kept, it was decided that for this special occasion, it would need a complete overhaul. The cottage was then given a new coat of thatch and was whitewashed inside and outside as was every structure about the place. Then a number of women, including my mother, took over the painting and decorating and the week before the event sped by in a frantic rush of washing, ironing and cleaning. By the time they had finished, the cottage looked bright and cheerful.

In past times only the young girls, musicians and a few older people from the locality got invitations to these dances. No need to ask the young men, whenever they heard of a spree anywhere in the countryside, they would travel to it on their bikes or cross-country on "Shanks Mare". My parents said that I was too young to go to the dance, but I could go to see the Yanks and help with the

chores. I was delighted to help and to get my first peep into the Adult World.

At this stage some of the neighbours advised Mick to hold the "Spree" in the barn, in case the news leaked out that the expected Yanks were three young unmarried girls on their first trip home. It was known that they had saved a rake of dollars and might stay home and settle down if they met with eligible farmers. Now, if that story got around every bachelor, young and old, in the parish would arrive looking for a prospective bride and the cottage would never hold them all. So, no time was wasted in clearing out the old barn of its farm implements and other odds and ends, except the sacks of oats which were piled high to make an improvised "band stand" for the musicians. The building was spacious, with a flagged floor; for the seating, long wooden planks were placed on boulders and the lighting would be provided by storm lamps. After the curtains of cobwebs were dusted from every nook and cranny and the doors and windows removed, the old gloomy barn seemed transformed. At last the day of the dance dawned. My mother and I set out early for the cottage to help with the last minute preparations. When we got there, Mick was carefully shaving with a cut-



throat razor before a mirror near the kitchen window. After he washed and combed all that was left of his hair, he went to his room and decked himself out in his Sunday clothes and his bowler hat. He was then ready to go to collect the Yanks. As motor cars were still a rarity around here and the visitors lived about seven miles away, he was going to bring them back with his horse and side-car. Although Mick must be in his seventies then, he was still sturdy and as straight as a whip, he was young at heart and was very fond of Irish music, song and dance. When he was told that a big crowd was expected at his dance that night, he laughed and said "the more the merrier". The dog and cat were evicted from the kitchen where the women were busy roasting chickens and baking all kinds of cakes and pies. They kept me on my toes bringing in baskets of turf and running to the spring well for several buckets of water. When the finishing touches were put to the parlour, the table laid with the best white linen cloth and napkins, the fancy china tea-set and silver cutlery, the women took off their aprons and relaxed with a well-earned pot of tea, which had a liberal shot of whiskey added to each cup. Everyone was dressed in their best for the occasion. My Mother wore her black silk dress with its white crochet collar and cuffs that she made and kept for what she called "State occasions." My dress was a pink and white floral creation, with my hair in ringlets and tied up with multi-coloured ribbons.

All of us thought that we were great style, that was before the Yanks arrived in all their glory. As they climbed down from the shaky old side car, they made an exquisite picture in their beautiful long evening dresses with swirling skirts and three-inch heeled strappy shoes in the colours of the rainbow. They spoke in a distinct American accent and their jewellery glittered in the evening sun as they took photographs of everyone and everything. Then they brought in a number of gaily coloured parcels which they brought to Mick from his family in New York. I was curious to know what these parcels contained, but I could tell that their contents would not be revealed that night. After the Yanks had wine and dined they sat by the kitchen fire and talked

non-stop about their voyage, that America was a great place, where everyone was busy chasing the mighty dollar, people were rich and wore beautiful clothes. It all seemed like a fairy-tale then with America only a name to us.

Later that evening the musician arrived in his ass and cart. When the ass was put in the haggard for the night, he came into the house with a fiddle wrapped in a brown canvas bag. He taught music, played at weddings and dances, earning a few shillings and meals from his efforts. As he would be playing until the early hours of the morning, he was given a substantial meal and when he had smoked a woodbine butt, he played a selection of favourite tunes on the fiddle for his charmed listeners. As dusk was falling the local girls and lads were gathering into the barn, the girls wore their pretty summer dresses and the lads looked smart in their dark suits and white shirts. They were shaved to the bone and one could see the moon reflected on their brilliant hair! After they lifted the fiddler atop of the sacks the dance began. Soon laughter and shouting drifted from the barn and I sneaked out to investigate the various goings-on there. As I peeked through the open door the strains of "The Geese in the Bog" reached my ears. Feet clattered on the hard floor as they danced the sets. The barn shook with excite-

ment and the lanterns hung on the beams swayed to-and-fro. The Yanks had an admiring audience and were in great demand for each dance until later that night three strange men joined the dancers. They turned out to be the Yanks' well-groomed escorts that arrived to take them home, and the poor local lads didn't stand a chance! After that, other musicians came and some of the crowd moved into the kitchen and soon each place was packed. Some of the older people left to make room for the youth, except a few old cronies who stayed by the fire clutching mugs of creamy black porter and tapping their feet to the rhythm of the music. I heard one of the lads saying "it's at home saying the rosary they should be at this hour." When the dancing ended there was a session of singing and the "hooley" finally came to an end at day-break. Then the crowd dispersed and went to their respective abodes except a few couples that were holding hands in the cart-house. When I asked my mother why they were in there she told me to mind my own business! It was a time that children learnt not to ask questions! We shared the dawn with the sleepless corncrakes as we made our way home. I remember it all like yesterday. In later years I attended many dances but there was none I could remember so vividly, nor with so much pleasure as that Barn Dance.

## Singular Honour for Sister Assumpta Flannery

By Michael Byrne

**A**t a private ceremony on Mercy Day, Sunday, September 23rd, at the new Mercy Convent, Knock Road, Ballyhaunis, Sister Assumpta Flannery was canonically affiliated to the Augustinian Order by Fr. Vincent McCarthy, O.S.A., Prior of St. Mary's Abbey, Ballyhaunis.

Sister Assumpta, who has been attached to the Convent of Mercy in Ballyhaunis since 1951, is the only religious sister in Ireland ever on whom this honour and privilege has been bestowed by the Augustinian Order. The affiliation was conferred on Sister Assumpta in gratitude for her devotion, assistance, service and ministry to the Friars of St. Mary's

Abbey through many years in Ballyhaunis. The citation, authorised by the Prior General of the Order of St. Augustine in Rome, Fr. Miguel Angel Orcasitas, was formally presented to Sister Assumpta during the affiliation ceremony.

Sister Assumpta joins with distinction on the honours list of affiliation to the Augustinian Order with other local personalities, Sr. May Moyles, O.S.A., Abbey Street, and Br. Frank Connolly, O.S.A., Devlis. The local Augustinian Friars are proud to welcome them into the family of St. Augustine.

# Ireland's Loss – Australia's Gain!

**B**efore me are a number of press-cuttings from newspapers and magazines published in Perth, Western Australia. Under captions reading "Irish Bakery now rises to new heights," "Perth Irish welcome opening of new Bakery" and "Kitty opens her doors," they all tell the same story. Central figures on all those reports are a Ballyhaunis lady and her husband. The lady in question is the former Miss Flavia Hannon, daughter of Bridie and the late Peter Hannon of Devlis, and her husband is Sean McDonagh from Ballyhaderreen.

**By Jim Cribbin.**

Flavia started baking traditional soda bread, wholemeal bread and currant bread at her home in a suburb of Perth. The recipes she used were all traditional ones dating back generations and she aimed to give Irish residents of Perth a taste of the old country. Not only did her bread rise well, but demand continued to rise even faster. Encouraged by their satisfied customers, Sean and Flavia decided to take the plunge and start a business. Sean took leave of absence from his job as an accountant in order to manage the business while their son Sean junior – a chef at The Perth International Hotel – found himself in charge of developing new products. Sean senior is quoted in the press reports as follows, "I had no knowledge of the bread industry, but we had tremendous help from a lot of people including chefs, the food industry, our bank, The Small Business Corporation and the Department of Commerce and Trade."

Their new business, which is known as Kitty O'Shea's Bakery, was officially opened on May 30th of this year by Mr. Hendy Cowan, Deputy Prime Minister of Western Australia. Reading between the lines we can see that a lot of hard work has already



Kitty O'Shea's bakery team, Paul McDonagh, Flavia and Sean McDonagh and Glen Claxton

been put into developing the venture. Even in the "Lucky Country" overnight successes seldom occur unless a lot of hard work is done the evening before. We are aware of another Hannon who did well in Western Australia. We do not know whether this was due to hard work or luck but there is a monument in Kalgoorlie to Paddy Hannon, the man who discovered gold there in the last century.

## Welcomed with Wedding Bells

While every second person you meet those days has been to either Sydney or Melbourne, Perth seldom features in the local news. However, during August, a strong contingent from that city breezed into town to say "Gid Die." The circumstances leading to their arrival are as follows: a young nurse from the Northern Hemisphere and a sound-engineer from the Southern Hemisphere meet in the Middle East and decide to get married in the West. The bride was Mary Walsh, daughter of Seamus and Vona Walsh, Johnstown and the bridegroom was Geoff Steegstra

whose parents - Bert and Maxine - flew over for the wedding. The group from Perth also included Geoff's sister Kylie and her fiancé Paul Whittleton and Shane Masters who was groomsman for Geoff. The United States was well represented by Mary's uncle Padraic, who travelled from New York with his wife Sheila, son Patrick, daughters and grandchildren.

Mother Nature endowed us with glorious weather for the occasion and a firm of glaziers worked overtime to ensure that there were windows in the church for the visitors from The Antipodes. We can say with confidence that everybody from these continents who attended the reception in Breafoy House Hotel enjoyed themselves, including the red-head!

Geoff and Mary are now settled in Perth after a honeymoon which took them around the world. In conclusion, I will quote Fr. Cooney who officiated at the wedding ceremony. He was speaking of Mary Walsh but his words apply to Sean and Flavia McDonagh and many others: "We are sorry to see you go, but Ireland's loss is Australia's gain."



# A Memorable Connacht Final

By Joe Kenny

Last year, that remarkable man, John O'Shea of GOAL, recalled in the magazine Gaelic World his feelings as a young boy in Westport, Co. Mayo, in the fifties, when Sean Flanagan's team brought the county its first All-Ireland senior since 1935.

Everybody associated with Mayo has precious memories of those far-off days. Scarcity enhances the value of things. Prolonged scarcity makes most things invaluable, and the memories become pearls beyond price with the passing years as it has transpired that the triumphs over Louth and Meath in 1950 and 1951 respectively, were the last occasions on which the Green and Red brought the Sam Maguire Cup to Castlebar, Ballina or Ballyhaunis. I remember well the victories of 1950 and 1951. I recall vividly the nail-biting finish to the Louth game, with Billy Kenny gone from the field with a broken leg, before Mick Flanagan's goal secured the lead and Mick Mulderig's flying leap on Sean Boyle's boot under the Cusack Stand ensured it. I recall the sweetness of the 1951 defeat of Meath. It was Meath who had stopped a rampant Mayo in 1949 when we all were full of confidence, indeed over-confidence, of making-up for the sad disappointment of the defeat by Cavan the previous year. Back-to-back All-Irelands was a great harvest after a long famine. But I recall more vividly than either, the occasion on which the seed for these two victories was sown, when the magic sequence of four successive Connacht titles began in the summer of 1948 in the old St. Coman's Park, enclosed in corrugated-iron fencing, lying low under the shade of the old Castle, in what was an epic, truly memorable final between Galway and Mayo.

For us it was always Galway and

Mayo. That was the real "Connacht Derby." To tell the truth it was Galway more often than not, and Mayo had not come out of Connacht since 1939. In recent years Roscommon had proved presumptuous upstarts. Never having won a Connacht crown previously, they had in 1943 and 1944 had the cheek to go on and win the All-Ireland title. In 1945 they should have won it, and in 1947 they had come out of Connacht once more, having trounced Mayo in Ballina in the first round. We lived very near to the Mayo/Roscommon border and had close and abrasive encounters with their triumphalist supporters. God knows, they were entitled to crow a little, but it was not easy to take.

This year, however, normality had been restored. The old firms were back in business. Normality had returned in other ways too. No longer did supporters have to travel long distances by bike to venues such as Tuam or Roscommon. Trains and cars were running once again, with wartime scarcity behind us. True, the trains were slow and unpredictable, but C.I.E., just four years old, had special excursion trains to big matches. We also had the bonus of familiarity with some of the players. Sean Flanagan was from Coolnaha just down the road, though he had played most of his football in the Dublin Championships. He had been a key figure on the Mayo Minor team beaten (in his absence) in the All-Ireland final of 1940. He was one of the few Mayo men on the Railway Cup team in recent years, and I had heard him say that he would die a happy man if he could gain one Connacht Senior medal. Paddy Prendergast from near Claremorris was one of the newcom-

ers. He had played with Donegal when stationed as a Garda in Dungloe, and was later a frequent visitor to Ballyhaunis, to my own house in fact when he came as a representative for Cassidy's Paper and Stationery Supplies. Friends who had attended St. Jarlath's College spoke of Peter Solan from Islandeady, a deadly full-forward. Significantly, they also spoke of another St. Jarlath's star - Tuam's Sean Purcell, and from Tuam too came another that we all knew - Frank Stockwell, whom we had seen box so often in Ballyhaunis in friendly rivalry with our neighbour John Keane. Earlier that year, he had filled a corner-forward position on the Railway Cup team. He was reckoned as a real danger man. Later, Frank Stockwell had a nomadic football career, lining out with Louth (Senior) and London (Junior) before returning to win glory and fame with his fellow Tuam Star - Purcell - in the great Galway All-Ireland win of 1956. For both sides, but especially for Mayo, this was a new generation of footballers.

Early in the year things had not looked good. In his report on the previous year, County Secretary Finn Mongey stated that the team that played Roscommon in Ballina in the 1947 championship had been picked in the dressing-room just before the game. People spoke of the shameful nature of that defeat. However, the end of the year had seen some improvement. Mayo drew with Kerry in Tralee, and they beat Galway in the National League. Next, they failed narrowly to Kerry in a league play-off in Croke Park. A further sign of promise was the fine performance of the minor side who lost by a mere point to Tyrone in the All-Ireland final. New blood was being introduced. As well as Prendergast there were other promising newcomers - Billy Kenny who had

played with Limerick, Pat McAndrew from Bangor Erris and Sean Mulderg. Some improvements too stemmed from a change in the attitude of the County Board. This resulted from the famous letter drafted by a group of Dublin-based players led by Sean Flanagan, Eamon Mongey, Liam Hastings and Tom Langan. It called on the Board to adopt a serious approach to the team and to the Championship. It made public demands as to how the team should be organised and how the players should be treated. Challenge games were set up, resulting in wins over Cavan (reigning All-Ireland champions) and Galway. Reports from trials in Ballina gave glowing accounts of performances by Prendergast, Kenny, McAndrew, Mulderg and Carney. Training had begun under the experienced eyes of former greats - Ger Connell and Jackie Carney - and when the Connacht title race commenced in June, Mayo had little difficulty in disposing easily of Leitrim and Sligo to qualify for the Connacht final. In the meantime, Galway had caused a major upset by beating Roscommon and the stage was set for the decider at St. Coman's Park on Sunday 18th July. The serious training programme continued in Ballina and a church-gate collection for the training fund was organised throughout the county for the morning of the match. As the long July days dragged slowly by there was only one topic of conversation. A week before the final, the Mayo team were announced. No surprises, it read: Tom Byrne, Peter Quinn, Paddy Prendergast, Sean Flanagan, John Forde (Capt.), Pat McAndrew, John Gilvarry, Pádraig Carney, Eamon Mongey, Billy Kenny, Tom Langan, Liam Hastings, Seamus Daly, Peter Solan, Sean Mulderg. The referee was Simon Deignan of Cavan. Admission was one shilling - five pence today - with an extra ten pence for entry to the sideline or stand. A ticket on the special train from Ballyhaunis cost about four shillings (twenty pence), and less if you could pass as under fourteen years of age at the window of a crowded booking office. Then the journey - one hour to cover thirty miles - but who cared? Standing room only, but who cared? Who wanted to sit? And the

excitement as we approached Roscommon town and saw down to our left the multitudes already thronging into the flag bedecked park.

A capacity crowd of 25,000 filled St. Coman's Park that day. There was a minor match which I don't recall. There were the usual preliminaries, which are a blur. But I do remember the first half when Mayo ran Roscommon ragged to lead by six points at half-time. This was sheer ecstasy for one young fellow behind the town goal into which Mayo were playing for the opening thirty minutes. Sad to say, the second-half told a different story. Point by relentless point Galway chipped away at that six point lead. Our forwards were not doing well. Billy Kenny was replaced by Joe Gilvarry and later, in a strange move himself, replaced Liam Hastings. Solan fisted a goal, but in the main was not effective. Throughout the game he traversed the pitch along the fourteen yard line from sideline to sideline with his marker O'Rourke never more than a pace away. Carney, from whom so much had been expected, was not measuring up. A balding centre-half forward Hanniffy tortured and tormented us. Purcell, in the second half, showed the style and prowess that later made him a king among footballers, and Mayo had no answer to veteran Tom Sullivan of Oughterard.

It was only the skill and guile of Mongey, and the do-or-die efforts of Peter Quinn, who held Stockwell to a single point, and Paddy Prendergast and Sean Flanagan that saved the day for Mayo. With injury time being played Galway equalised - Sullivan the scorer. I wouldn't have admitted it then, but I knew that if another few minutes had been played, Mayo were beaten. As it was, Stockwell had the ball over the bar just before the final whistle. Twenty yards away I saw his delighted countenance freeze in disbelief as the score was disallowed for what was deemed a throw. We went home sick. Relieved, but still sick, disappointed, chastened and subdued. We had a lot to think about. We realised that Connacht finals are not easily won. So it was, in modern parlance, back to the drawing-board. The replay was fixed again for Roscom-

mon on Sunday 1st of August.

That brought its own problems. The 150th anniversary of the Races of Castlebar, highpoint of the French invasion in 1798, was being commemorated, and to the organisers of the Castlebar event, with long preparations behind them, it was unthinkable that the Connacht Council would allow a provincial final to clash with their big occasion. But Sundays were scarce, and in 1948 it would have been more unthinkable to allow a Connacht final to clash with Reek Sunday at the end of July. August always was a wicked month in the calendar of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Feelings were hurt, tempers were frayed, and the Mayo County Council protested, but the fixture stood and again, over twenty-four thousand attended. (A further twenty thousand thronged Castlebar for the 1798 Commemoration). This time the referee was J. J. Sheehy of Longford, always a lucky omen for Mayo. For the replay Joe Gilvarry lined out at left half-forward. Seamus Daly had been injured in training and his place was filled by Stan Mellotte of The Neale.

Like so many replays this one began in a dour, grim, negative way. Nobody wanted to make the mistake that might lose the day. Only five points were scored in the first half, and Galway had three of them. Mayo's two came from Carney frees. In general play too Carney was having a great game. He was moved in to mark Tom Sullivan and this took the sting out of Galway. Tom Acton came on for Mellotte and was playing very well. Still, the star of the first half was Purcell, and we all remembered the second half collapse of Mayo in the drawn game. Solan was free of the shackles of O'Rourke this time and got a goal in the second half that showed us that his reputation was well deserved. At the three-quarter stage Mayo were a point ahead. Still anybody's game - Micheál O'Hehir had given us all the jargon. Stockwell was pulled down in the square and Sullivan made no mistake with the penalty. Time ticking away - O'Hehir again - could Mayo pull this game out of the fire? Yes they could. A free, Carney the taker. It hits the crossbar, bounces upwards and goes over for a point: the equaliser, then the final whistle.



Level pegging - saved again. One goal, six points all.

On then to extra-time, with Pop McNamara in for McAndrew. Hard to recall much of it, except a Stockwell goal and Carney's points to keep us in touch. Fifteen minutes left, and Galway one point up. Nobody leaving except those who worried about suspect hearts. Then, for the final period of extra-time, we saw that the fatal lack of stamina that had cost Mayo so dearly in the drawn game had been well and truly remedied by the rigorous training of Carney and Courell. Sean Mulderrig got a goal and Padraig Carney a point without any reply from Galway. At last, at long last, this was it. Mayo had won and we had our own heroes now. It had been unbearable - almost, but it had become bearable -

barely. Tension, suspense and seething cauldrons and electrically-charged atmosphere are great in retrospect, but a win is a lovely thing and to young Mayo supporters long starved of success, that win was a sweet and lovely thing.

The road was open then, the road that led on to a memorable ten points win over Kerry in Croke Park in the semi-final, to a heartbreaking one point loss to Cavan in the All-Ireland. On then to another Connacht title in 1949 and a sad display against under-rated Meath in the semi-final. Regrouping led to the memorable wins of 1950 and 1951, with our own Mick Tarmey as a selector. There was a Junior All-Ireland and a Connacht Minor title thrown in for good measure in 1950. Mayo football would never be in the

doldrums again. Never say never, how right it is. If anyone had said in September 1951 that a man could begin his working life, toil through forty years and go into retirement without ever again seeing Mayo win another All-Ireland final, it would have seemed a foolhardy remark. Sadly, that is how it has been, and still we have the memories of the good days. And, for one who stood as a teenager in St. Coman's Park in 1948, these memories began that Summer in the old park under the Castle in what must have been one of the greatest Connacht finals, in a era when every Connacht final was a great Connacht final.

*This article first appeared in "Gaelic World" and is reprinted by permission of the editor, "Gaelic World."*

## Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union Ltd.

Credit Union was formed in Ballyhaunis in May 1983 and opened for business in the Parochial Hall with a small number of founder members. From such a small beginning, the success of the Credit Union in Ballyhaunis and the surrounding area can be measured by the fact that they now own their own premises on Main St. and have a membership of over two-thousand with Savings of £1,200,000 of which £800,000 is on loan to its members, the major part of this money being spent locally and kept within the local economy.

What is a Credit Union? It is a financial co-operative owned and controlled by the members. It was set up to service the financial needs of the community on a not-for-profit basis and to retain members savings within the community. It is run by a voluntary board of directors elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting held each year in December.

The Directors of Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union for 1995 are: Chairperson: Rita Lundon; Treasurer: Helen Lyons; Paddy Brennan, Pat Fitzgerald, Ina Freyne, Aiden Kelly, Helene McCafferty, Eileen O'Brien, Frances Mulhern, John Tuohy, Pat O'Connor, Maura Murphy and Madeline Niland. Supervisors: Mary Rud-



Members of the Board of Directors, supervisors and staff of the Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union, at the annual Mayo Chapter Dinner Dance, in Killeedan Hotel, Kiltimagh, back, left to right: Eileen O'Brien, Pat O'Connor, Barry Butler, Kathleen Meenan and Aiden Kelly. Middle: Madeline Niland, Frances Mulhern, Patricia O'Connor, Margaret Byrne, Maura Murphy, Ina Freyne and Helene McCafferty. Front: Pat Fitzgerald, Hon. Sec.; Rita Lundon, Chairperson; John Tuohy, Chapter Chairperson; Helen Lyons, Hon. Treasurer; and Justina Lyons.

*Courtesy: John Tuohy.*

den, Barry Butler and Patricia O'Connor; Office Administrator: Kathleen Meenan.

Office Opening Hours are: Monday 10.00 - 2.00; Tuesday 10.00 - 5.00; Wednesday 10.00 - 2.00 and 3.00 - 5.00; Thursday Closed; Friday 10.00 - 6.00; Saturday 11.00 - 1.00 and 8.00 - 9.00.

It makes sense to join your local Credit Union, so do drop in for a chat whether its for advice on saving for something special or help in getting through college. Your Credit Union is there to help. Other services available at your Credit Union are membership of VHI at group rates and economic Home Union Insurance.

# The I.C.A. – 85 years a growing

**W**hat a great achievement in the Women's Movement! This year we celebrate the wonderful organisation of the I.C.A. We have seen our college "An Grianán" go from strength to strength, and we celebrated forty years of furthering the education of women and the Association itself has continued to address issues of the day.

The "family" was addressed with a wonderful conference at our College which is on-going. A very special "Founders Day Ecumenical Service" took place in Bree, Co. Wexford where the first branch of the United Irishwomen was opened in June 1910. It was part of a co-operative movement, and was dedicated to the improvement of living conditions in rural Ireland under the motto "Deeds not Words."

On the international scene, I.C.A. is the only Irish association with full membership of the Brussels based Confederation of Family Organisations in Europe. I was honoured to be invited, with other members of the Executive, to attend the European Parliament in Strasbourg last October. We travelled extensively throughout France, Germany and Belgium. We visited Brugge, the home of Brussels lace. As "lace making" is of particular interest to me, this was indeed a very special trip, and I hope to generate an interest in this beautiful work to other ladies by giving demonstrations and holding work-shops.

As a charitable organisation, a



**By Veronica Freyne**  
*Mayo Federation President*

major commitment is the raising of funds for charitable causes. A considerable amount of money was raised by I.C.A. ladies who took part in the Women's Mini-Marathon in Dublin, and I was happy to be one of those who completed the course. A great fun day was had by all in the glorious sunshine, although it did make the going a little tougher! We continue throughout the year to raise funds locally and nationally for a number of good causes.

To commemorate this special year, the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, invited a contingent of I.C.A. ladies to attend a reception in Áras an Uachtaráin on the 15th September, 1995. This was indeed an auspicious

occasion and I must say I was quite overwhelmed to meet and speak with the President in such impressive and historic surroundings.

Our National President, Ms. Bridín Twist, with members of the Executive, attended the United Nations Conference in Beijing, China - the aim of which was to plan world-wide action for women and equality. This takes place only every ten years, and we were proud to be represented. We must all continue to be vigilant on the plight and status of women world-wide, many of whom are suffering in appalling circumstances and conditions.

We have had a varied and exciting 85th year in the I.C.A. and Mayo members will conclude the celebrations with a very special Federation meeting this December. I am now serving my third and final year as Mayo President. It has been a wonderful time in my life, and, although there has been a great deal of hard work and travelling involved, nothing worth achieving is ever easy, and the effort has been so rewarding. I could not have accomplished anything without the support and help of my family and all my good friends whom I thank most sincerely. Hopefully, many more ladies will come join the largest Women's Organisation in Ireland - believe me there is something to interest you all, and what a powerful impact we could make if women united to work and enjoy together!



# Our Distant Past!

Just before nine o'clock in the morning, a few days before St. Patrick's Day this year, I was idly looking at BBC 1. Now, dear reader, do not jump to the conclusion that I have spent my life lounging before the television set in the corner. I did have mornings when breakfast was eaten on the wing while I was flying around, tying shoe-laces, preparing school lunches, brushing hair and wiping tears because of homework not done, (That, I'm afraid, did not gather any great dollops of sympathy). But to get back to my story.

The announcer mentioned that the bones of possibly one of St. Patrick's first Christian converts had been found in Co. Roscommon. This caused me to prick up my ears. He proceeded to say that excavation at Kiltullagh, on the Mayo-Roscommon border, had yielded this information. At this stage I was a captive audience. Just then, who appeared on the screen but Gerry Cribbin of Tooraree, in his woolly hat and warm anorak against a snowy background, photographed at the "dig" in Kiltullagh. Gerry is an enthusiastic archaeologist and has accompanied and guided lecturers and students from Manchester University and Queen's University, Belfast in their investigations in this area. In 1991, when a small quarry was opened on the Mayo side of Kiltullagh hill, human bones were found. The bones were recovered by

## By Maura Griffin.

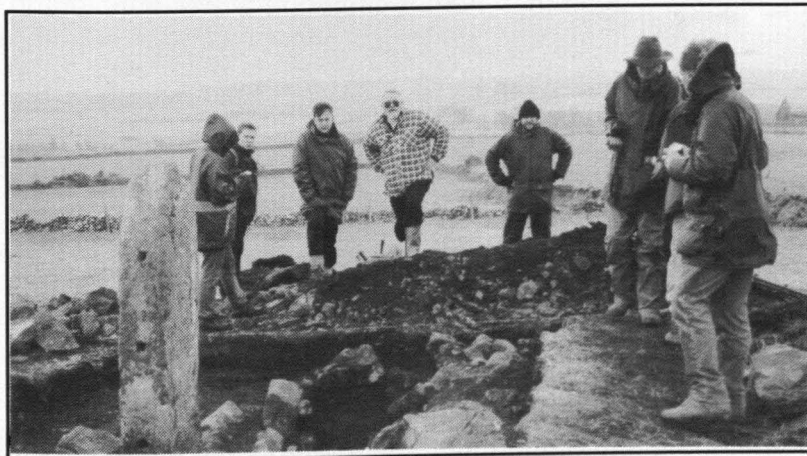
Dave Shimwell and Mike Robinson from Manchester University with the assistance of local resident Jarlath Regan. When carbon-dated, the bones were found to date from between the fourth and sixth centuries AD. In 1994, a joint project was undertaken by Manchester University and Queen's University, Belfast to excavate the standing stone on the Roscommon side of the hill. This stone is about 1.5 metres in height and has three rectangular holes almost equidistant from each other; a fourth hole, identical with the others, was found well below ground level.

Extending from the base of the standing stone, in an east-west direction, a burial site was uncovered and in this grave was the skeleton of a human being with the head pointing to the west. There were no grave goods in this burial place. When the skeleton was examined by Eileen Murphy of Queen's University, Belfast, it was found to be that of a male - five feet six inches in height, aged between 45 and 60 years. The skeleton was poorly preserved but showed evidence of degenerative joint disease in the vertebrae of the neck. Did they have arthritis in the fifth century? When carbon-dated, the bones were placed between 418 and

532 AD. Quite near the inhumation site was a cremation pit with the remains of human bone, but it was impossible to date the cremation remains. The date of the burial straddles the period between Christianity and paganism, and the mode of burial reflects this transition. The cremation and the standing stone show Iron Age pagan burial practice, while the east-west inhumation is indicative of Christian burial custom. Perhaps the individual buried was of Chieftain rank, and one of the earliest Christian converts who, nevertheless, wished to be buried near his pagan ancestors. Was he hedging his bets and keeping a foot in both camps? Thanks to Gerry Cribbin, there is another skeleton, that of a child of, perhaps three years of age. When money is available this will be dated and in a few years there will be enough data available to reconstruct the lives of people who lived around Kiltullagh two thousand years ago.

Further evidence of our distant past is to be found in the local area. At Tonragee, quite near the Kiltullagh site, the remains of a canoe has been found in a marshy area. This has been dated as about 3,500 years old, while a similar canoe of the same age has been found at Koilmore, between Ballyhaunis and Claremorris. Another canoe, even older - 4,500 years old - was raised from Mannin lake on the border between Annagh, Began and Aghamore parishes. This one differs from the other two in being wider, and having a central "rib" down the middle. Two of these have gone for preservation in the archaeological workshop at Lanesboro, Co. Longford, but, as this is an extremely expensive process, the third has had to be submerged until funds become available.

Local people with an interest in the past are vital for this research, otherwise the experts would never know where to begin. The lecturers and students from Manchester are surprised that the post-primary schools in the local towns are not showing greater awareness of the treasures in the local environment. Maybe this is a pointer for the future.



Archaeology Lecturers and Students from Manchester and Queen's University at the site in Ballyglass (County Mayo). Kiltullagh Church (County Roscommon) is visible in the background, to the right.

# England Dancing Trip – a Dad's Story!

**By Michael Kelly.**

**W**hen our daughter Sarah came home with the news that her dancing teacher was planning a trip to England and that an adult would have to accompany each child, we decided to build our summer holiday around the trip and make it a family holiday. On inquiry as to whether there were any men going "Oh yes of course" was the reply. So on Wednesday morning the 26th July one of two buses carrying 104 people on the trip picked us up outside our house. We were greeted by happy children, smiling mothers, and at a fast glance round the bus not a male in sight except for the bus driver!

Our first stop was at "Harry's" in Kinnegad and it was there I was to meet the only other man travelling on the tour. After breakfast it was on to Dublin Airport to begin the first of many loadings and unloadings of

stage props, equipment and luggage. The plane journey – flying not being my favourite means of travel – passed quickly. After arriving in Birmingham we parted temporarily with our touring friends – they to their pre-booked Post Forte Hotel and us to stay with John and Cáit Connaire (nee Travers from Brickens) my wife Rosaleen's life long friend and their family, who spared nothing in their hospitality.

The children's first performance in England was the following night in Birmingham Irish Centre where they were given a tremendous welcome from Ann Byrne's old friends - Birmingham being Ann's home territory. The show, which at times would remind one of a smaller version of Riverdance, epitomised the hard

work and dedication which Ann – the dancing Teacher, and Moira Delaney – the music teacher had put into it.

Trips to Alton Towers Fun Park, Cadbury's World Chocolate Factory and Manchester United Football Grounds were held in between shows in Gloucester Irish Centre and Manchester Irish Centre. All were travelled to by coach in the sweltering heat which frayed peoples nerves and good humour at times.

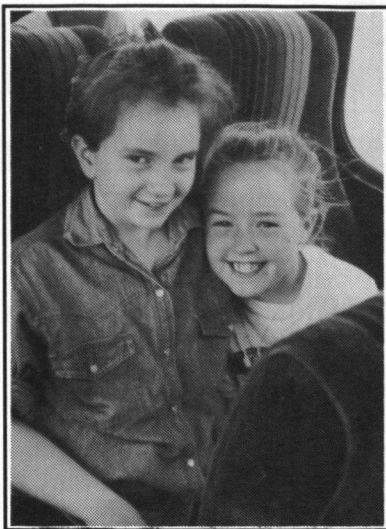
Our Saturday evening Mass in the Post Forte Hotel was well under way when the fire alarms went off and, though much commotion ensued all around us, we continued until the incessant insistence of the hotel staff got us to leave. I myself was very relaxed standing by an open window overlooking a lawn thinking I could hop out only to discover when we left the building that the particular window was two storeys up and I'd have



Ballyhaunis dancers in England.

Courtesy: Rosaleen Kelly.





The coach trip to England, Denise McGuire and Sarah Kelly.

Courtesy: Rosaleen Kelly.

had a nice jump!

After the children's last performance in Manchester we again broke from the tour to stay with Rosaleen's cousin Evelyn Phillips (né Sloyan, Kiltaboe) and her husband Tommy, where the hospitality of the Irish once more came to the fore. Thanks to Tommy, our son Mark - an ardent Liverpool fan - got the opportunity of a surprise visit to Anfield Football Grounds. For Mark, the sound of the famous "Kop" Liverpool support was far more attractive than the sounds of rival supporters at Old Trafford. Now that the touring was over we had the last few days to relax after the shows and sample the atmosphere of Manchester (the main group were sampling life in Birmingham meanwhile).

Here, I would like to compliment all the mothers who took turns to do all the necessary tasks - costume organisation, props, ticket selling, working on the door, etc. particularly Maura Murphy and Maureen Lilley who did Trojan work to ensure the trip was greatly enjoyed by all, a wonderful success.

On our return journey at Birmingham Airport I commandeered some kind ladies in our group to help carry the duty free I had acquired and save me any embarrassment at the declaration area at Customs! There was a great atmosphere of joviality in the air on the return trip, and many mothers were looking forward to returning home while the children wished it could begin all over again.

# Legion of Mary

By Helen Hoban.

The Legion of Mary is a world-wide organisation which was started in Dublin in 1921 by Frank Duff. The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through sanctification of its members by prayer and active work under the guidance of the Church.

The Senior præsidium here in Ballyhaunis meets every Wednesday night at 8 pm. The many works engaged in include visiting the sick, the lonely and the bereaved in their homes, visiting the hospitals and nursing homes, church work, recruiting auxiliary members and adorers of the Blessed Sacrament, promoting the Rosary through the Pilgrim Virgin which is taken to homes on a weekly basis.

A Rosary Rally for Peace was held in The Square during the August week-end festival. An outing to Galway and Kylemore Abbey was organ-

ised in August. With the help of the Junior Præsidium 170 Irish Catholics are sold and delivered each week.

This year Edel Quinn, Legion of Mary Envoy to East Africa, was beatified. Edel was born in Kanturk, Co. Cork, but it is generally believed that her father came from Tuam. Though in poor health, she went to Africa in 1936 to extend the Legion there. With boundless trust in God and Our Lady she worked in the vast territories of East and Central Africa. After eight years of heroic labour, Edel died in 1944 and is buried in Nairobi in the Missionary cemetery.

Officers: Spiritual Director: Fr. O'Grady; President: Agnes Heaney; Vice-president: Helen Hoban; Secretary: Frances Maye; Treasurer: Christopher O'Neill.

## Áine and School

*Get up Áine  
It is eight o'clock  
Just how do you mean?  
You are missing a sock*

*Drink up your tea  
Eat up your bread  
Still going to be late  
No matter what's said*

*Get your schoolbag  
With pencil and rule  
If you don't learn  
your lessons  
Then you are a Fool*

*Tie up your laces  
Dust off your dress  
Can't you see jine  
Your face is a mess*

*Get some tissue  
Wipe off your nose  
Clean all the nails  
Of your fingers and toes*

*Please stop crying  
Wipe off those tears  
After all Áine  
You're now seven years*



Áine Hunt (7) and her brother Sean (16), of Lecarrow, whilst visiting their sister, Marie in Napier University, Edinburgh.

Áine Hunt, Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis; Age 7 years.



Kay Lyons, Skeghard and Paul Horkan, Sligo, married 4th June 1995.



Dr. Peter McHugh, Main St. and Tina Giblin, Castlerea, married 7th August 1995, in Barna Church, Galway.



Mary Ryan, Derrylahan and Martin Murphy, Lecarrow, married 3rd June 1995, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.

# Wedding

## Marriages, Oct. '94 - Oct. '95

Philip McGoldrick, Abbey St. and Martina Hamilton, Lavagh, Ballymote.

John Fachtna Whittle, Wicklow and Sheila Dillon, The Square and Booterstown, Co. Dublin.



Pauline Gallagher, Derrintogher and John Fahy, Ballindine, married 24th May 1995, in Mount Argus, Dublin.

Thomas Treacy and Ann Payne, both from Belclare, Co. Galway.

John Maughan, Castlerea and Rosemary McDonagh, Tooraree.

Martin J. Murphy, Lecarrow and Kenton, Middlesex and Mary B. Ryan, Derrylahan.

Michael Seech, Germany and Fionnuala Ryan, Derrylahan.

Padraig Judge, Drogheda and Patricia Caulfield, Carrowkeel.

Geoffrey Steegstra, Perth, Australia & Mary Carmel Walsh, Johnstown.

Richard Waldron, Cave and Mary Lyons, Gurteenmore.

George Delaney, Abbey St. and Louise O'Connor, Doctor's Road.

John Joseph Walsh, Kilmaine and Julia Morley, Woodpark.



Trish Caulfield, Carrowkeel and Padraig Judge, Drogheda, married 7th July 1995, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.

Fionnuala Ryan, Derrylahan & Michael Seech, Hamburg, Germany, married 3rd June 1995, in St. Patrick's Church.



# Bells

## Outside the Parish, Oct. '94 - Oct. '95

Martin Maughan, Tooraree and Rose Maughan.

Gerald Anthony Moran, Hazelhill and Geraldine Higgins, Fairy-mount.

James Egan, Castlerea and Mary Webb, Devlis.

Stephen Durkan, Abbey St. and Patricia O'Donnell, Aran Islands.

Paul Horkan, Sligo and Kay Lyons, Upper Main St.

Dr. Peter McHugh, Main St. and Justina Giblin, Castlerea.

Gerald Madden, Gurteen and Marian O'Connell, Ballinlough.

George Flanagan, Crossard and Louise Lenihan, Drimbane.

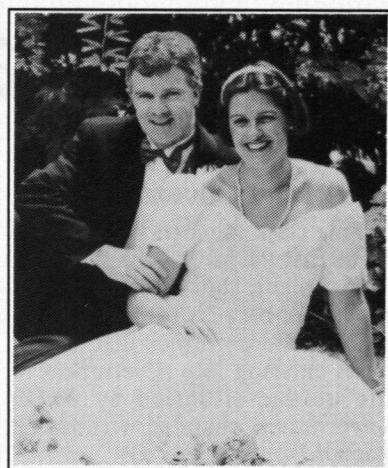
Martin Fitzmaurice, Gurteenbeg and Patricia Lyons, Erriff.

Gerard Hunt, Carracastle and Johanna Webb, Devlis.

John Fahy, Ballindine and Dublin and Pauline Gallagher, Derrintogher.



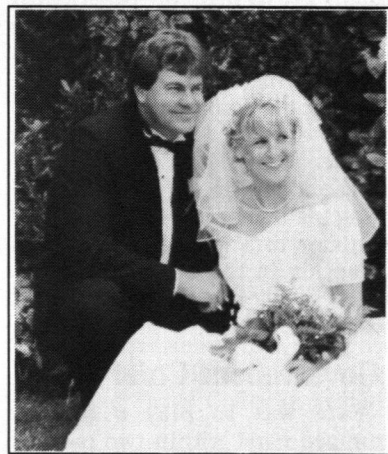
Martin Fitzmaurice, Gurteenbeg, and Patricia Lyons, Erriff, married September 29th, 1995, in Began Parish Church.



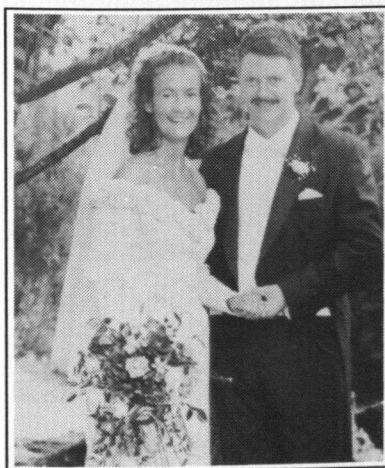
Mary Webb, Devlis and Seamus Egan, Castlerea, married 4th March 1995, in St. Patrick's Church, Beenleigh, Brisbane, Australia.



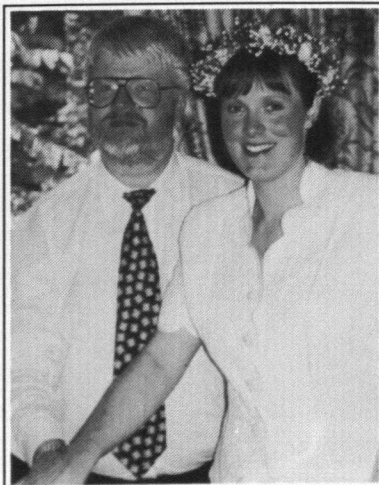
Richard Waldron, Cave and Mary Lyons, Gurteenmore, married 9th August 1995, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Mary Walsh, Johnstown and Geoff Steegstra, Perth, W. Australia, married 28th July 1995, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Louise O'Connor, Doctor's Road and George Delaney, Abbey St. married 1st September 1995, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Joanna Webb, Devlis and Gerry Hunt, Carracastle, Charlestown, married on 9th July, 1995, in Ballintubber Abbey.



Julie Morley, Woodpark and John Joe Walsh, Kilmaine, married 23rd September 1995, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.

# Ballyhaunis Fine Gael

## A New Government

Fine Gael members started 1995 proud that the party was just back in Government; but uncertain as to the future because of the unprecedented political turmoil that had led to its entering into government in the unique situation by which Government changed without an election.

## A New Minister

The icing on the local political cake came in late Spring when Ballyhaunis got its first ever Government Minister in the person of Jim Higgins. It was a proud Ballyhaunis Region Fine Gael, indeed whole Ballyhaunis community, that welcomed the new Junior Minister of Finance at the Mayo county border on a cold spring night and a huge cavalcade that accompanied the new Minister to a wonderfully joyous reception in the Central Hotel to which people had travelled from all over the county.

## Government Chief Whip

Fate was to play a further trumped hand within two months when another political upheaval saw Jim's political star rise further with the invitation by An Taoiseach, John Bruton, to join him as Junior Minister

## By Eugene Morley PRO

at his Department of the Taoiseach, and at the Cabinet Table, and become Government Chief Whip, with the task of organising all Government parliamentary business - an onerous task at any time, but particularly so in a multi-party Government in a tight parliamentary voting situation. The smooth working and great success of this government to date is due in no small way to the political skills of the Ballyhaunis Minister.

## Minister at Department of Defence

As if the duties of Government Chief Whip were not taxing enough, the Taoiseach went a step further in his declaration of faith in the Ballyhaunis man by also assigning to him the position of Junior Minister at the Department of Defence which position has drawn Jim into the tense war zones of the Middle East and Cyprus where he reviewed the peace-keeping work of the Irish Army under the auspices of the United Nations.

## New County Councillor

Jim's promotions to Ministerial

rank forced his resignation from Mayo County Council, of which he had been a member for fifteen years, and the local party was forced to seek a replacement. The local party members were delighted when they succeeded in prevailing on brother Pat to seek the Fine Gael nomination to fill the vacancy, aware of his deep involvement in community affairs and organisational skills and experience as a teacher and trade union organiser. A vigorous campaign followed during which the new local nominee proved his political mettle by decisively winning the Party's nomination at a three-hundred strong District Convention. The Fine Gael candidate, Pat Higgins, was co-opted as a member of Mayo County Council by all-party agreement.

The political wisdom of those who prevailed on Pat to seek the Fine Gael nomination has been proven in the major infrastructure improvements delivered in the few months of the life of the fraternal Fine Gael team. The Fine Gael party members look forward to the challenge ahead presented by the new five seater Mayo constituency.

The low point of the year was the deep sadness caused by the untimely death of long time party officer and activist Joe Webb. To Joe's wife and

family we extend our sincere sympathies. Joe is greatly missed by members of the Fine Gael Party at all levels. We also extend our sympathies to other Fine Gael members, and all families bereaved during 1995.

## Branch Officers

Chairperson: John Mooney; Vice chairperson: Eddie Webb; Secretary: Helen Lyons; Treasurers: Seamus Walsh; Michael John Walsh; Organiser: Kathleen Meenan; P.R.O.: Eugene Morley



Celebrating Fine Gael's Success; Back (left to right): Cllr. Pat Higgins, Seamus Ronayne, John Cribbin, Terry Fitzmaurice, Michael McManus, Pat Doyle, Brian Lyons, Sean Cunnane, Michael Murphy. Front (left to right): John Cribbin, Cllr. Jim Mannion, Minister Jim Higgins T.D., Deputy Michael Ring T.D.

(Courtesy Pat Higgins)



# Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club

**D**uring the past year, Ballyhaunis GAA Club has fielded eleven teams in football, with twenty-two selectors. These teams range from Under-10 to Senior. In Senior, Junior and Under-21 we played a total of forty-one matches. In Senior we were successful in winning the Goodfellowship Competition, which is sponsored by Keanes Kitchens, by beating Charlestown 5-9 to 1-8 in the final.

Congratulations must be extended to David Nestor on his performance for the Mayo Under-21 team in the All-Ireland final against Kerry and also on his selection for the Mayo Senior Team.

This Year's Under-10 team won the August bank-holiday weekend Blitz in Ballyhaunis. The Under-14 team was the biggest success for the club this year.

## East Mayo Under-14 'B' Champions – Ballyhaunis

The Under-14 season started for

**By James Reidy**  
(Hon Secretary).

team mentors John Joe Hoban, Tommy Glynn and Gerry Lyons at a Bord na nÓg meeting on the 27th of March. Our first Under-14 game was on the 13th of April 1995 against Ardnaree, by which time we had not yet met all of the players, so Hugh Rudden kindly helped us to structure the team prior to leaving from The Square that evening. Needless to say, we got a fine beating the same evening and we wondered, on the way back from the match, what had we let ourselves in for?

We had belief in the players and with numerous training sessions and challenge matches the panel began to take shape. John Joe Hoban and his excellent qualities of motivation had the players believing in themselves and it was the winning of Féile that truly spurred the team to a final victory in the East Mayo Final against the much fancied Kilmovee outfit. (They had earlier in the year beaten Ballyhaunis by a Number of

goals in the League).

In a game that Kilmovee dominated, Ballyhaunis scored an equalising goal by Tomás Murphy to send the game into a replay. The replay took place in Kiltimagh on Thursday 13th of July. The game started evenly and after twenty minutes we lost our mid-fielder and Captain - Tomás Murphy - through injury. One would have accepted that that was the end for Ballyhaunis, but that was not how the Ballyhaunis players saw it. Michael Webb and James Mulrennan lifted their game to new heights at midfield; super sub Tyoib Idrees contributed two excellent goals, and one could see the tide turning. Brendan Rudden was putting in a blinder at centre half-back feeding excellent balls to our two speedy wing-forwards Paul Prenty and Michael Walsh. Gary Nolan at corner forward contributed 1-1 and Christy McCrudden and Christy Lyons were linking well with the midfield players. Tadhg Buckley in goal was encouraging a very good full-back line of Eddie Murphy, Des Lyons and Paddy Coffey in keeping



East Mayo Under-14 "B" Champions – Ballyhaunis, back left to right: Michael Plunkett, Tyoib Idrees, Desmond Lyons, James Mulrennan, Tomás Murohy, Shane Conlon, Brendan Rudden, Christopher Lyons, Christy McCrudden, Tadhg Buckley and Jason Powers. Front: Derek McConn, Alan Healy, Edward Murphy, Paul Prenty, Paddy Coffey, Murt Hunt, John Freeley, Hugh Carney and Simon McDonagh.

Courtesy of Gerry Lyons.



Ballyhaunis Féile Peile na nÓg Under-14 winning team, back, left to right: Gerry Lyons and Tommy Glynn (mentors), Jonathan Powers, Tyoib Idrees, Edward Murphy, Anthony Curley, Michael Webb, Tadhg Buckley, Christy Lyons, James Mulrennan, Desmond Lyons, Brendan Rudden, Tomás Murphy and Jimmy Walsh (club chairman). Front: Paul Prenty, Paddy Coffey, Paddy Freeley, Micheál Walsh, Christy McCrudden, Murt Hunt, Conor O'Dwyer, John Freeley, Gary Nolan, and John Joe Hoban (mentor). Absent from photograph: Alan Kelly. Courtesy of Gerry Lyons.

the Kilmovee forwards out, while wing-backs Murt Hunt and Anthony Curley defended and attacked up both wings throughout the game. Other members of the Panel who took part in the various Under-14 competitions during the year were: Michael Plunkett, Ronan Healy, James Waldron, Derek McConn, Hugh Carney, Shane Conlon, Jason Powers, John Prenty, Ian Prenty, Simon McDonagh, Padraic Carney and David Murphy.

Kilmovee ensured that the game was not over until the final whistle went and Ballyhaunis eventually won by 4-6 to 4-3 in a very exciting final. It was truly a memorable feat for a team who never lost heart and who showed great skills and team-work in achieving their goal.

Hugh Rudden, Chairman of the East Mayo Board, presented the Cup to the winning Captain, Tomás Murphy. I personally would like to thank the parents who helped and encouraged our young players throughout the year. It goes without saying that parents' support is essential, and their encouragement influenced the result in Kiltimagh that evening. It was also important for the players to feel a sense of pride and achievement on the return trip to Ballyhaunis. May your (parents') support continue and may the achievement on the field of play be part of your achievement also!

## All Ireland Under-14 Winners, Féile Peil na nÓg

The Ballyhaunis Under-14 GAA Football Team, under the guidance of John Joe Hoban, Tommy Glynn and Gerry Lyons, won out their Division in Féile on Sunday 9th of July 1995. They met Ardagh in the Divisional Final, winning by 5-7 to 2-1 after a very strong team performance. This was only the second time ever a Mayo club won Féile, with Ballina winning last year. Ballyhaunis were the only Mayo winners in the boys' competition.

The Féile weekend started in Ballyhaunis on Friday the 7th July with the arrival of the Lancashire Under-14 football team. They were welcomed by officers of the club and, after a light meal, all the players were allocated to various homes in the area. I would like, on behalf of the club, to express our sincere thanks to the parents for their generosity and kindness to the host team during their stay in Ballyhaunis. The following day started with Ballyhaunis playing their host team Lancashire and winning by 3-7 to 2-2. We then played Michael Glavey's from Roscommon and won by 6-5 to 1-2. Next was Ardagh and again we won by 2-0 to 1-1. The final game in the group was against Shrulue and we

won by 9-5 to 1-1.

The Under-14 team did Ballyhaunis and Mayo proud by their excellent skills and behaviour. I want to express a special thanks to our main sponsors - Phillips' Sports Shop, Eddie Murphy & Sons and Michael J. Webb, who ensured that the team was properly attired.

Féile started for the club in March of this year with a committee comprising of Jimmy Walsh, John Joe Kelly, John Joe Hoban, Tommy Glynn, Tommy Waldron, Kieran Sherry, Ray Lucey and Jim Lundon, Principal of Saint Mary's National School, who ensured that our hosts were accommodated.

At a reception in the Central Hotel on Sunday evening, a presentation was made by Club Chairman Jimmy Walsh to the P.R.O. of the Lancashire County Board, Paddy Farry. Paddy in turn thanked the Club, its members and parents who made them so welcome and then made a presentation to the Ballyhaunis GAA Club on behalf of the Lancashire County Board. He also issued a verbal invitation to Ballyhaunis to travel and play in Lancashire; Jimmy thanked him on behalf of the club. The following is a letter from Paddy:

"A Chara, It is time I put pen to paper to thank you for the very generous hospitality extended to us over the weekend of Féile Peil na nÓg by



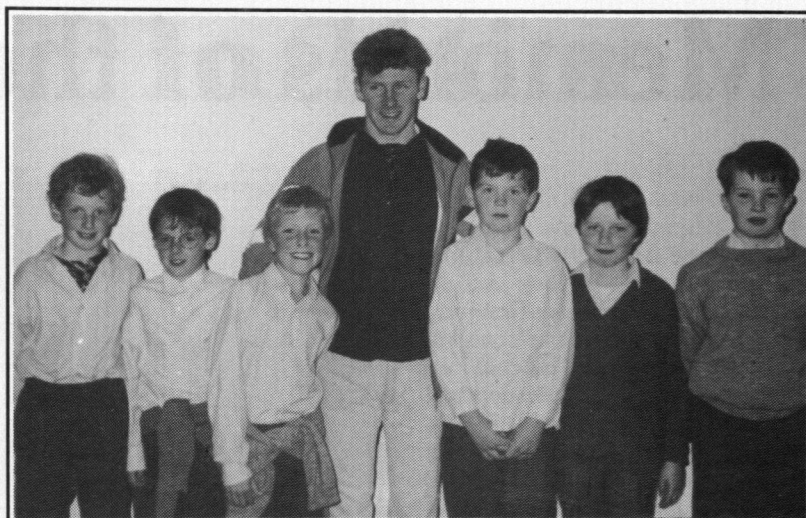


Presentation to James Waldron by Keith Higgins. (Courtesy Gerry Lyons)

yourself, the other officials and members of the Ballyhaunis Club who made us feel so welcome. We realise the extent that these families went to see that our boys were well looked after, not just in their homes, but with packs of sandwiches on Saturday and Sunday.

"We also take this opportunity to congratulate you and the Féile Peil na nÓg Committee on the way the whole weekend was organised - the parade, the games, the referees, the skills testing, the presentations and who could forget the unusual setting for Sunday morning Mass.

"This was a weekend that will live in the memories of our players for a



Coach David Nestor with Under-10 footballers in St. Mary's N.S. Left to right: Michael Mullarkey, David Lynch, William Nestor, David Nestor, Michael Jordan, Paul Kelly, Declan Warde.

long time, especially those who were visiting Ireland for the first time. This sort of treatment can only ensure a return of a team from Lancashire for next year's competition. If other clubs treat their guests with the same generosity then Féile Peil na nÓg will be a huge success again next year.

"I once again invite your under-14 team or any team your club may wish to bring to Manchester to visit us at your convenience. Thank you all very much for a great weekend, Is Mise Le Meas, Padraig O'Farraigh."

In a very exciting "Multi Skills Competition" in which two-thousand plus players from all over Ireland,

England and America competed, Micheál Walsh, representing the Ballyhaunis Under-14 team came third in the All-Ireland. The total dedication, hard work and skills which he exhibited on the day made him a player who will stand out in the future of the game. Our very sincere congratulations to him on behalf of the club on his achievements.

### Best Wishes

Finally, best wishes are extended to James Waldron who trained the Under-10, Under-12 and Under-14 teams over the past few years. He is now attending college in Belfast studying Physical Education.



Ballyhaunis Under-10 Team, winners of the August Weekend Blitz in Ballyhaunis. Back (left to right): Aodán Healy, David Connolly, Ian Prenty, Fergal Walsh, Darren Doyle, John Plunkett, Keith Higgins, Michael Conroy, Cian Higgins, Michael Jordan, Patrick Heaney. Front (left to right): Ciarán Waldron, David Hannan, Colm Gallagher, Killian McDonagh, William Nestor, David Healy, Joseph Neenan, Lorcan Finan, Mark Kelly, Michael Cunningham. (Courtesy Gerry Lyons)

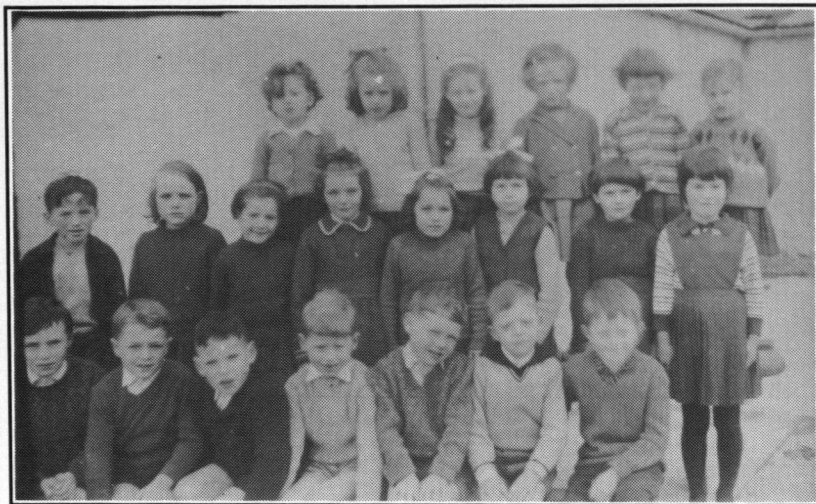
# Memories of the Sixties

**W**hen I made my second attempt to leave home on June 21st 1977, I didn't really realise the wealth of culture and experience that I was moving away from. I didn't particularly want to be seen as a "culchie" up there in Dublin, where I supposed everybody to be very sophisticated, so I didn't talk much about my Mayo origins. I had to grow up a bit more and experience a lot more of life to understand just how good life had been growing up in Ballyhaunis.

**By Liz Watson**  
(née Griffin, Clare Street).

One of my early memories is of racing around the bonfire on Mac's Hill after Mike Byrne to get a pull of his cigarette. Traditionally in Ballyhaunis, the first venture into smoking was either on Bonfire Night or on the annual school-tour. I doubt if we were more than about seven or eight years then, as I stopped talking to boys (temporarily) at about that age. Those were great bonfires when the night finally came to burn all those tyres "raided" from Knox Street or Main Street. Helen Grogan was "in charge" and was always there to keep some manners on us as she doled out the Mi-Wadi Orange (Coca-Cola only came at Christmas). The Marietta biscuits and the Custard Creams sweetened by a few bull's eyes, from Mrs Murray's shop, always tasted like more. The bonfire, on Mac's hill as it was then called, was definitely the one to be at. Curfew that night was late - maybe 11 p.m. or, if one was really daring, midnight. Then home, all clothes had to be abandoned near the washing-machine and a scrubbing in the bath was compulsory before bed.

It was probably about that time the Mammy decided that I would never grow out of being a tomboy so she started passing on John's trousers to me. Those trousers proved their worth on the big horse



Convent School Class Photograph, c.1965: Back (left to right): Mary Theresa Kerrigan, Loretto Curran, Liz Griffin, Eleanor Eaton, Geraldine Finnegan, Benny Curley. Middle (left to right): Finbarr Ruane, Winifred Mongan, Marian Conboy, Helen O'Reilly, Geraldine Niland, Bernie Fitzmaurice, Attracta Kenny, Olive Webb. Front (left to right): Hugh Carney, Eamon Egan, John Durkin, John Fitzgerald, Seán Moran, Mike Byrne, Ivan Freeley.

fair days that occurred a couple of times a year. The abundance of horseflesh on the streets was considered so dangerous that school was closed for the day in order to keep the children off the streets. This was the day I went from one farmer to another begging and cajoling a ride on a horse. The horse didn't necessarily have to move - if I was just allowed to sit on his back that constituted a ride. At first, the frantic neighbours used to run in to Mammy with anxious faces and stories of my antics, but she had to explain that there was little she could do about it.

There were lots of lively dogs about the town then, "Randy" Grogan being the best known and loved in Clare Street. It was our habit, Eleanor Eaton and I, to bring a flock of dogs for a walk through Brod Byrne's fields when we got a chance. Brod had about seven or eight cows and a donkey in those days, and they were the horses and steers for cowboy games. I hope he wasn't trying to fatten those cows as we ran them from field to field from Clare Street to the top of Hazelhill. The donkey was a fairly placid crea-

ture. He would allow one or other of us on his back while the other held him by the nose to lead him along. Of course, this wouldn't have received approval at home, so when Eleanor fell off and sprained her wrist, we had to tell a few lies.

There was another incident with donkeys. That was the year the Friary Pattern organisers decided to have a donkey derby. A lot of us took part in the donkey derby and for weeks beforehand, the training went on on various country roads. Donkeys were supplied by several farmers in Drimbane. The big day arrived and we all lined up with our mounts. Unfortunately, one was in season and there was consternation when the amorous advances of another animal became evident. I know there was a lot of laughing done that day, but then I didn't quite know why!

Culture and feminine refinement had a place in our lives also. One happy memory I have is of Mrs. Aggie Henry of Annagh who used to come into Ballyhaunis on Friday nights in winter to teach us girls how to crochet. We used to sit around a small turf fire in the



upstairs room in the Parochial Hall and make chat while she passed on that precious craft to us. There was as much craic as crochet, but I still remember the stitches. More importantly, I remember her as a lovely lady with infinite patience, who also made us welcome when we turned up on her doorstep on Saturday afternoons - there was always Coca-Cola and some Swiss-Roll then!

On the sporting side there was Matt O'Dwyer and the Ballyhaunis Harriers, complete with green singlets and about one pair of spikes between the lot of us. At that stage it looked as if I might be getting my height from my mother as both Eleanor Eaton and Loretto Curran were a head over me, I couldn't seem to run around that field in Hazelhill for love or money, so going to some far flung place like Hollymount to run around a large field with about thirty other children (all bigger) didn't appeal to me at all. We didn't produce a Sonia O'Sullivan but we had lots of fun on those outings.

A buzz of excitement descended on the town the year the foreign students arrived to build the swimming pool and Mac's Hill would never be the same again. Despite every child in the town getting in their way, they managed to produce a concrete-lined hole in the ground. It served us well as a handball alley until it was finally finished after an interval of several years. I remember crowds of children swimming there then, prior to the official opening and before chlorine was added to the water. We swam around in green-tinged water but no one seemed to mind. We had waited a long time for that pool!

Growing up in a small town like Ballyhaunis was a great adventure in the sixties. It was a healthy and happy place with an abundance of children. The only limit on our fun was the limit of our imagination, and we had plenty of fun. However, remembering my childhood is a bit like recalling summers when the sun always shone! Not everything was perfect in Ballyhaunis but imperfections are not noticeable to the eyes of a child. The good memories are the ones I carry with me and relate to my children.

# Inflation

By Tony Boyle

If you look up the dictionary you will find that inflation means "over-issue of currency and tending to cause a general rise in prices," and indeed nobody would argue with this explanation. In fact, in the early part of this century there must have been very little use of the word, as I have it from a reliable source that there was no inflation whatsoever in this century from 1814 to 1910 - a period of ninety-six years. Indeed it could possibly be said that there was very little inflation here in the first part of this century, as it was not until the early 1960's that real inflation became apparent. Take the price of the daily or Sunday newspaper, for instance. We remember when they were only a penny or two pence (in old money) and today we are charged £1 for a Sunday paper and about as much for the daily. This is an increase of over two-hundred percent, and we remember the penny bun, the penny apple, the penny catechism, and even the penny card of safety pins. And many of us recall the two-penny ice-cream and the two-penny packet of biscuits.

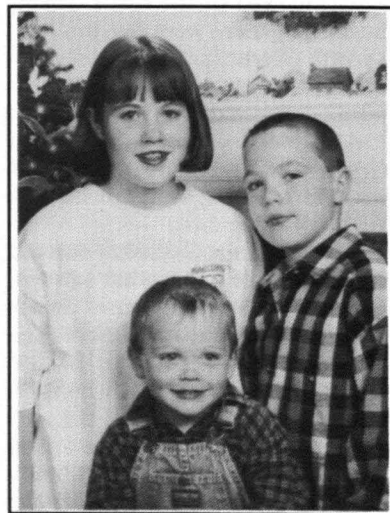
Of course, the two World Wars upset prices to a great extent, but strangely enough it would appear that there was no inflation during the 1950's, as I knew of somebody who bought a house in 1951 and sold it at exactly the same price in the year 1959. An inflation rate has been established down the years and I believe that at present the rate is between two and three percent. The vast increase in the price of houses and land is probably the most obvious of all when we speak of inflation. A house in Galway City that was sold in 1937 for £180 recently realised £53,000, and I know of a thirty-five acre farm of land in the North Galway area that was bought in the thirties for £450 which was recently sold for the amazingly high figure of £185,000. This was inflation of the first degree indeed. And of course the price of the controversial pint is one of the greatest examples of all: we remember selling it in 1939 for an old nine pence (four new pence), and now it is almost £2. The price of

a gallon of petrol was a little over a shilling (five new pence) in the thirties, and to day it is approaching £3 a gallon.

The real turning point in the story of inflation in this country was the introduction of the decimal currency on Monday, February 15th, 1971. That gave the retail trade a real opportunity of increasing the prices without any visible hardship, and literally opened the floodgates for the numerous increases that we now experience.

There are numerous other everyday examples of inflation. We have the price of the loaf of bread and pound of butter, the packet of cigarettes and even the box of matches. We also have the enormous rise in bus fares, entertainment costs, clothing and entrance fees to G.A.A. matches.

It is consoling of course that during all this period of dramatic changes, wages and salaries have increased correspondingly, as has the standard of living, and most of us are in a position to meet the new costs and as they say, keep up with the rate of inflation.



Siobhán, Edward and Seán Plunkett, Yonkers, New York, avid fans of "Annagh", and children of John Plunkett, formerly of Curries. (Courtesy Betty Regan)

# A Happy Life: Peter Street to Knox Street

*Mrs. Katie Johnston remembers...*

**T**he chances to meet and converse with someone born in the nineteenth century are rare indeed, and so Peter McCafferty and myself gladly accepted an invitation to a recent gathering with such a person some weeks ago. Mrs. Katie Johnston of Knox Street, our amiable host, celebrated her ninety-sixth birthday on Monday the 23rd of October, making her the oldest lady living in the parish of Annagh at the present time. Also present at this get-together were her daughters Margaret and Carmel and cousins Helene (Halpin) and Mark McCafferty.

## Parents and Family

Katie was born in Peter Street, Westport, on the 23rd of October, 1899, the third in a family of thirteen children born to James and Margaret McGreal. Her father's family, the McGreals were prominent in Westport and many of them were involved in the cattle-dealing business. There were five brothers, all with Butcher's shops in Westport at the one time: James (Katie's father), Thomas, Joe, Michael and Paddy. Her mother was one of the Greallys of Knox Street, Ballyhaunis, a family long established in the parish of Aghamore.

Before talking about her own life, Katie spoke of her mother's people: "My grandfather was James Greally from Shanwalla, Aghamore. He married my grandmother Bridget Nolan from Tully and they built the house at Number 8 Knox St., next door to this house where I have lived myself since 1930. He was a shoemaker by profession, but also had a bar and sold groceries." They had two sons and six daughters: the sons, Michael and Jim Greally went to America: "Uncle Michael's chil-



Mrs. Katie Johnston, 1995.

dren, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have visited Ballyhaunis and members of his family stayed at Number 8. One of my aunts, Nora Greally married Pakie Caulfield of Carrowkeel and they lived in Main Street where they had a shop and bar - this premises is now owned by their grandson John Halpin. Another aunt, Anne Marie Greally, married Roger Folliard in Coolnaha and had two daughters: Mary married Paddy Johnston of Erriff (my husband's brother) and Bridie who married Mikey Foudy of Bridge Street. The Folliards lived where their granddaughter Anne Marie (Johnston) Delaney and her family live today in Coolnaha."

"Three of my mother's sisters never married: Lizzie died in the 1940s, and Ellen and Delia lived on in Number 8, running the family business until their deaths in the early 1960s. My aunt Ellen Greally used to call to visit her close friends

**By Paul Waldron.**

Tom and Mrs. Forde in Lower Knox Street; they were the parents of John Forde, Knox St. and Martha (Forde) Culliney, Lassiney."

"My mother, Margaret Greally, went to Ballinrobe to train as a milliner. There she met and fell in love with James McGreal, who was a cattle-dealer from Westport. In the course of his business, James and his brothers would travel by sidecar and train to fairs around the West of Ireland, and it was at a fair in Ballinrobe that he met my mother."

"My father's mother was one of the Browne's of Westport, and his father's mother's surname was Stone, a member of a very old Westport-town family. She had two sisters: Mrs. McCormack and Mrs. Gill. The latter would be great-grandmother of Mrs. Fionnuala Bruton, wife of the Taoiseach."

"My mother was just eighteen years old when she married my father in Westport; they went to America on their honeymoon. My father didn't take to the American way of life and decided he would prefer to be self-employed, as he had been in Ireland, than work for someone else in America. They returned to Westport, and he continued in the cattle dealing-business along with his brothers for the rest of his life. My mother was kept busy rearing the children - they had thirteen in all, but sadly, some died in infancy. I used really look forward to the visits of Aunt Nora (Mrs. Packie Caulfield) from Ballyhaunis, she always gave us two-shillings apiece, that was a real treat for us in those days. I remember my parents called the family together every evening to say the Rosary. Today, the Rosary Beads is still my greatest





Taken at Coolnaha, c. 1918, back, left to right: Mary (Folliard) Johnston R.I.P., Anna Marie (Grealley) Folliard R.I.P., Roger Folliard R.I.P., Katie (McGreal) Johnston. Front: Joe McGreal R.I.P., Bridie (Folliard) Foudy R.I.P., Bridie (McGreal) Byrne R.I.P., Pakie Caulfield R.I.P., Nora (Grealley) Caulfield R.I.P., Baby Briget Mary (Caulfield) Halpin R.I.P. and Maud (McGreal) Martin.

*Courtesy: Katie Johnston.*

treasure. I went to school in the Convent of Mercy in Westport. The Nuns were very nice as are the Mercy Nuns in Ballyhaunis today."

Katie's mother died at the tragically young age of thirty-seven years, leaving a grief-stricken husband and eight young children. "We were taken-in and reared by aunts and uncles. My brother Joe and myself came to live with our mother's sister Mrs. Anne Marie Folliard, whom we knew affectionately as Auntie Folliard. My sister Maud went to live with Aunts Ellen and Delia in Knox Street, Bridie went to Aunt Nora Caulfield in Main Street, Jim and Val stayed in Westport and Michael and Andy eventually went to America. Val later married Josie Caulfield, Upper Main Street."

## Kilkelly

When the time came for Katie to pursue a profession, she got a position as book-keeper in the Kilkelly Farming Co-op. She had many relatives in the Aghamore-Kilkelly area: The Healys, Cuniffes, O'Gradys and Gunnigans of Lurgan, to name a few. "I used to walk the five miles to Kilkelly, and walk back to Coolnaha every weekend, and to Aghamore for mass on First-Fridays, as there was no such mass in Kilkelly at the time. During my years in Kilkelly, apart from the love and support of my Uncle and Auntie Folliard in Coolnaha, and my other aunts, uncles and cousins in Ballyhaunis and Westport, I had a perfect friendship with Mrs. Annie Butler

N.T. She was a widow with a young family and she helped and guided me during those difficult years. Another couple I made friends with during her years in Kilkelly were Patrick and Nora Gurren. Nora was formerly Johnston from Erriff, in the parish of Began. She was later to become my sister-in-law, as I married her brother, Tommy.

Katie's time in Kilkelly coincided with the Troubles in the early 1920s. The unwholesome reputation the "Black-and-Tans" was well known and they instilled fear and loathing wherever they went: "I remember some of them, only young lads, coming into the shop in Kilkelly, showing off their uniforms and being very careless with their guns." Walking between Kilkelly

and Coolnaha never cost her a thought, but she was always afraid of meeting Black-and-Tans along the road: "One day I heard one of their lorries coming and managed to hide in behind some bushes by the roadside, praying I would not be seen." They passed by, and thankfully she escaped unnoticed. Its hard to believe that such terror prevailed along what are now quiet and peaceful country byways.

## Philadelphia

In the mid-1920s Katie went to America and stayed there for four years: "I went out along with May and Mick Fitzgerald from Ballyhaunis. My brothers, Michael and Andy were already there. I went to Philadelphia and stayed with my aunt Katie McGreal. I met a lot from Ballyhaunis out there, and they were very good to me: Luke and Hannah Trench (Luke was from Ballybane), the O'Malleys of Upper Main Street and the Caulfields of Main Street amongst others. I worked as a book-keeper in the "American Stores" in Philadelphia, and was employed there at the time of the Wall Street Crash in 1929, and during the Prohibition era." Her brothers, Mike and Andy remained in the States, both eventually settling in New Jersey.

"In America, I got letters from home telling me of my sister Bridie's (Mrs. John Byrne, Main St.) illness, so naturally I wanted to return home to see her. When I arrived back to Ballyhaunis I found she had recovered to full health, indeed she was better than myself! I was glad to be home, of course."

## Marriage

It was not only her relatives who wrote to her while she was in America. Katie had kept up a regular correspondence with friend she had met in Ballyhaunis: Tommy Johnston of Erriff. The relationship between them grew, and was not lessened when she decided to go to America. Letters passed between them regularly and indeed, in one of these, Tommy asked her for advise before he bought the house in Knox Street that would eventually become their home.

"Tommy was born in Erriff, son of Patrick and Bridget (Kilfoyle)

Johnston. His nephew Paddy Johnston, son of Andrew and Cis (Lyons) Johnston, still lives and farms in the home-place. Tommy and his brother Dick both came to work in Ballyhaunis in 1912. Dick went to Peter Hannon's in Abbey Street (where Mrs. McGoldrick lives now) and Tommy went to Morley's at Number 4 Knox Street. They both had to pay £30 to "serve their time." Dick eventually went to Chicago. Their sister Mary married Mike Lyons of Greenwood where their son Kevin and wife Molly (Healy) live. Another sister, Kathy Johnston, was well known and liked in and around Ballyhaunis. Their uncle Andrew Johnston lived at Abbeyquarter with his wife, who was formerly Coyne from Cherryfield. They were grandparents of Maura (Lyons) Herr, Knox Street, Ita (Lyons) McDonnell, Carrowkeel, Canon Andy Johnston, St. Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen, Josie (Johnston) Phelan, Glennamaddy and Mary Mullarkey."

"In 1927, Michael Delaney's premises at Number 7 Knox Street came up for sale and I got a letter from Tommy saying he had his eye on the place, and he asked my advise on buying it." His sound business judgement and, no doubt, her encouragement resulted in a deal being done and the place was duly bought. "We were married 1930. Fr. McHugh, who had been a Curate in Aghamore was a close friend of Tommy's, had been moved to Carraroe, Co. Galway, but insisted that he officiate at our wedding, and so we got married in Carraroe. Fr. McHugh was very kind and we had our wedding breakfast in his house. My first cousin, Bridget Mary Caulfield (later Mrs Jack Halpin) was my bridesmaid and my brother Joe was bestman."

## Life in Knox Street

Katie came back to Ballyhaunis with a new husband and hopes for a happy future. They operated a shop and bar at No.7. "In the shop we sold groceries and light hardware. In the course of time we began to supply leather for making and mending shoes, and gradually the business began to grow and improve steadily. The bar business, as well as the shop, began to

improve also and, after some time, we were appointed wholesalers for Guinness. We got-in wagons of Guinness and bottled it, then sold the bottles in trays. As well as supplying the town, we had a steady custom in supplying barrels of Guinness for wakes. Fair days were hard work, and often started at five o'clock in the morning when we would start making coffee for the farmers and dealers who had come to town to do business. I looked forward to Fair days because they usually meant family get-togethers at No. 7, as my father and brothers, in the course of their cattle-dealing business, came over from Westport to stay here the night before. Before my parents met, my father James used stay in Farragher's Hotel, where George Delaney's is now on Bridge Street, the night before a fair."

Tommy's excursion into the farm machinery business is already part of Ballyhaunis history, and its continuation today, after almost seventy years, is due in no small part to the family's extraordinary capacity for understanding and catering for the changing needs of the farming community. "We got a number of agricultural machinery agencies, including Pierce, Garvey, Lely, Lister, International Harvester to name but a few. I looked after the grocery shop while Tommy concentrated more and more on Agricultural Machinery. Over the years, many employees worked here: as many as four in the shop, two in the yard and two out on the land. Many of them stayed with us, and I had to cook and wash for them as well as looking after the shop."

"Our first born son Patrick died from meningitis, He was a few months old. Other babies in the parish died of the virus at that time. The people on Knox Street were always very friendly, supportive and loyal. With the exception of my friend Eddie Biesty, who is thankfully fit and well, all the families and friends of my generation have gone to God, but their children and grandchildren have kept this Knox Street tradition alive. Our immediate neighbours in those early days in Knox Street were my aunts - Ellen and Delia Greally next door, where Christina's curtain shop is;





Wedding photograph, 1930: Katie and Tommy Johnston.

*Courtesy: Katie Johnston.*

and on the other side, the Nearys, who had a bakery - Val and Mrs. Rattigan live there now. Ruane's were across the road where "Choice Fashions" are now. Other neighbours on Knox Street were Henrys (where Fordes are), Morleys, Hubert Lyons, Patrick Glaveys and Carneys to name a few. My aunt Nora Caulfield had a shop in Knox Street too for a while, where Mrs. Moran's is now."

During the Second World War, rationing was introduced as a means of countering the inevitable shortage in goods. Being a shopkeeper

through these years was difficult, and having to ration goods undoubtedly put a strain on relationships with their customers. "Just before rationing was introduced, we had ordered two chests of tea, we got just one, but were lucky to get it at all. I remember all the old characters from the town, all of whom have gone to their eternal reward, including the Devaneys - Thady and his mother; Pat Killeen, Mary Ellen Finnegan and Michael Joyce. Michael Joyce used ask for a little drop of whiskey in the bottom

of a glass, and would resist any attempts to fill the glass any further "it'll only make me drunk" he would always protest."

## Recent Times

"In the 1950s the family, Margaret, Tommie and Carmel were brought jointly into the business. We celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of "Johnston's Machinery" in 1979, and there was a lengthy feature on the business in the "Farmers Journal." Tommy died in 1986 aged 92 years and we all miss him terribly; I always thank God for having had such a good husband, and such a happy marriage." Thankfully, several of her brothers and sisters are still living today: "My brothers Andy and Mike McGreal live in New Jersey, U.S.A. My sisters: Maud Martin lives in Dublin, Maura McAuliffe and her husband Des live in Cork, Eileen McGreal lives in Rosbeg, Westport; I have a sister-in-law Noreen (Williams) McGreal in Dublin too."

"I am very grateful to all the people in the parish who visit me now, and especially my nieces and nephews: the Byrnes, the Johnstons, the McGreals, the Currens, the Martins, the Lyons, Jack Halpin and his family and my dearest cousin and niece Anna Marie (Johnston) Delaney who, with her husband Georgie and family, has kept the door of love and welcome open for all who call to Coolnaha."

## Conclusion

Although eighty-three years have passed since her arrival in Ballyhau-nis, the kindness, generosity and never failing loyalty of her family and friends over the years has never been forgotten by Mrs. Katie Johnston. At her, and her family's time of greatest need they were friends indeed. It was from these people she learned, early in her life, the values that make a person genuine and respected. Generosity of time and friendship are two of these values, and if given liberally, will be amply rewarded in the course of time, as she says herself "anything I ever gave, I got it back on the double." We thank Katie for her time, and for sharing her story with us.

# Demolition, Brut Aftershave and Pig Slurry

By Murt Hunt.

I was reminded once again last week of one of the funniest events that ever happened in my life, even though it happened many moons ago when I was knee-high to a grasshopper. The Council was widening a few bends on the road to our house and Murphy's next door. It was a glad sight to see the ditches go as they were built in the old days when all that passed was the occasional ass and cart on their way to market, the bog or maybe the mill.

I gave up part of an extension to Cronin's house that I had built some years ago and was both sad and glad to see it go. Sad, that it was one of the first pieces of block and cement that I had put together, and glad that it was in the cause of progress in a village that has become so active and full of traffic nowadays.

However, as they say what goes up

must come down and this was never so clearly brought home to me as some weeks ago when I went to Manchester with a coach load of Under-14 footballers, plus parents, to play a GAA match there. Hugh Carney, my mate on a few occasions in some Irish pubs and clubs, told me he had spent eighteen months working on a high rise block of flats in Oldham some years ago, and when he went to inspect them last Sunday morning they were gone, vanished, having made way for a motorway in the name of progress! Having spent some years in Manchester myself in the late 1960s, I also could not come to terms with the fact that half that city is gone now. So the demolition of part of Cronin's house was really

only a drop in the ocean of this game called progress.

To get back to my funny event again before I get carried away and devote my article to some other worthy cause. Well, Cronin's house was home to some guests at the time that I am writing about in the early 1950's. Mick Cronin lived there with his elderly mother, Catherine, whom he had to fend-for in her old age. His niece Mary was home on holidays from Scotland with her pure Scottish-bred husband by the name of Jack McGregor. He and she were city-bred through and through, and when Mick Cronin went to town he sometimes forgot to come home and they had to do some odd jobs around the house. Now I wonder is that forgetfulness catching as I know a few people (no names mentioned) who have a similar problem at times, especially when they go to town for just one drink! Mary and Jack catered well enough with cooking on the open fire, sausages and rashers were their favourite menu. But when the ashes built up the problem started. I will never forget the sight of Jack standing at the front door with a shovel in his hand firing the ashes out the door. All right on a fine, calm day when they'd carry a distance, but all wrong on a wet windy day like this when they'd come right back to you. The sight of Jack covered from head to toe in brown ashes was a sight to behold for a young lad like myself. The fact that he had on a beautiful pin stripe suit added more to the hilarity of the occasion and the fact that he used to smother himself in what I later discovered to be Brut aftershave was the funniest of all.

This self same aftershave is the focal point of this funny event I am about to relate. I had never seen or smelt aftershave up to that in my life and could not figure out how Jack McGregor smelt so much like women



Photograph of group including many members of the famous Killinaugher Football Team, taken 21st Sept. 1936; Back (left to right): Michael Regan, Killinaugher, R.I.P.; Con Browne, Killinaugher; Jack Lyons, Lurgan, R.I.P.; Brian Ruane, Lurgan, R.I.P.; Agnes Greally, Killinaugher; Martin Comer, Killinaugher. Front (left to right): Tom Boyle, Killinaugher, R.I.P.; Willie Greally, Killinaugher, R.I.P.; Jim Caulfield, Derrynacong, R.I.P.; Jim Greally, Killinaugher; Jack Finnegan, Killinaugher, R.I.P.; Jack Regan, Killinaugher; Bertie Greally, Killinaugher, Bill Browne, Killinaugher, R.I.P.

(Courtesy Joe Diskin)



when they dressed up. Now, I am not insinuating that women used Brut aftershave but in my youthful innocence it seemed to be very similar to what they used. We always reared a few pigs, like everybody else in those days, and yes, I did know the smell of pig manure at first hand and knew it was a deodorant that could last quite a while. Like the silage of the present day if you get it on your clothes everybody else could smell you half a mile away. Well, the time of the monthly fair drew near and we had two fine pigs for sale. We were all up at cock-crow and had the horse and cart yoked ready for action. Mick Cronin was to be helping us and he had Jack McGregor up as well, all spic-and-span, pin-stripe suit, new shirt and tie and, of course, reeking of Brut aftershave.

My father and Mick Cronin were brilliant at catching the pigs on previous occasions: they'd grab the pig by the hind leg and usher it to the cart, then the two men combined to lift the screeching animal into the cart.

My job was to hold the horse steady, no problem, to this youngster as he was my special favourite and Diamond was to me what Trigger was to Roy Rogers. Jack McGregor was standing at the door of the pig sty, his job was to stop the second pig from coming out.

However nobody told Jack that the best thing to do was close the door temporarily whilst the first pig was being loaded. As soon as the first pig was deposited in the cart by my father and Mick, the second fellow decided he was not to be separated like this from his brother, and this little piggy wanted to go to the market as well. My recollection is of the pig coming out of that pig sty like greased lightning with Jack McGregor on his back, depositing poor Jack in the pit of pig slurry outside the building, in an upside down manner. If some of my greyhounds of the present day came out as fast out of traps at Longford Track they would be winning a lot more races, I guarantee.

I will never forget the mayhem,

pigs screeching, the horse neighing, dogs barking, me laughing, Mick Cronin and my father crying in hysterics and poor Jack unrecognisable in his new coat of yellow! The pigs fetched a good price, Mick and my father had a few drinks, I got my usual treat at the fair of a cream bun, and Diamond the horse continued to be my friend. As for Jack McGregor and his wife Mary, they left the village the next day and I never heard any more about them. I do know that Jack would be using his Brut aftershave quite profusely for a few days to try and neutralise the effects of his minor mishap in the by now famous village of Lecarrow.

Nobody around here keeps pigs anymore. All the people mentioned are gone to the big beyond, bar myself, and one has to go to Balla Pig Fattening Station to get the smell that brought Jack McGregor to shame, as for Brut aftershave, it has gone from strength to strength and no good household would be without it nowadays.

## Collectors' Vehicle Club

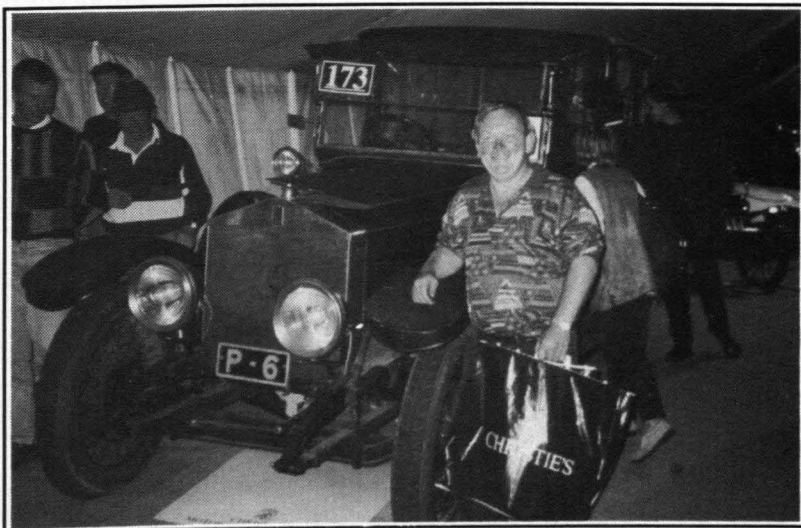
**T**he Collectors' Vehicle Club was formed in 1987 by a group interested in the preservation of old cars, trucks and machinery. The club is now a fully affiliated club of the Irish Veteran And Vintage Car Club and now has a collection of cars dating from as far back as the 1930's.

**By Edward Mulhern.**

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at which various aspects of the old car movement are discussed. We are particularly interested in the discovery of old cars etc. for restoration.

Our AGM is held in November, followed by our annual dinner dance in December, which is a very popular and enjoyable night. Our annual Autojumble takes place in the Scouts Den on the last Sunday of February which is attended by enthusiasts from as far away as Belfast and Wexford, and is regarded as one of the best in the country.

In 1995 our club made a generous



Dominick Murphy in Beaulieu beside the £125,000 1914 Rolls Royce 40/50 Silver Ghost.

contribution to the Chernobyl children's project. In September, six members of the Club travelled to Beaulieu in England, attended the world famous Beaulieu Autojumble and visited the National Motor Museum. They also attended an auc-

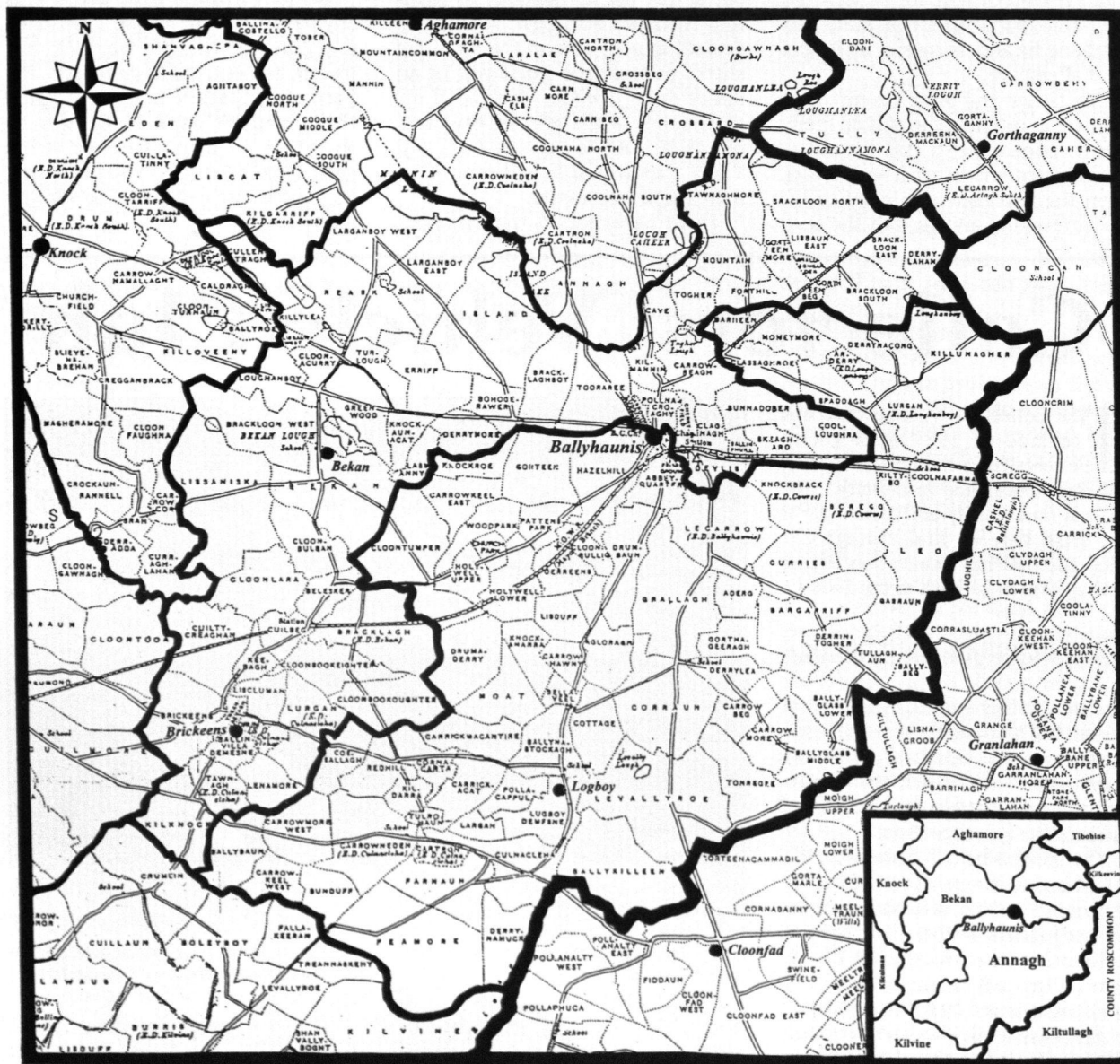
tion organised by Christie's at which a 1914 Rolls Royce was sold for £125,000.

The club committee comprises of Chairman: Martin Niland; Treasurer: Dominick Murphy; Secretary: Edward Mulhern.

# The Civil Parish of Annagh

## or the "Old" Church Parish of Annagh

*Although the townlands of Ballykilleen, Levallyroe, Tonreege, Carrowbeg, Carrowmore, Ballyglass Middle and Ballyglass Lower are within the boundaries of the civil parish of Annagh, they have belonged to the Church parish of Kiltullagh for at least 150 years.*



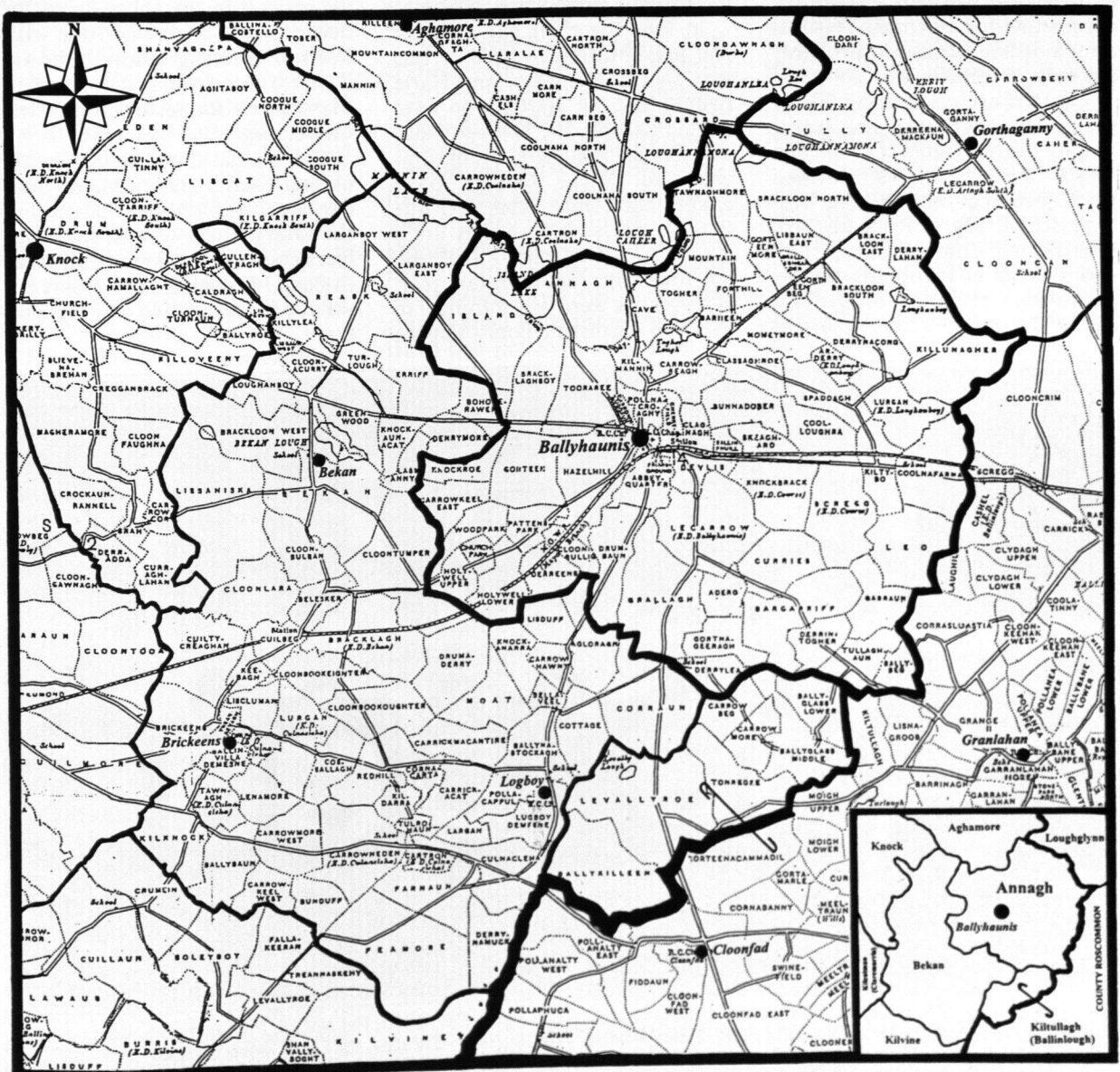
*Based on the Ordnance Survey by Permission of the Government, Permit No. 6154*



# The Church Parish of Annagh

*or Present Church Parish of Annagh or Ballyhaunis.*

*After the boundaries with Began and Aghamore  
were changed in 1893*



*Based on the Ordnance Survey by Permission of the Government, Permit No. 6154*

# Cantairí Béal Atha hAmhnais

**T**he Ballyhaunis choir travelled to the Cork International Choral Festival in May to compete with seventeen other choirs from all over Ireland in the National Mixed Voice competition, and were delighted to be awarded First Prize once again. The choir received warm praise for their excellent choice of music and the stylish manner in which they performed it. Their Conductor was presented with a specially commissioned painting and a welcome cheque towards expenses. This was a memorable occasion, probably our most successful year.

Cantairí are celebrating twelve years of excellence in choral singing the highlights of which are: **1983** - Prize-winners in Mixed Voice Section at Navan Choral Festival; **1984** - First Prize at Cork International Choral Festival; **1985** - Recipients of Piano awarded by European Music Committee; **1986/87** - First Prize winners at

Sligo Feis Ceoil; **1988** - First Prize at Cork International Choral Festival; **1990** - Radio Broadcast on "Donncha's Sunday." **1991** - Prize-winners at Sligo Choral Festival; **1993** - First Prize at Limerick International Church Music Festival; Qualified for "Voice of the Year" competition; Involved in "Spirit of Mayo 5000" concert; **1994** - Second Prize at Cork Choral Festival; First Prize at Sligo Choral Festival; **1995** - First Prize Cork Choral Festival in the National Mixed Voice Section

In June the choir had a dinner and presentation to honour two very special members, Ann-Marie Eagney and Pat Martin who were leaving Ballyhaunis. Two very valuable founder members, Dr. M. Brogan and Oliver Jordan, have discontinued since September due to work pressure, and they are a great loss, as was John O'Neill who left town on promotion last year. However, we were very fortunate to gain two excellent tenors - Eugene

Loftus, Ballina, and Roger Eshole, Kiltimagh. We were also delighted to add Martina O'Rourke and Tina Kirrane to our Sopranos. We are still interested in recruiting additional men, so if there are any Bases or Tenors who are interested in joining do get in touch with us.

We have been involved in many fund-raising Charity events during the year:- Concert in Ballyhaunis Parish Church for restoration of stained glass windows; A fund-raising concert in the Abbey Friary for new organ; Concert in June with French Visiting Choir "Phonic Dance"; Fund-raising concert in Claremorris for restoration of the Church organ.

Our annual Carol Service in aid of local charity takes place on Sunday December 17th at 7.30 p.m. in the Friary where we will join with local choirs to celebrate Christmas in Song. Do come and support it - we look forward to seeing you there.



Cantairí Béal Átha hAmhnais; Back (left to right): Luke Murray, Tony Flynn, Pat Martin, Pat Noone, Padraic Forde, Oliver Jordan, Chris Pratt, Noel Waldron. Middle (left to right): Hilary Murray, Frankie Ralph-O'Malley, Ita Fahy, Moira Delaney, Eva Johnston, Margaret Hannan, Una Shields, Laura Brogan, Maureen Thornton, Monica Murphy, Niamh McGarry, Anne Marie Eagney. Front (left to right): Xanthe Pratt, Martina O'Rourke, Tina Kirrane, Pauline McGarry, Clare Kelly, Mary Dawson, Anna Butler, Mary Quinn.

(Courtesy Philip Stratford)



# Focus on Ballyhaunis

## *From the "Western People's" Microfilm Files*

**O**nce again, we focus on times past in Ballyhaunis, as recorded in the Western People. We take a random look through the newspaper's microfilm files of corresponding years in previous decades, and wonder how, at times, things have changed so little, and at other times, so much.

### 1985

#### JULY:

Ten Ballyhaunis cyclists took part in a 400-mile cycle from Malin Head to Mizen Head over a three-day period, to raise funds for Concern and Ethiopian famine relief. They were Michael Cleary, John Cleary, Mary Frances Cleary, Pat Freeley, Ivan Freeley, Robbie Herr, Anna Herr, Mary Tolan, John Durkan, and Eugene Colum.

A festival committee was formed to revive the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival next year.

Funds were being invited to aid further development at the Scout Den. In a letter circulated, signatories of members and former members representing each decade since the Scout Troop was founded in 1931 were appended. These were: Joseph W. Mulligan (1931); Thomas Hopkins (1941); Bertie Curley (1951); John Higgins (1961); Michael Grogan (1971); and Brian Loughran (1981).

#### SEPTEMBER :

Local footballer David Fitzgerald took an All-Ireland medal for his role on the county's minor football team.

The local Chamber of Commerce was organising a conference on regional planning to which An Taoiseach, Garrett Fitzgerald, and EEC Commissioner for Social Affairs, Peter Sutherland, were being invited.

Mary Freeley presided over a meeting of Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber. Plans for a number of projects over the Autumn were drawn up, including a car treasure hunt (project leader, S. O'Callaghan), and an inter-club

sports quiz (project leader R. McNabb).

#### OCTOBER:

John Higgins (Captain), Matt O'Dwyer, Jim Landon, and Chris Pratt were members of the Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber Debating Team that won the National Debating Competition. In the final, held at the Incorporated Law Society in Dublin, they defeated a team from Castleknock, when they opposed the motion "That Irish neutrality should be abolished." Two members of the present team were also members of teams that won in previous years. In 1978 the team of

Jim Higgins (Captain), Chris Pratt, Donal Ahern and John Higgins took national honours, while in 1980 it was John Dillon-Leetch (Captain), Chris Pratt, John Higgins and John Mooney that captured the All-Ireland title for Ballyhaunis.

In a Gun Club Vermin Eradication Competition for 1985, first prize of 100 cartridges went to Paul Sykes, Cave; the 2nd prize of 50 cartridges went to Joe Fitzharris, Derrynacong; and the 3rd prize of 50 cartridges was shared by John Joe Kelly, Knox St., and Gerry Coyne, Carn, Charlestown.

The Minister for the Environment told Senator Jim Higgins that once the County Council approved a tender, work could commence on a scheme of 25 houses.

Congratulations were extended to Teddy Webb, son of Joseph and Rita Webb, Devlis, on qualifying as an Accountant.

The finals of the Ulster Bank Knock-out Squash competition were announced. In Division One -Enda Moran v Donal Moran; Division Two-

### By David Dwane

K. Moran v J. Durkan; Division Three- J. Mooney v Tadhg Buckley; Division Four- J. Donnolly v M. Noone; Division Five- Donal Delaney v Fiona Prenty or P. Morley.

The following from Ballyhaunis attended the Regional Conference of the Irish Girl Guides in Roscommon: Nell Rochford, Chris Ward, Moira Patterson, Judy Regan and Pauline Morley.

#### NOVEMBER:

Ballyhaunis Community School scored an easy win over Westport CBS in a Colleran Cup Match. Best for the winners were Martin O'Grady, K. Kelly, T. Morley, J. Bailley, B. Kelly, T. Ruane, S. Caulfield, C. Duffy and S. Morgan. for the record the score was 4-5 to 0-2.

The Ballyhaunis Rugby Team had a good win over Tuam. For Ballyhaunis: T. Sheehy, J. Finn, Ml. Geraghty, P. O'Malley, T. Morley, D. Walsh, C. O'Dowd, B. Jennings (Capt.), G. Delaney, T. Warde, B. Phillips, P. Walsh, E. Healy, I. Allison and M. Kilkenny.

### 1975

#### JULY:

Ballyhaunis athletes who fared well in the BLOE championships in Claremorris were Eleanor Eaton, (under-16 800m); Margaret and A. Forde (800m and 1500m respectively, both under-14); P. Webb (U-12); and Sean Webb (Under 14 Pole Vault).

Congratulations were extended to Michael Cleary, Clare Street, who qualified as a Doctor at UCG.

In the Lady Captain's (Marie Sharkey) prize at the Golf Club, Mrs. Brendan Forde was the winner playing off a handicap of 26. her score was 61. Runner-up was Mrs. D. Kilkenny, playing off a handicap of 29, and with a score of 64. The prize

for the best gross went to Mrs. Leo Fitzpatrick (17) 93. Other prizewinners were Mrs. G. O'Dea, Miss K. Cregg, Miss Norrie Dillon, Mrs. Janine O'Connell, Mrs. P. Laffey, and Mrs. Wm. Spellman.

## SEPTEMBER :

An AnCo "Introduction to Industry" course was held in the Scout Den, under the auspices of Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber. Seamus Forde of Ballyhaunis J.C. was informed that the youth who attended the course would be given the opportunity to attend courses at the AnCo Training Centre in Galway.

Hugh Carney received a medal for his part in taking the All-Ireland Vocational Schools title to the county.

## OCTOBER:

The Ballyhaunis Soccer Team was having an excellent run in the Mayo Soccer League. In a game against Castlebar Celtic that was a draw, best for Ballyhaunis were Michael Webb, Tom Fitzgerald, Micheal Webb, Tony Morley, Tommy Moran and Willie Coyne.

Large numbers were attending the twice weekly sessions in the Central Hotel under the auspices of Ballyhaunis Bridge Club. Recent results were - N/S - I. Mr and Mrs J. Eaton; 2. Mrs. S. Durkan and Mrs O'Dea. E/W - I. Dr. E. A. Waldron and Mrs. T. B. Joyce; 2. Mrs. E. Dwane and Mrs. J. O' Connor.

At the F.A.I. Youth Trials in Dublin, Tommy Moran was on the Connacht selection, and he skilfully scored the winning goal against Leinster.

The Parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Henry Kenny, T. D. advised the Honorary Secretary of Ballyhaunis Angling Club, Mr. John A. Marrinan, that cleaning of the Clare River in Ballyhaunis would commence shortly.

## 1965

## FEBRUARY:

Mr. J.J. Cribben, Moneymore, presided at a meeting in the Central Hotel, when the local branch of Fine Gael was reorganised, and the following officers and committee elected: Chairman, Mr. J.J. Cribben; Vice-Chairman, Mr. P. Keane, Main St.,

Ballyhaunis; Joint honorary treasurers, Messrs. J. Webb, Devils and Mr. Tony Cribben, Main St.; Hon. Sec. Mr. Joe Keane, Knox St.; Committee: Messrs. M. Moran, Abbey St.; P.P. Hannan jnr., Abbey St.; O. Jordan, Upper Main St.; A. Prenty, Tooreen; T. Johnston (jnr), Knox St.

Ballyhaunis defeated Ballina Moy Club players in the Mayo Senior Snooker and Billiards league games played in Ballyhaunis. The results (Ballyhaunis first mentioned) were: Billiards: Willie Murphy beat F. Courell; B. Byrne lost to Tom Acton; Snooker: M. Webb beat N. Acton; B. Freyne beat J. Moran; Jack Moran lost to J. Ruddy.

New officers elected to Ballyhaunis N.F.A. were, Chairman, Mr. J. Cruise; Honorary Treasurer, Mr. P. Coakley; Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. Ronayne.

At the bingo session in the Parochial Hall Miss Carmel Waldron, Upper Main St. won the top prize of £17.

The outgoing Chairman of the local Development Association, Mr. T. Dillon-Leetch, introduced the new chairman, Mr. Seamus Durkan, as "a man with drive". Fr. T. Rushe, Adm. was elected Patron, while Mr. John O'Connor was elected Vice-Chairman, and Mr. M. A. Keane Honorary Treasurer.

## MARCH:

It was reported that the £18,000 reconstruction and renovation work at present underway at the Convent of Mercy Primary School, would be completed by Easter. The work was being carried out by Messrs. D. K. Moran and Sons, Knox St.

## APRIL:

Miss Margaret Cassidy, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paddy Cassidy, Upper Main St., secured her S.R.N certificate in Suzzex.

At Ballyhaunis Fair Best Bullocks and Heifers (3 year olds) fetched £70 to £80; suck calves, £17 to £25; fat sheep, £8 to £10; sheep and lambs, £10 to £14.

## MAY:

Miss Eileen O' Dwyer, a native of Tipperary, was transferred on promotion from Ballyhaunis Post Office, where she had spent seven years, to Castlereagh.

## JUNE:

Three houses in the Tavnaghmore district- Fitzmaurice's, Sloyan's and Lydon's- caught fire after an ESB transformer was hit by lightning, and the wires leading to the houses were set alight. Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade, under Clarence Grogan, brought the fires under control, and damage to each house was only slight.

## 1955

## FEBRUARY:

A packed house witnessed a celebrity concert in the Star Cinema, with a cast that included radio and stage stars such as Joe Lynch, Mary O'Hara, and H. Brogan.

## MARCH:

At the Ballyhaunis Old Age Pensions sub-committee meeting in the Courthouse on March 15th were Messrs. John Durkan, John Mulkeen, Michael Mullarkey, Bernard Lyons, Michael Waldron (Clerk), and P. O'Dwyer (Pension Officer).

## MAY:

In the semi-final of the Billiards Competition for the Fr. Rushe Cup, M. Freeley beat N. McGillicuddy. W. Murphy, who beat N. Waldron in the quarter-final, now goes on to meet B. Byrne in the other semi-final.

It was reported that Ballyhaunis Pioneers were to make a pilgrimage to the shrine of Blessed Oliver Plunkett in Drogheda, by special diesel train, on Tuesday, May 29th.

## JULY:

By a narrow margin of 1 point, Mr. C. Coyne defeated Mr. T. Warde in the final of the Stapleton competition, played off at the Ballyhaunis Golf course. The best second 9 was won by Mr. J. Darcy.

Reports in the Dublin press in connection with a new Liga Baby Foods factory were welcomed as encouraging signs that work on the Ballyhaunis factory would begin shortly.

## SEPTEMBER:

Mr. W. L. Hynes, Manager of the Ulster Bank, was transferred to Belfast, to be replaced by Mr. V. Hyland, a native of Granard.



## 1945

### MARCH:

Mr. James Caulfield presided over a meeting of Ballyhaunis Boxing Club when tributes were paid to members of the club who carried off titles at the recent championships in Claremorris. It was stated that the carnival organised by the club was being well supported, and that a special attraction is the shooting competition, with five pounds and ten shillings in prizemoney. The juveniles were at present training for the Irish championships, to be held in Dublin on April 5th and 6th.

At a very successful 25-drive in the Parochial Hall, in aid of the local Horticultural Show, the winners were Messrs. Jas. Ruane and J. J. Kelly, Ballinlough, followed by Mr. Sullivan and Thos. Greally, Ballindrehid.

The keynote of a St. Patrick's Day celebration in a sermon by Fr. T. Jennings, C.C. in the Parish Church, was "the success of the Irish people in maintaining their faith since St. Patrick first came to Ireland. Attacks on the faith appeared in different forms, not least dangerous of which were the erroneous and daring ideas brought back to our country by some of our children, from countries where they sojourned for a time.

### APRIL:

At Sligo Feis Marie Celine Flatley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Flatley, Upper Main St., won first prize in the junior singing competition for the second year in a row. The senior three-hand reel was won by Seamus Forde, Reisk, Teresa Waldron, Bekan, and Helen Henry, Devlis House.

Frank Duff, founder of the Legion of Mary, attended the Congress held in Ballyhaunis. He was received by Very Rev. Chancellor G. J. Prendergast, P.P. At Solemn High Mass in the Parish Church, the celebrant was Rev. H. Curley, C.C., with Rev. M. Carney, P.P. Aughamore, as deacon, and Rev. T. Jennings, C.C., Ballyhaunis as sub-deacon.

In a billiards tourney in the Parochial Hall, Dr. E. Waldron beat M. Rattigan and V. Caulfield beat M. Freeley.

Nurse Kelly (Lady Dudley Associa-

tion) arrived in Ballyhaunis from Ballygar to take up duty in place of Nurse Brandon, who retired.

Dissatisfaction was expressed by Peter Hannon, Secretary of the local Boxing Club, at the "raw deal" given to a Ballyhaunis boxer at the recent Irish juvenile championship fights in Dublin. Billy O'Shea, who met Bolger, "won the fight hands down", yet the decision went to Bolger "who did not put a glove on". The club were quite satisfied with the other decisions, with the McArdles and C. Foudy losing.

### JULY:

Those on the platform at the opening of Ballyhaunis Feis by Senator Liam Buckley, Professor at University College, Galway included Messrs. Philip Waldron, Richard Tarpey, Bekan, and J. T. Smyth, who were also present at the first Ballyhaunis Feis held at the same spot in 1903, and attended by Patrick Pearse and Dr. D. Hyde. Amongst the local competitors who did well were Ann O'Boyle, Hanna Greene, Mary O'Boyle, Bernadette Greene and A. O'Brien.

### OCTOBER:

Tributes were paid to Mr. Dan Hopkins (of Messrs. Johnstons) by Mr. Willie Coppinger and Mr. T. Boyle, at a meeting of the Ballyhaunis branch of the Irish Union of Distributive Workers and Clerks, on his departure for Ballygar.

### NOVEMBER:

During a heavy raid in London in September 1940, a Ballyhaunis man-Mr. James Greally- behaved with such conspicuous bravery in searching for survivors through an inferno of fire, that, it was reported, a London Borough Council was to recommend him for the George Cross.

## 1935

### JANUARY:

It was reported that young Tommy Glynn, a native of Cloonlara, Ballyhaunis, was making a huge impact on the boxing world in America, to where he had emigrated some five or six years previously. The 29-year old was 6ft, and weighed about 13 stone. Before leaving for America

he was under the sponsorship of Mr. Tommy Lyons, Bridge Street, who initiated him into the game. His build, appearance and ring tactics were being compared to Jack Dempsey.

Mr. Michael F. Waldron of the Ballyhaunis Historical and Archaeological Society advised the Irish Independent of a local "seanachie", whose repertoire of traditional tales would contribute greatly to the efforts to record every available scrap of Irish folk-lore. He was John Deasy of Derrynacong, a small farmer and hand-loom weaver now in his 74th year.

It was announced that the Ballyhaunis Ladies' annual social dance would take place on February 10th in McGarry's Hall, with music by Edwin Mitchell's No. 1 Dublin orchestra.

### MARCH:

The following attended a meeting in the Ballyhaunis Courthouse of Justices who acted on the Sinn Féin courts (1919-1922): Thomas Waldron, Aughamore; Dominick Byrne, P.C., Aughamore; Ptk. Biesty, P.C.; Matt Higgins, P.C., Knock; John Grogan, P.C., Bekan; Ptk. Healy, P.C., Holywell; P.J. Waldron, P.C. Ptk. Healy believed that the Justices were deserving of recognition from the state, particularly, he stated, when "those who succeeded us in the courts did so at a salary of £1300 a year".

Under the heading "A Ballyhaunis Marriage in New York", it was announced that Miss Nora Teresa Cribben, daughter of Mr. Austin Cribben and the late Mrs. Cribben, 939 Woodcrest Avenue, Bronx had married Mr. John Duffy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Duffy, 550 West 171 St., New York on February 16th.

### AUGUST:

First prize in the prize scheme drawing at P.J. McGarry's, Ballyhaunis went to Mr. Thomas Molloy, Carrowedan. 2nd went to Miss Caulfield, Bekan, 3rd to Mrs. Curran, Tulraghan, 4th to Mrs. McGlynn, Coolnaha, and 5th to Mrs. J. Keane, Corralustia, Ballinlough.

- Thank you to Ann Bourke for her painstaking work in researching this material.

# The Annagh-Aghamore Lake District

If you look at an Ordnance Survey map of the Ballyhaunis area, one striking feature is the abundance of relatively large expanses of open, fresh water in the landscape in the form of numerous lakes - Mannin, Island, Annagh (Curran's) and Caheer (White) Loughs - in a string immediately to the north of the town; Loughs Roe, Urlaur and a host of smaller locháns a few miles further north. While they do not have the size or grandeur of larger loughs, such as Lough Ree and Lough Derg on the Shannon, or Lough Mask and Corrib to the west, the sheer number of loughs in any one area must be unrivalled in Ireland. Can we call it the Annagh-Aghamore Lake District? But on the ground, alas, several of these loughs, such as Mannin and Island, have disappeared due to drainage activities from the late 1950s onwards and only vast expanses of marsh and fen vegetation remain.



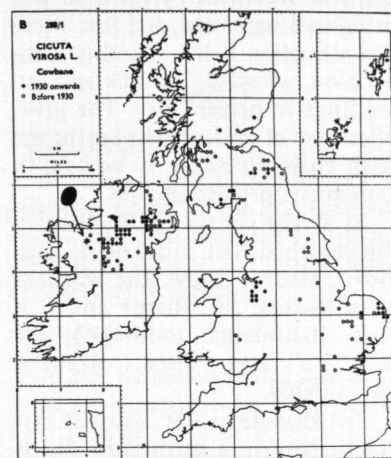
Cowbane or water hemlock (*Cicuta virosa*), one of the rare plants found in the Annagh-Aghamore Lake District.

By Gerry Cribbin,  
Mike Robinson &  
Dave Shimwell

The drainage schemes have reaped benefits, particularly in the revelation of several important archaeological artefacts. There was the Annagh sword and another bronze sword from Mannin, both of which are in the National Museum; deer bones and antlers came up in 1988; Sergeant Lyons photographed a couple of logboats from Mannin in the early 1900s and then there was the recent find of the massive logboat in Carrowneden in July 1995, only the second of its type to be found in Ireland. Clearly, the Annagh-Aghamore Lake District was an important area for our ancestors.

In more recent times, the area was a provider of ordinary recreational facilities and of basic agricultural materials. There were pike, perch, trout and eel to be caught in the shallow waters; there were the sandy beaches for summertime bathing and the frozen waters for winter skating. Then, there were local farmers like Thomas Lyons (alias "Horsheen"), a man who was self-sufficiency personified, who grew his own oats and kept and butchered his own pigs, who went to the shop for nothing but salt, tea and sugar, who regularly cut gultas or giltaghs (saw sedge, or in the Latin, *Cladium mariscus*) and black bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*) to thatch his haycocks and pig sty. This tradition seems to have died out in the local region, but both plants are still used in the region around Lough Corrib and in the Burren.

The saw-sedge, with its backward pointing spines along the midrib of the leaf, which will raise blood when handled, is a plant that is very sensi-



Distribution pattern of *Cicuta virosa* (each dot represents presence in a 10km square; the Annagh-Aghamore Lake District is starred).

tive to changes in water level and one which has become quite rare in Great Britain and Ireland over the past sixty years (see Map 1). Today, it is found only in small isolated patches and fringes at Island and Annagh. The black bog-rush, however, forms extensive marshes on the drained beds of both Mannin and Island Lakes, perhaps the largest expanses of any locality in the country. Another plant, now rare in Britain and Ireland, but found in some quantity in Island, is the water hemlock or cowbane (*Cicuta virosa*), a member of the parsley family, which as the name suggests was extremely poisonous to cattle and was consequently a target for eradication by the farmers (Map 2, figure 1). In its Island locality, however, in quaking and floating marshes near the southern shore, it does not pose a threat to cattle because they would sink through the vegetation mat and either drown, or have to be pulled out before they could reach it.

These are just a few of the rare plants we recorded on the first introduction to the Annagh-Aghamore Lake District for us



Manchester lads at a bleary-eyed, six o'clock in the morning in March 1992, in the company of our guides, Martin Ford and Paul Waldron. We had agreed to cast our eyes over the vegetation of Mannin and Island Lakes with a view to the designation of the area as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by the local Chamber of Commerce. Martin and Paul took us first to the western end of Mannin Lake and walked us across to the crannóg; thence to the eastern end where an area of bog separates Mannin from Island. Time, and the demands of twenty-four students, prevented us from spending too much time there, but in three hours we'd seen more than enough to write a short report recommending the designation of an SSSI and a more detailed survey of the vegetation and fauna of the drained lake beds. This was duly undertaken by Marie Dromey of Trinity College, Dublin and, as many people will know, Island Lakes became an SSSI in 1994.

We have subsequently visited the

lakes on several occasions in the company of Gerry Cribbin, most recently to study the site of the Carrowedan logboat find in July 1995, and to walk the length and breadth of Island Lake, noting the various plants and vegetation types on the calcareous marls of the former lake bed and around the crannógs. The reason the logboat was discovered was due to the progress of the ongoing River Moy Drainage Scheme, moving upstream through Mannin and Island and planned to proceed through to the Annagh (Curran's) Lakes to Caheer (White) Lake. It seemed to be something of a contradiction in environmental management policy that, almost immediately Island Lake had been designated an SSSI, the water table was being lowered. Clearly, much of the scientific value of the site lies in its diversity of marsh and fen vegetation and the rare plants and animals found there. It seems that a lowering of the water table could have an adverse effect on this diversity by causing drying of the surface

and the inevitable spread of willow and sallow scrub out across the marshes from small existing pockets on the drier area around crannógs.

What we therefore plan is to seek permission for a long-term ecological study by one of our graduates in an attempt to monitor the effects of the drainage scheme. The study would involve the setting down of a number of permanent plots, some ten metres square, along a transect running from Stoney Island crannóg to the northern drain - close to where the logboat was found recently. In these plots, we will record the nature of the vegetation composition and dig shallow soil pits to measure the changing water content next year and in three years hence. We also propose to map the present extent of willow and sallow using aerial photographs so that future mapping will allow us to record the changes over time. Hopefully, our research will enable the careful conservation and management of one of the gems of the Annagh-Aghamore Lake District.



St. Patrick's College, c.1970. *Back (left to right):* Tommy Carney, Joe Cunnane, Jimmy Morley, Bill Duffy, Pat Healy, Kieran Kneafsey, Redmond Burke. *Middle Row (left to right):* Kieran Durkin, John Freeley, Francis Ganley, Eamon O'Reilly, John Muldowney, John Lyons. *Front (left to right):* Tommy Foliard, Michael Burke, Michael Sloyan, John Prenty, John Glavey.

(Courtesy Johnny Beisty)

# Ballyhaunis Golf Club

**T**he Ballyhaunis Golf Club had a very successful year in 1995 under the Captaincy of Robert Power, Dunmore, and Mary Frances Cleary, Ballyhaunis. President of the Golf Club was Jackie Cheevers, Dunmore.

The President's Prize (Mr. Jackie Cheevers), was played on Sunday the 18th June over twenty-seven holes and was won by Paddy Laffey with 97 net. In second place was John Mooney with 99 net. The President's Prize for the Ladies was played on Thursday the 15th June and was also over twenty-seven holes and was won by Sighle Forde with 100 net. In second place was Mary McDonagh with 100 net.

The Lady Captain's Prize (Mary Frances Cleary) was played over two days Thursday 20th July and Sunday 23rd July and was won by Phil Glynn with 142 net for the thirty-six holes. In second place was Elaine Webb.

The Men's Captains Prize (Robert Powers) was played over thirty-six holes on Sunday 20th August and Sunday 27th August and was won by Eugene Kilbride with 126 net. In second place was Tommy Prenty with 129. The Men's Captains Prize for the Ladies was won by the Lady Captain - Mary Frances Cleary with 66 net. In second place was Nuala Fitzgerald also with 66 net.

The Dillon Mixed Foursomes

## By Susan Laffey PRO.

Competition, sponsored by the Dillon Family and one of the major match-play competitions held each year, was won by Tom Burke and Susan Laffey. The runners-up were Jarlath Henry and Mary Dillon.

The Lady Golfer of the Year was won by Kathleen Fanning and in second place, just one shot behind, was Susan Laffey.

The Connaght Final of the Kenny Cup for Youths under 18 years of age, was held at Castlebar Golf Club on Monday the 17th July. Over 35 teams of 3 took part and great credit is due to the Ballyhaunis team - P.C. Curley, Michael Dillon and Niall Tighe who won the Final and brought the Cup to Mayo for the first time. The year is now drawing to a close and every good wish to the incoming Captains - Liam Damron and Ina Freyne.



The winners of the Kenny Cup for youths under 18 years; *Back (left to right):* Pat Curley G.U.I. representative, Tom Prenty, Captain - Robert Power, President - Jackie Cheevers. *Front (left to right):* P.C. Curley, Michael Dillon, Niall Tighe.

(Courtesy Kay Curley)



Tom Burke and Susan Laffey, winners of the Dillon mixed-foursomes matchplay competition.

(Courtesy Susan Laffey)



Lady Captain - Mary Frances Cleary presenting her prize to the winner - Phil Glynn.

(Courtesy Susan Laffey)



# Citizens' Information

**T**he Citizens Information Centre provides free, confidential and impartial information to the public on their statutory rights and entitlements. We deal with queries on social welfare entitlements, health services, personal taxation, education, labour law, European information and many other services. We stock a wide range of application forms for all the various schemes and services. We also stock a number of booklets such as "Entitlements for the Over Sixties", "Lone Parents Information Guide", "Guide to Social Welfare Services" and leaflets dealing with part-time workers, bereavement, school-leavers. Copies of all these are available free of charge at the centre.

We have an information system which is supplied and updated on a

**By Mary Donnelly.**

regular basis by the National Social Service Board, our parent body. The N.S.S.B. also provides us with an excellent back-up service on difficult queries when required. Since June of this year the board operates under the Department of Social Welfare. Prior to that it was under the Department of Health.

The centre is run by trained volunteers who attend for duty on average once a fortnight. Training is a very important element and during the year some of our volunteers attended a number of training seminars in Castlebar and Galway. Training is also incorporated into our monthly meetings. The annual conference was held in

St. Patrick's College in Dublin in September and was attended by Deirdre Diskin and Marion Regan.

New volunteers are always needed and anyone interested in finding out more about our organisation is invited to contact any of the volunteers named here: Chairman: Kathleen McBride; Organiser: Deirdre Diskin; Deputy Organiser: Bridie Brennan; Secretary: Mary Murphy; Training Officer: Sr. Assumpta; P.R.O.: Mary Donnelly;

Committee: Kathleen Murphy, Marion Regan, Maura Griffin, Mary Hopkins, Mary Folliard, Anne Flanagan, Nora Sweeney, Angela Waldron, Kathleen Waldron, Anne McHugh, Mary Waldron.

Opening hours are as follows: Tuesday and Friday 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 5 to 6 p.m.; Saturday 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.



Delegates attending the annual conference of Citizens Information Centres in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin in September 1995. *Back (left to right):* Deirdre Diskin, Ballyhaunis; Mai Gormley and Maureen Cleary, Claremorris; Anne Frawley, Tuam; Marian Regan, Ballyhaunis; Sr. Loreto, Tuam; Eileen O'Dowd, Boyle. *Front (left to right):* Nancy Glavey, Westport; Kitty Howley, Castlebar; Dr. Donal de Buitleir, Chairman NSSB; Proinseas de Rossa T.D., Minister for Social Welfare; Leonie Lunny, Director, NSSB; Connie Fallon, Boyle.

# Life and Times in Ballyhaunis Post Office

By P. J. Brennan.

I took up duty at Ballyhaunis Post Office in June 1971, on transfer from Clifden where I had spent four years as Postmaster. I succeeded the late Joe Fadden (R.I.P.) who had retired on health grounds. The Clerical Staff then consisted of Johnny Henry (R.I.P.), Donal Fitzpatrick (R.I.P.) and Eamon Dwane, all of whom extended every assistance and co-operation to me. The Postman Staff was: John Cleary, Bernie Tarpey (R.I.P.), Dominick Murphy, Pat Kilroy (R.I.P.), Jimmy Byrne and Owen Kilduff. Martin Morley was the Junior Postman in charge of telegram delivery.

I had known Joe Fadden and Johnny Henry through meetings them at staff association meetings during the previous years. They were both very devoted workers with a good sense of humour, which made them easy to work with. There was one episode regarding Joe Fadden which is well worth recording for posterity. I append the story as related to me by Johnny Henry and I have no reason to doubt its

authenticity. Joe Fadden had a little terrier which was his constant and faithful companion. He usually brought the dog back with him to the Post Office each day after lunch and the animal lay down very comfortably on the door-mat outside Joe's office. He was inclined to be a bit snappy towards anybody approaching the office door. It transpired that one evening as Joe was going off duty, a man from out the country accosted him in the public office and enquired if the dog belonged to him. When Joe replied in the affirmative, the man said "That is the dog that bit me in the leg over at the Railway Bridge last Wednesday and I am going to the Gardai to report the matter and have him put down, as he is a public menace." Joe, naturally terrified at such a thought, stated that his dog was not involved as he couldn't have bitten him. The man replied that he was quite certain and would recog-

nise the dog any place. Joe informed him that his dog could not have bitten him as he had "chalky teeth." In fact, he was taking him up to the Veterinary College in Ballsbridge on the following Saturday where international experts were coming to examine him, as he was an unusual specimen. The man apologised profusely and went away while Joe entered his office laughing heartily.

I was only working in Ballyhaunis for a few days when the wife of a local businessman came into my office to complain regarding the high charges in a telephone account, a matter in which I was not concerned at all, as the only function of the Post Office was to accept payment of accounts and issue the necessary receipts. I explained this to the lady in question, but she proceeded to tear strips off me and off the wall-paper, as the saying goes. I mentioned the matter to Johnny Henry after the lady had departed and told him that, had I known that the public in Ballyhaunis were of that type, I would not have come to the town at all. Johnny just laughed and said she was just the mildest of them and to wait until I was accosted by Mr. So-and-So, giving me the name of a local businessman who was known to complain in a vehement manner. Subsequent events proved Johnny correct, but I later became good friends with both of them during the remainder of my term at Ballyhaunis Post Office. When dealing with the public, one must make allowance for people who "fly off the handle" and I have often found them to be most sincere and genuine, once they have let off steam.

The bane of my life during that period was the matter of public complaints regarding delay to telephone calls. The Telephone Exchange was located upstairs and manned by four telephonists, with Myra Fitzgerald as



John Henry (R.I.P.), Paddy Brennan and Mrs. Bridie Brennan.



supervisor. Telephone subscribers who now take up their telephone and dial numbers instantly to foreign countries will find it very difficult to realise that, during the '60's and '70's, delays of up to three hours obtained on calls booked to Dublin, Cork and other provincial exchanges. The volume of telephones had increased dramatically during that period and the existing trunk lines were inadequate to deal with same. The "powers that be" would not authorise the installation of extra lines, as the introduction of automatic working was planned and such expenditure would not be warranted. The automatic working did not materialise until many years afterwards, and in the meantime, the unfortunate telephonists had to contend with abuse from irate callers who often enquired whether they had gone to sleep, or were just drinking tea. Occasionally, an operator would feel he/she had taken enough of abuse and fly off the handle. At that stage, I would have to intervene in an effort to calm the situation and restore peace. In fairness to the operators, they displayed great patience under the most difficult conditions and took loads of abuse.

Some subscribers, who frequently abused telephonists, were warned by Telephone Headquarters that telephone service would be withdrawn from them, should they again come under notice. This usually had the desired effect, but one had to have certain sympathy for the frustrated callers, especially business people who had urgent business to transact. However, they were venting their anger on the innocent telephonists, who worked-off the calls strictly in accordance with booking times, without fear or favour.

The postmen performed their deliveries in a very efficient manner and I don't recollect having received any public complaint against any of them. They seemed to be held in high esteem, especially amongst the rural community. The introduction of delivery by motor van was a watershed as far as rural deliveries were concerned. The cycle postman had to perform his delivery in all kinds of weather in spite of rain, storm and snow. Consequently, the introduction of motorised working resulted in redundancies as one motorised postman was scheduled to perform the work of 2.5 cycle postmen. The postmen drivers at Bally-

haunis took extreme care of their vehicles and were commended by the Mechanical Inspector of the Department. I was told that, when the first postal delivery van was introduced at Ballyhaunis, the then postmaster (Joe Fadden) received a letter from a man on the delivery route as follows: "When the van is coming out on Monday, please ask the driver to bring me one bag of flour, one bag of clarindo and four pounds of sugar." I cannot vouch for the veracity of the story but, no doubt, it could have happened.

After much correspondence and representations by staff associations, the renovation of the Post Office premises in Ballyhaunis was commenced in February 1976, when we moved the public counter facilities to temporary premises at Knox Street for a period of approximately fourteen months. The contractor, the late Donald K. Moran performed an excellent job which resulted in much improved working conditions for the staff. I was transferred to Castlerea in 1979 and, regretfully, had to bid farewell to such a comfortable office, an excellent staff and a very courteous public.



The "Henry Team": Kevin, Anna, Frank and Gina, will appear on Teresa Lowe's "Where In The World" on Sunday, December 10th, on RTE One at 8.00 p.m.

# Ballyhaunis Rugby Club

**B**ALLYHAUNIS Rugby Club can be proud of its many historical achievements over the past twelve months and can look forward to continued success in 1996.

The Club undertook many initiatives in 1995. This was the first year that the new pitch was put into use and the Club received an encouraging boost in February when the Under-20 team were crowned Connaught League champions in a very exciting three-way play-off with teams from Sligo and Monivea.

It was a very proud day for the Club when Stephen Hosty, Chairman of the Connaught Youths' Branch, presented the cup to Mark Gallagher, Vice-Captain of the victorious Ballyhaunis winning team.

This was the first time that the Club had won a trophy of national significance. There have been quite a number of very good under-age teams representing the Club in the past, but they never had the good fortune to win a major competition.

The breakthrough would not have been possible without the efforts of Tony McDonagh, Brendan Morrissey and Kevin Henry, who coached and trained this team throughout the

**By Eamonn Healy.**

campaign – what is more encouraging is that some of these Under-20 team members are now the backbone of the Junior team.

In March the Club held a dinner-dance in Alberto's which was attended by over 200 guests. The guest of honour was Bobby McGann from the Connaught Branch, who presented the trophies to the Under-20 team members on that night.

Peter Gallagher, who is one of the founder-members of the Club, was selected as Club Person of the Year and was recipient of the Seán Freyne Memorial Trophy (sponsored by Bernie Freyne). He was selected by his fellow Club members for his outstanding contributions to the overall development of the Club over the previous twelve months.

For the first time in the Club's history, we hosted a touring party of forty-eight from Bayonne, New Jersey, U.S.A. Two 'friendlies' were played on the last Sunday in August, and a large function took place after the game in The Horse Shoe Inn.

The Captain of the touring party

was none other than George Delaney, a native of Abbey Street, who started at Under-Age and Junior level for Ballyhaunis in the 'eighties. Another prominent member of the Bayonne side was John O'Connor, who was also a regular with Ballyhaunis before emigrating to the U.S. Trainer / Manager of the Bayonne team was the highly esteemed Junior Geraghty who, along with his brother, Tom, was instrumental in launching the game of rugby in Ballyhaunis in the late 'seventies. Junior has retained strong links with this Club. In addition, he is now chief coach at Bayonne R.F.C. He is also in demand for refereeing duties in N.J. and New York.

On St. Stephen's Day the Club organised a game between the Present and a President's selection for the Mick Morris Memorial Trophy. The Dr. Declan Shields game was played on October 24th, between Ballyhaunis and Sligo, and ended in a convincing win for Ballyhaunis.

The Club now has plans to erect a set of goal posts on the second pitch. There are plans also to erect dressing-rooms on the grounds. At present we have the use of changing rooms



Front row: N. Delaney, M. Walsh, M. Gallagher, P. Walsh (Capt.); D. Delaney, T. Smyth, B. Freyne. Standing: D. Walsh, E. Healy, P. Cunnane (Cashel's Engineering); T. McDonagh, J. Colleran, T. Gleeson, A. Gorman, S. Julian, R. Caulfield, K. Comer, G. Connell, T. Henry, B. Morrissey, Referee.

Photo: Phillip Stratford.



at the Swimming Pool and we deeply appreciate the co-operation of the local Pool Committee, as well as Ger Munnelly, Engineer, Mayo County Council.

### Fudn-raising Sponsorship

Just like every other sports organisation, fund-raising is a necessity on an on-going basis, and due to the scale of our operation our budget is on the increase. Our main source of funds are:

1. The weekly Bingo session in Julians, Midfield, every Thursday night.
2. Our Lotto Draw takes place on the same night.

We appeal to the public to give us your support with these ventures.

We were most fortunate that Peter Cunnane, Cashel's Engineering, Aughamore, kindly agreed to sponsor a set of jerseys for the Junior team – this represented a very significant saving on our budget, and saves John Ryan (Treasurer), some anxiety.

Our FÁS scheme ended last Spring – there is no indication as to when our scheme will resume. Every effort is, at present, being made through the various official channels to have a scheme up-and-running in the near future.

The Junior team continue to participate in the Connaught League and Cup. They train each Tuesday and Friday along with the Under-18 team.

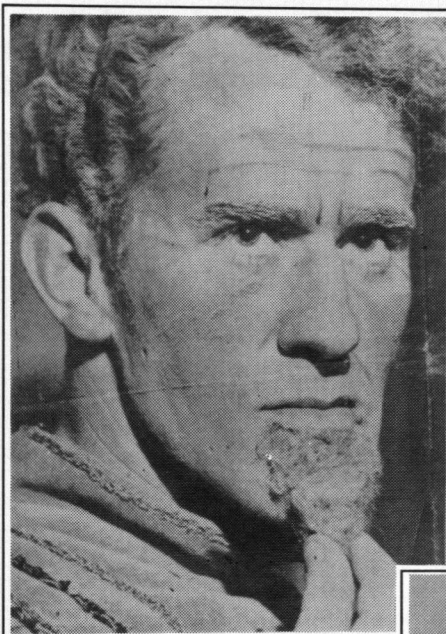
Training for the Under-16 and Under-14 teams takes place on Saturday mornings, under the control of Bernie Jennings, Kevin Henry, Tony Smyth and Dan Delaney.

### Membership

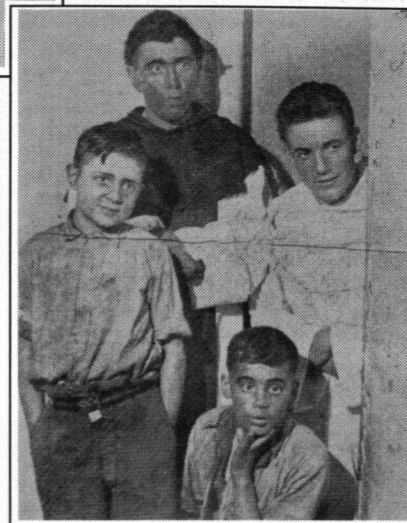
Anyone who wishes to become a member of our Club can do so by paying a subscription of £15 to Hugh Curley or John Ryan.

### Officers

President: David Walsh; Vice-President, Peter Gallagher; Hon. Secretary, Eamonn Healy; P.R.O. Tony Smyth; Delegates, Hugh Curley and Kevin Henry; Team Manger, Tony McDonagh; Fixtures Secretary, Brendan Morrissey; Treasurer, John Ryan.



Above: Costumed and made-up for his part of the father of Blessed Martin de Porres in "City of Kings," Joe Greene ponders his fate.



Left: Awaiting their cue; from left: Bertie Dillon, Seamus Durkan, Liam Baker (kneeling), Frank Glynn.



Ladies who shared credits in the cast; Back (left to right): Baby Johnston, Rosaleen Garvey. Front (left to right): Mary Hannah Jordan, Fiona Baker, René Flynn.

## City of Kings

Three photographs which appeared in the "Sunday Independent" 16th May 1954 showing members of the cast of the "Good Counsel Players," Ballyhaunis. The pictures were taken in Glennamaddy, Co. Galway during their 23rd performance of "The City of Kings." The play was produced by Very Rev. Fr. E.A. Mansfield O.S.A.

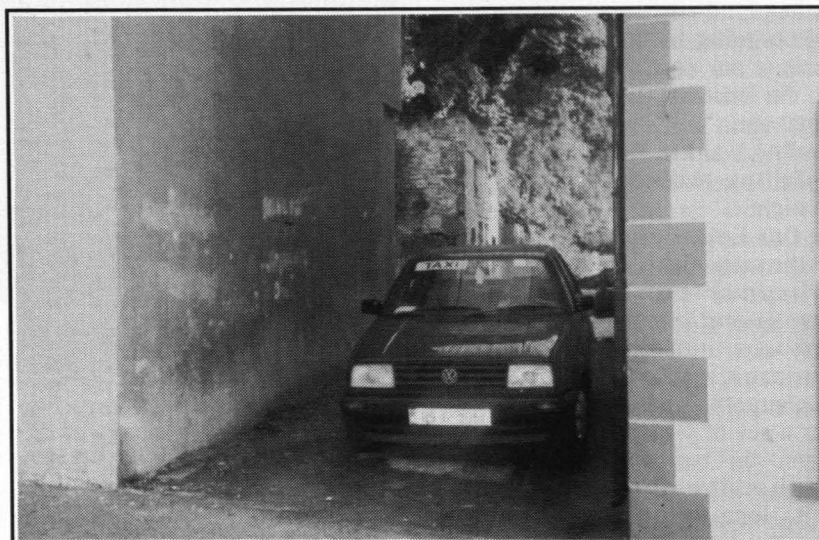
# The Dardanelles, Anne Frank and Jim Higgins

I met Matt O'Dwyer at the 200th Anniversary celebrations in Maynooth earlier in the year. He told me that he was on the "Annagh" committee and it would be expecting a piece from me. Over the past two years I have been engaged in writing a book about Winston Churchill and his connections with Ireland. Not much link there with Ballyhaunis, although I well recall my mother telling of Black and Tan atrocities in the locality.

**By Anthony Jordan.**

Then I discovered that the nadir of Churchill's career occurred during the First World War at the Dardanelles in Turkey. When I was a boy in Ballyhaunis, one of the local landmarks was the "Dardanelles," otherwise known as Moran's Terrace. It was a housing development for ex-British Army soldiers and located where the D.H. Burke supermarket carpark is today. There was an entrance from Upper Main St. - alongside P.D. Freely's - which still remains. The ruins of one of the old houses can still be seen through the alley. I well remember being surprised to discover that a leading educationalist in Ballyhaunis was completely unaware of this part of the historical culture of the place. I wonder are the nearby "Fairgreen" and "Lochán" also lost in time?

My study of Churchill led me to Amsterdam and the House of Anne Frank, and the subsequent organisation of a 50th Anniversary Exhibition to her memory in Sandymount, which, incidentally, also formed part of last summer's Boyle Arts Festival. An interview on "Morning Ireland," led to an invitation to the Government Commemoration for Jews who died in the Holocaust, and those Irish people who died in the two World Wars, while fighting in the British Army. This took place at the National War Memorial Park at Islandbridge, with Taoiseach John Bruton presiding. As my wife and I took our seats in the park, I said that I expected to see a Ballyhaunis man play a major



Entrance to "The Dardanelles" from Upper Main Street, 1995. The ruins of one of the houses is visible on the left.

role at the ceremony. Jim Higgins had recently been elected Chairperson of his Parliamentary Party, but was then elevated to become the Minister of State at the Department of Finance. Part of his portfolio was the Office of Public Works which included Islandbridge. "I expect he will be the person to host the Taoiseach," I told my wife. "They wouldn't let a Ballyhaunis man do that," came the reply from a jesting Claremorris person. As the media circus eased and the disparate personalities were seated, there was a hush as the gathering waited for the Taoiseach's arrival. There, as I had expected, was Jim Higgins, escorting his leader to the podium to begin proceedings. As the various elements of the morning's ceremony around the Memorial Park took place, I saw Jim continue leading the Taoiseach's retinue. I have to say that I was unashamedly proud to witness one of my own stock, one with whom I had so much in common, perform on the public stage.

Later, as we arrived at the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham for the reception, we first encountered Bertie Ahern

and Ray Burke. I congratulated Bertie on his recent speech at the Fianna Fáil commemoration at Arbour Hill. I asked his colleague did he regard himself as a Mayo man? "I most certainly do," Ray replied. Our time was limited as we anxiously awaited the arrival of Jim Higgins. One of the last groups to arrive was led by him. As he approached where we stood, I caught his eye and immediately he excused himself and joined us. Suddenly the strains of a public performance left him, as he relaxed among friends, free to chat away about matters of mutual interest and of our common heritage - Ballyhaunis.

That night RTE carried an interview from Islandbridge with Sir Patrick Mayhew. He said that the thoughts which came to his mind on that unique occasion, were words of Sir Winston Churchill when he said, that if ever he felt any bitter feeling rising in his heart about the Irish, he banished it with thoughts of those thousands of superb Irishmen who fought in the British Army, and of the famous Victoria Crosses which eight of them gained by their outstanding valour.

*Tony Jordan's book on Sir Winston Churchill, was published this year, entitled "Churchill, a Founder of Modern Ireland."*



# Community School

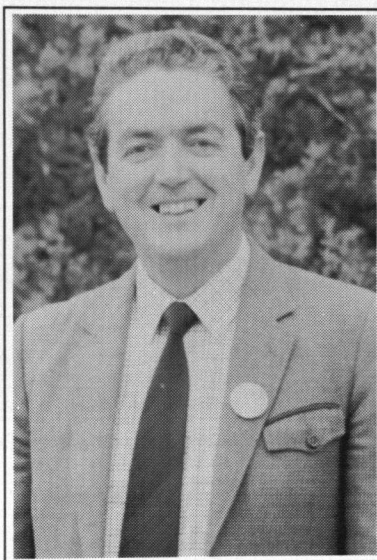
Since 1987, when we published an article on the school, a lot of exciting developments have taken place. Here we feature some of the highlights.

## The Extensions

Thanks to the foresight of our Principal, Mr. Eddie Thornton, six new class-rooms were built in 1990 to cater for the increase in pupil numbers. We now have seven-hundred pupils attending the school compared to about five hundred and fifty when we started out in 1977.

## Transition Year

Following from the more structured and prescriptive learning of the Junior Cycle, the Transition Year is an opportunity to take stock - to explore new and different ways of learning. It expands the learning environment beyond the school campus into the wider community and the world of work, and thus lays a secure foundation for more mature decision making with regard to



Mr. Eddie Thornton, Principal.

Leaving Certificate and beyond. Available to all schools since 1994, the Transition Year is an exciting and important development in Irish education.

*Mrs. Mary Reaney*

## On the Ground

Looking back on transition year brings a teary-eyed smile to our faces. Now the year is dead and gone, but the memory still lives on. We undertook the initial "bonding" process in Achill at the beginning of the year and from then on we were like peas in a pod. To be honest it wasn't all roses - we weren't always happy in our pod but it was where we were, so we made the most of it.

Between then and Christmas our mini-company "Creative Transitions" was up and running, producing top quality goods at a keen price. The success rate was alarming! We also went to Ballinrobe for a day to meet their Transition Year group. We had fun and games and laughter galore but alas and alack our mushy little hearts were crushed when we had to say goodbye. They returned the visit later in the year and the whole process was repeated in a similar fashion.

Before Christmas we had the first



Principals from "Fiddler on the Roof." Back (left to right): Conal Higgins, Cormac Cleary, Michael Nolan, Simon McCafferty, Eoin Butler, Mark Donnellan, Seamus Landon. Front (left to right): Shirley Keane, Evelyn O'Connor, Annette Fitzmaurice, Aileen Nestor, Clodagh Lyons, Noelle Biesty, Clodagh Shields.  
(Courtesy Phillip Stratford).

fortnight of work experience, the second was in May. They were both very interesting and beneficial.

Mike from America came and went but due to the short duration of his visit he didn't fully integrate in the pod. By March we were fully prepared to hit the high seas and try out hands at the lingo of the land (i.e. France), with some of our fourth year friends. The ferry over and back was transporting. The scenery was kind of blue, but we livened it up with a couple of "sea-shanties" and a pack of cards, which eased the night into the day.

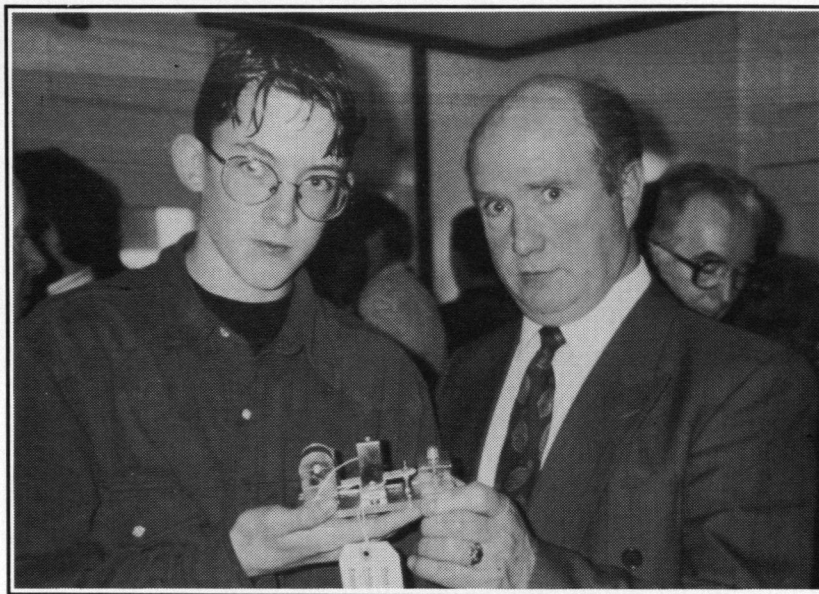
Our time in France was greatly enjoyed by everyone. The highlights included crossing "suicide bridge", skating on ice, a boat trip around Brest and the famous "boum" in the barn which had an outhouse nearby complete with sandpaper! When our French friends were back here with us, we spent a day in Dublin with the President who offered us such delicacies as plain biscuits and diluted orange.

Before they left us, we entertained them to their hearts' content with some Irish songs and folklore and some of them showed their appreciation by painfully dragging out an interesting rendition of "We are Sailing." Luckily, none of us took offence, and indeed, a few days later, they were sailing. On that chilly morning of their departure, they left us alone once more, seeking solace in the cosy nucleus of the pod. Those days we will never forget. Unfortunately, we are now missing a vital one of our twenty-three peas in the form of Darragh Eagney. We wish him well both now and in the future.

The rest of Tran. year passed joyously and without any major hiccups. At the end of May we had a graduation, and during one of our many recent reunions we all agreed it was a fine night.

On reflection, there are many things we could say to summarise transition year '94 - '95, but due to unforeseeable circumstances at the time of print, here is the best we could come up with: "Life moves pretty fast, if you don't stop and look around once in a while you could miss it."

*Sandra Walsh, Knockbrack,  
Olivia McLoughlin, Coogue,  
Rhiona Rochford, Knock Rd.*



Paul McConn pictured with his Engineering Teacher, Patsy Noone.

## Leaving Certificate Applied

We are one of the fifty schools in the country to have introduced this programme. In fact the school was involved in piloting the programme from its inception as Senior Certificate. For some students the academic Leaving Cert. Programme only brought poor results and frustration. The new programme is student-centered, places emphasis on personal development through work-experience and continuous assessment. Each student takes forty modules (courses) over two years for which he/she will be awarded one credit for successful completion. The student will also be assigned nine tasks. Subject areas as are interlinked e.g. Information Technology is part of each subject.

*Mr. Pat Higgins*

## Student Experience, Senior Certificate 1994 - '95

The Senior Cert. was a great idea for those who undertook it for one or two years. It has proved to be of benefit to those who left and have jobs on the practical side.

### In School

The Senior Cert. in school was geared towards a relaxed environment in the class room and the rela-

tionship with the teachers was strongly based, due to the practical side of the course e.g. Technology, Construction Studies, Food and Agriculture, Social and Cultural and Communications, to mention but a few. The courses we undertook could prove to be of benefit in the future, i.e. Meeting Procedures, Running a Mini-Company that we established. As a class, we sold things we made and invested the profits in the Mini-Company.

### Programmes

These are some of the projects that we did during the year. At the beginning of the year we decided to set up a branch of the Credit Union for all the students in the school. This was run throughout the year. In December we set up Trade Eireann, to sell products made by women in the Third World. Another programme we undertook was helping the people in Western Care with the planting of their garden. We also cleaned the playground in Ballyhaunis and sowed plants. It took a lot of hard work and understanding from the teachers involved.

During the year we had to do a programme of two blocks of two week work-experience. The work-experience was widely spread from Aghamore, Ballinlough, Ballyhaunis, Castlereagh, Claremorris and Tooreen.

### Activities

It was a very active year. We took



part in swimming, horse-riding and stable-management courses, for which we received certificates. As part of our activity course we spent three days in Achill, on the West Coast, enjoying various types of water sports and land games. This was the highlight of the year for many of us.

At the end of the year it all caught up with us. As for some subjects we had to submit a portfolio which we were marked on in our State Examinations.

*Vergal Kelly, Ballinlough*

## "Fiddler On The Roof"

We stage a musical every two years. In '89 we did "My Fair Lady", '91 - "Oklahoma", '93 - "Carousel." This gives every senior student a chance to get involved during their school career. This year over 180 pupils were involved during "Fiddler on the Roof", Oct. '95.

*Ms. Aine Whelan*

## The Performers View

"Fiddler on the Roof sounds crazy - no", but in our little town of Ballyhaunis nothing sounds crazy besides the students of Ballyhaunis Community School rehearsing for the October '95 production of "Fiddler on the Roof".

It all came "to life" back in September with auditions, which were not the most desirable part of

the show. After the casting was complete, the long awaited hours of rehearsals began, which were immensely enjoyable especially the times when students made those "little" blunders. Gradually, all the pieces were put together and the show was ready to roll. Nerves were frayed as the opening night approached. On the night it was a big success, all the hard work had paid off. Audiences came from near and far including some of the cast of the '85 production of "Fiddler on the Roof". It was, for all the cast an experience that can not be described.

On the closing night to celebrate the success of our musical a party was held in our school which was great fun, and which went on into the early hours of the morning!

Our success was due to all those people who helped in every possible way, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank those people. It was a memory that will never be forgotten.

*Oliver Jordan, Upper Main St. and  
Ciara Healy, Ballindrehid.*

## Other Highlights of the Year

On the academic front we are going through a "purple patch". This year Una Butler and Conal Dennedy won two of only seven Broderick Scholarships awarded annually off the Leaving Certificate results. Conal's award was for Irish, English and Technical Drawing while Una Butler's award was for

Irish, English and Physics and Chemistry.

Fintan Byrne won the SIPTU Award for excellence in the 1994 Leaving Cert. Paul McConn won the '95 Award for the best Engineering Project in Junior Cert. Lucy Kavanagh won the Kenny-Naughton All-Ireland Literary Award in 1995. The Slogagh group came first at the All-Ireland Finals in Wexford in 1995, we also had wins in '93 and '94. The Choral group won the All-Ireland in Cork in 1988.

On the Sports Field we have won Connaught Championships in: Gaelic Football:- Senior 'B' - 1993 Juvenile 'B' - 1987; Soccer:- Under-16 'A' 1993; Cross Country Girls:- Under-17, 1992; Hurling:- Juvenile 'C' 1995 Under-17 'C', 1989; Boys Basketball:- Under-16, 1993.

Since 1987 the following teachers have retired or moved to new pastures outside of teaching. Ms. Geraldine Garrett, Sr. Dolores, Mr. Michael Smyth, Sr. Assumpta, Miss Patricia Waldron, Mrs. Maura Griffin. Mrs. Vera O'Connell retired as lady attendant from the school.

We deeply regret the passing of Michael Glynn from the teaching staff and Julia Donohoe from the caretaking staff. We thank them for their good work.

Finally, we wish Mrs. Mary Freeley, Derrynacon, who is in her final year of teaching, a long life and happy retirement. Next year we hope to publish part one of her memoirs (all rights reserved!!!) so "stay with us."

*Matt O'Dwyer*



Una Butler, Doctor's Road, and Conal Dennedy, Knock.  
(Courtesy P. Glynn)



Fintan Byrne, Doctor's Road, with his parents, Brian and Peg.

# Deaths

## *November 1st, '94 to October 31st '95*

Eamon Meath, Clare St.  
Lena Finn, Gurteen  
Mrs. Theresa Lyons,  
Upper Main St.  
Mrs. Theresa Brady, Devlis  
Michael Dyer, Brackloon  
Patrick Barrett, Hazelhill  
Mrs. Mary Larkin, Devlis  
Thomas Buckley, Abbeyquarter  
Thomas Barrett, Station Rise  
Margaret Cunnane,  
Abbeyquarter  
Mrs. Norah Lyons,  
Kilbrogan and Devlis  
Anne Keane, Dublin  
Dominick O'Neill,  
Dublin and Clare St.  
John Waldron, Scrigg  
Rose Fitzmaurice, Dublin  
Mrs. Mary Hosty, Devlis  
Mrs. Anne Swift, Tavnaghmore  
John O'Brien, Tavnaghmore

Eamon Cribbin, Tooraree  
Patrick McGuire, Redford  
Mrs. Delia Ruane, Curries  
John Waldron, Cherryfield  
John Davitt, Abbeyquarter  
Mrs. Mary Ronayne Butler,  
Knock Road  
Mrs. Isabella Nally,  
Upper Main St.  
John Sweeney, Drimbane  
Mrs. Nora McGillicuddy, Knox St.  
James Lynskey, Gurteen  
Alfred Webb, Tooraree  
Mrs. May Grogan, Derrynacong  
Josie Burke, St. Gerard's Crescent  
Mrs. Patricia McGuire, Redford  
Patrick Cribbin, Moneymore  
Mrs. Margaret Lyons, Carrowkeel  
Mrs. Mary Kate Connor,  
Tavnaghmore  
Mrs. Mary D'Alton, Coolnafarna  
Patrick Swift, Tavnaghmore

Mrs. Julia Donohoe, Scrigg  
Mrs. Ellen Higgins, Knockbrack  
Joe Webb, Devlis  
Mrs. Margaret Hannon, Lecarrow  
John McGuire, Ballindrehid  
Mrs. Margaret Mulligan,  
Barrack St.  
Patrick Higgins, Curries  
John Walsh, Annagh  
Michael Tarmey, Holywell  
Mrs. Rita Flatley, Main St.  
James Lyons, Main St.  
John Lyons, Spaddagh  
Jessie Fitzmaurice,  
Bridge St. and London  
Sr. Bridget Cribbin, Johnstown  
and New Zealand  
Paddy McNicholas, Dublin  
Agnes McNicholas (néé Cribbin),  
Bushisland and Dublin  
Tom Cribbin,  
Lecarrow and England



Convent of Mercy, First Year A., Feb. 1968. *Back (left to right):* Bernadette Gormley, Kay Greene, Rosaleen Keane, Mary Lyons, Marion Ganley, Marion Cunnane, Josie Ganley, Kathleen Kearns, Mary Travers, Helen Tully. *Middle Row (left to right):* Marion Meehan, Marion Lyons, Marion McHugh, Mary Morley, Bernadette Kelly, Cáit Travers, Dymphna Cunnane, Eileen Commons, Helen Freeley, Mary Griffin. *Front (left to right):* Cabrina Naughton, Marceline Lyons, Tina Coyne, Bernadette Keane, Agnes O'Dwyer, Anne Halpin, Maura Hussey, Marion Freyne, Colette Hopkins.  
(Courtesy Rosaleen Kelly, Kiltiboe)



# Aspects of Ballyhaunis before the Great Famine

**M**uch has been written already this year about the Great Famine, which started 150 years ago. This short article attempts to look briefly at aspects of life in this part of the country in the years leading up to that terrible catastrophe. Next year, the course of the Great Famine and its immediate effects in this part of the country will be examined and discussed, and in the 1997 edition, the Famine's aftermath and long-term effects on Ballyhaunis and the parish of Annagh will be considered. Since the rural population was very high and that of Ballyhaunis town - which had only seventy houses in 1841 - insignificant in comparison, the emphasis here will be on life in the country.

## Pre-Famine Population

The population of Ireland increased steadily through the eighteenth century and towards the advent of the nineteenth century accelerated dramatically. There have been various estimates of the country's population during the eighteenth century based on different sources. The estimates differ from writer to writer, but most would agree to a figure of about two-million for the entire country by about 1690. By about 1750 it had increased to about three million, and by 1791 it was between four and five million. The most dramatic increase, however, occurred after 1791 when it continued to rise until the Great Famine began in 1845. It is estimated that by the mid 1840s the population of Ireland had reached eight million - an increase of 400% in one hundred and fifty years. What caused such an amazing increase? The answer can be found in the system of land-holding prevailing in Ireland at the time, and the increasing use of the potato as the sole dietary constituent. Both of these are dealt with below, but first a closer look at the Ballyhaunis area.

By Paul Waldron

## An Overcrowded Countryside

The population of Ireland just before the Great Famine was about eight million, twice today's figure. Ballyhaunis town contained seventy-one occupied houses in 1841, and had a population of 378. Rural Annagh civil parish (the old parish) had 1,409 houses and a population of 7,635. Rural Began civil parish contained 998 houses with a population of 5,505. While the population of Ballyhaunis town was quite small, the amount of people living in the surrounding country was unbelievable e.g. Grallagh townland, a rural farming community with eighty-five occupied houses in 1841, had fifteen more houses than the whole of Ballyhaunis town!

The first edition of the Ordnance Survey six-inch map (1838) shows houses all over the place: little cabins by the roadside and in corners where there was never a house to be seen within living memory; groups of houses huddled together where today only one or two houses or ruins stand. The census of population for 1841, which gives the numbers of people and houses in every townland lends statistical weight to the map evidence. It is interesting to note that the 1838 O.S. map, which is the earliest accurate map of the Ballyhaunis area available, was out of date almost as soon as it was published - it was surveyed in 1838, engraved and published in 1839, but on the 6th of January 1839 "The Night of the Big Wind", many of the cabins and houses depicted were flattened, and re-built in more sheltered locations!

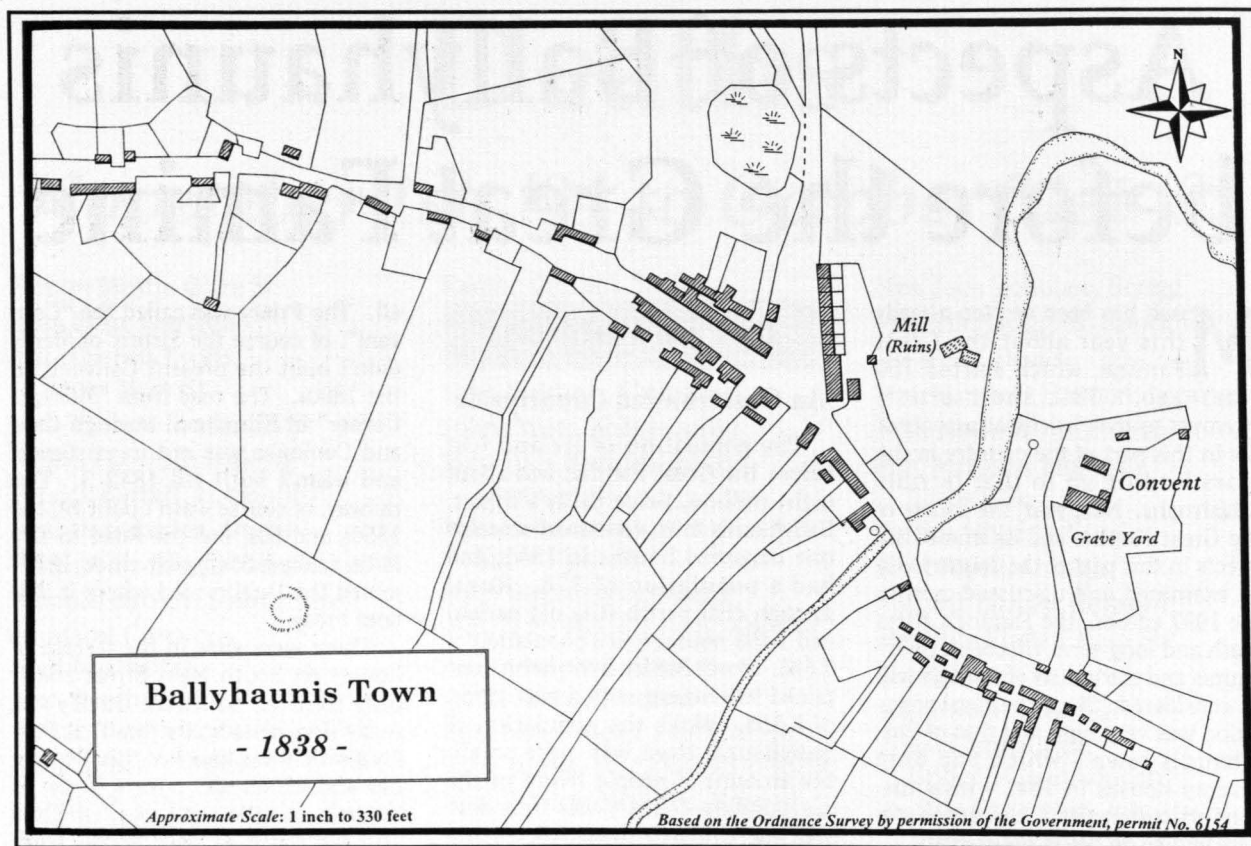
## The Town

This map (opposite) shows Ballyhaunis to have been quite a small town, with about seventy houses in

all. The Friary was called the "Convent", of course the Sisters of Mercy didn't build the present Convent till the 1890s. The road from "Morley's Corner" in Kilmannin through Cave and Coolnaha was not in existence, and wasn't built till 1842-3. The railway, of course wasn't built till the 1850s and 60s, but the Road to Dry Mills (called Irishtown since 1879) joined the Dublin road where it still does today.

There were gaps in the terrace of houses on South Main Street and it only went up to where Curley's is today (Incidentally, the "wall" at Curley's which was knocked this November and which was once a house is shown). A little track-way, which is still traceable, allowed access from approximately where the barrack's yard is today, to fields in Hazelhill. There was no Barrack Street or Chapel Street at the time. The houses on North Main Street went to about where Halpin's is today. There was no parish church and the Parish Priests Fr. McManus (c.1814-36) and Fr. Coyne (1836-52) would have ministered mainly in Logboy.

Knox Street was a terrace of seven small houses on the east side (of which Fred Herr's is probably the only survivor today), with some bigger houses where the Bank of Ireland is today. There were no houses on the north side of Bridge Street, and only two or three on the south side, from the end of Clare Street to where Freeley's is today. The town well is shown beside the river, with another well across the road at the bottom of the Friary hill. Clare Street did not exist as such, and that side of the town was open country from The Square. The Friary Grounds haven't changed that much, except that the old three-storey Friars' house was there, and there was a house where the phone booths are now at the Friary Gate (or the "Convent Gate" as it would also have been known). Abbey Street was



a haphazard collection of both cabins and bigger houses, all on the south side. The building across from the Friary Gate was the National School and it has been described as a long, low, thatched building.

The river north of the Bridge, and between present-day Delaney's and the Friary was much wider and shallower, and remained so until drainage schemes later in the century. The Lochán is shown clearly, as a weedy pond beside the road to Ballaghaderreen. A track-way shown veering to the left, off this road followed the top of the eskers, behind present day Morley's in Kilmannin, through Grogan's sand-pits, to the villages of Cave and Togher. The ruins of a mill between Knox St. and the river is evident.

### Land and the People

Though there were some large, relatively well-off farmers and graziers in the Ballyhaunis area, by-and-large the population was one of small tenant farmers and labourers. These carried out a subsistence type agriculture, growing as much as they needed, or, as much as they could. Some commentators (e.g. journal-

ists, Government officials) at the time saw them as idle and "inclined to laziness", but what were they expected to do when their rent would be increased if they carried out any improvements or innovated in any way? Anyway, they had no legal claim to the land: most held their land "at-will", that is, without a lease or any legal document which would safeguard their interest in it, so why should they have bothered rising above subsistence level with the possibility of a rent-hike or eviction around the corner?

Much of the land was held in "rundale", which means that a group of tenants held a piece of land in common, and divided it amongst themselves so that each tenant would have a parcel of good, middling and poor land. As a consequence, these co-tenants built their houses and cabins close together in little villages. This method allowed for the easy subdivision of holdings. Emigration was still quite rare, and was the preserve of the better off and more adventurous types. There were few enough employment opportunities outside of agriculture, and so, it was the usual thing to try and obtain

a piece of land, set up a cabin, marry early, and try to survive as best one could. Then as now, parents wanted to provide for their children's future - after all, their children would be their "social security" in old age. Parents therefore thought nothing of dividing their land with a number of their children. Such subdivision of holdings accounts for the numerical strength of some surnames in particular townlands, e.g. The Hunts and Cribbins in Lecarrow, Lynskeys in Gurteen, Ganlys in Drimbane, Freeleys in Scregg, McGuires in Ballykilleen, Fitzmaurices in the Forthill and Brackloon areas, Lyons in Classaghroe, Spaddagh and Cooloughra, Waldrons in Cave and Derrymore, Grogans in Killinaugher and Morleys in Clagnagh and Lissaniska.

### The Potato

The nutritional value of the potato meant that people could live on that food crop alone, with very little else to supplement their diet. The amount of ground needed to grow enough potatoes for a family for a year was very small, compared with other food crops, and people were happy enough, and had to be



content with having just enough to feed them for the year. There was not much point having twenty or thirty acres when you could grow all your food (potatoes) and a rent crop (grain) for a year on five acres; so, parents divided their holdings with their children, thus allowing them to be independent, get married, rear families etc. In turn these children would cater for these families as best they could in the same way, and as far as the acreage of their land would allow. Over a number of generations some fair sized holdings and farms were reduced to complicated patchworks of small, scattered holdings.

It can be seen therefore that the goodness of the potato made people healthier and lowered the infant mortality rate; there were thus more people living long enough to marry and have families of their own; the land-holding situation allowed for places to be divided easily, emigration was only beginning to become widespread, people were content with enough land and so holdings got smaller and smaller as the population grew and grew.

### Agriculture on the Dillon Estate

Much of Annagh parish, and the adjoining parishes of Began and Aghamore belonged to the Viscount Dillon estate, and an idea of the type of farming carried out here can be gained from the following evidence given to a commission investigating the state of agriculture in Ireland in 1843. The witness was Thomas Dillon, a farmer and Merchant in Ballyhaderreen. No witnesses from the Ballyhaunis area were interviewed, but the following, dealing as it does with the Viscount Dillon estate is very relevant to us:

"The area is principally tillage land; the whole state of the country is in a state of nature, it is altogether untouched by the hand of man. There is an immense quantity of land that might be made productive by an improved system of agriculture."

"The people merely sow as much crop as will bring them over to the next season, and as much corn as will pay the rent, and they go over to England to earn as much as will buy the clothing of the children, as much as they want. If they can

secure a cabin and potatoes, that is their great aim."

"The low condition of the people arises altogether from the want of the proper direction of the energies of the people themselves. They appear to be perfectly indifferent about their comforts or their farms, and they appear to be more disposed to idleness."

"If the land was properly divided and proper fences made, that each man had what he could understand to be his own portion cut out for him, and he was fairly rented, not too high and saw a prospect of getting on in the world, it would induce him to turn his attention to improve his circumstances. If tenants were better educated, they would make improvements and be better off."

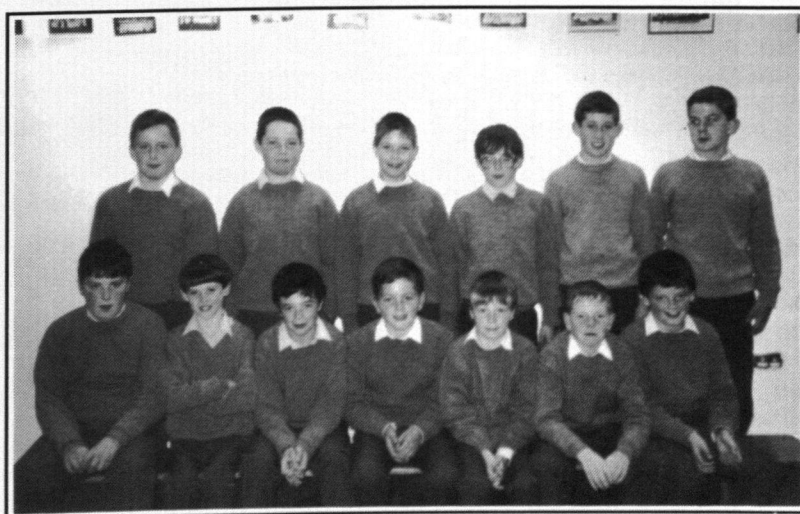
"..... The tenants themselves if they got their portion of land each to himself, they would carry out the same improvements (as the landlords should be carrying out), with comparatively no outlay, in as much as their families and themselves would always be on the spot, and could avail themselves of idle times and occasional hours to do those things that would cost the landlord or a public company an immense sum of money. It appears to me that an agricultural education would be of the greatest advantage to the people. I've been constantly endeavouring to urge the people onto try

(growing) green crops. They appear to be impressed with the notion that it was impossible, in consequence of their cattle going over it during the winter; but properly dividing and fencing the land would be an answer to that objection."

So, as far as Tom Dillon was concerned, dividing the land up properly, and educating the tenants in proper and efficient farming methods were the solutions. If these were carried out, then the tenants could devote themselves to the improvement of what they could recognise to be theirs. It is known that for some years before the Great Famine, townlands were being divided-up or striped amongst the tenants; this activity increased through the 1850s and 60s, but that it is an interesting story in itself and beyond the scope of this article.

### Conclusion

In the late 1830s and early 1840s Ireland had a growing population, putting pressure on a limited amount of available land. The population was virtually dependent on a single food-crop. There were no properly developed structures to deal with a large-scale food-shortage or health crisis. In the words of Donald McCartney "The situation in Ireland in the 1840s was one of a teeming population of over 8 million living on the brink of disaster."



Mass Servers in St. Patrick's Parish Church, that attend St. Mary's National School; Back (left to right): Tommy O'Dowd, John Fitzmaurice, Robert Coyne, Hugh Carney, Colm Rudden, Eoin McManus. Front (left to right): Padraic Carney, Niall Richardson, Patrick Waldron, Brian Mulrennan, Fergal Walsh, Alan Lyons, Paul Lynch.

# Bosnia 1995

Every so often a very worthy cause comes along, a group of us not attached to any particular organisation get together and organise a collection for that cause. This year it was the turn of Bosnia. It is hard for us to visualise the terrible conditions that those people were living in, particularly the Muslim population. Things were so bad out there that they had no running water, no schools, no gas, no electricity, little or no governmental structure to run the place. The Christians (so called) were not making it any easier either. I have generalised the term Christian because in Bosnia you have the Croats (Catholics) and the Serbs (Greek orthodox) and, where I don't want to get into the politics of that country, it appears that Bosnia is mainly Muslim, the Croats and the Serbs seem to be well armed and there is no love lost between the lot. As a result, the Muslims (poorly armed) were ethnically cleansed from the regions and sought refuge in different enclaves in the large towns. It was those people that we turned our attention to.

## By Bernard Freyne

In the fall of 1994 a call went out for aid for Bosnia. Eileen Lyons collected some clothes and went to the centre in Castlebar with them, there she met Catherine Booth, who is from Wexford and who was organising a national collection for the people of Bosnia, in particular the Muslims. After hearing what Ms Booth had to say she decided to start a collection in earnest in Ballyhunis. That night, after she arrived home, the phones in the area started ringing. "We're away again, this time its for Bosnia." Now, for those of you who don't know, the two previous collections were for Liberia in west Africa.

It was decided that we would hold the collections on the 19th and 20th of February. I was volunteered to go on radio with Gerry Glennon on the Paula Walsh programme. As a result of that programme and other advertising we were completely overwhelmed by the response. We expected about three or four hun-

dred bags of clothes plus other bits and pieces of cutlery and household goods. We thought that if we filled a seven tonne rigid lorry we would be doing very well. Were we in for a surprise.....? When it comes to a genuine cause, the generosity of the people of the west of Ireland comes to the fore. We filled, jammed tight, two forty-foot containers with all sorts of goods: medical supplies, tinned food, clothes, plastic sheeting, old radios, old sewing machines, bicycles and toys etc. The parcels and bags came from every corner of the West and Northwest: there were the school children from Kiltimagh who held their own collection and bought goods with the proceeds; the ladies in Claremorris who bought baby feeding bottles; the lady from near Louisburgh who collected the medical equipment and made two journeys with it; other generous people in places like Mayo Abbey, Strandhill, Co. Sligo, and Tuam.

Special thanks must go to Mr. Joe Burke of D.H. Burke's for supplying the premises free for the duration of the collection; to Mr. Michael Diskin

for all his help and for taking the abuse that he got; to the Junior Vincent de Paul for their help in the loading of the containers; to the other volunteers, too numerous to mention, who came to the centre any time they had an hour to spare. Without their help Bosnia '95 would not have been possible. A special thanks to Mr. Paul Claffey and his staff at Midwest and Northwest Radio for all the publicity and for keeping it in the forefront of people's minds while the campaign lasted. Many thanks to all. The team behind the effort: Eileen and Kevin Lyons, Helen and Joe Byrne, Bridie Waldron and Mary Freyne.



Left to right: Bernard Freyne, two helpers from Waterford, Jim Donnelly, Catherine Booth, Kevin Lyons, Eileen Lyons, Helen Byrne, Mary Freyne, Tim Byrne and a helper from Waterford.



# A First for Ballyhaunis

## G.A.A. Under-Age Players

**T**hirty-five Under-Age players, accompanied by eighteen adults, left Ballyhaunis by coach, driven by Micky Joe Lyons, in the early hours (4.30 am) of Friday, November 3rd, 1995 - destination Manchester. History was in

the making as this was the first time an Under-13 and Under-14 team travelled outside Ireland and the following article tells its great success.

We arrived in Dun Laoghaire at 8.30 am and waited anxiously for

**By Gerry Lyons**

*Secretary, Lanchashire Tour Committee.*

Michael Webb to arrive from a school tour of Austria. He joined his team mates with ten minutes to spare. David Murphy had to be collected from the Pierre Hotel, where a five minute walk turned out to be a twenty-five minute walk, but all were assembled on-deck for departure at exactly 9.15 am.

The trip over was occupied by inspecting the ship, viewing the coastline and enjoying breakfast. Meanwhile, some of the adults entertained themselves to some fine games of twenty-five with Pierce Higgins, Hugh McKermitt and Hugh Carney taking the laurels. We left Holyhead at 1.30 and our journey to Manchester took us through the impressive countryside of Wales, and its motorways tunnelled into the mountain sides. We arrived in Manchester one and a half hours ahead of schedule and, after being persuaded by thirty-five youngsters, we dined at "McDonald's" prior to meeting at the Chorlton Association Irish Club. Thanks to Ann Curley and Eileen Jordan for organising the kids for the meal.

At 6.30 pm we met officers, members and parents of the Lanchashire County Board and were welcomed by Paddy Farry, P.R.O. of the Board and formerly from Cootehall in Roscommon. While being showered with tea and sandwiches the youngsters were allocated their homes for the weekend. That evening, we were entertained to music from a local band. Brian Flanagan gave his own rendering of recent hits with Irish jokes thrown in, Murt Hunt recited the "Rooster" and "The Boys in Blue" to great applause while John Joe Kelly sang "Slievenamon."



Waiting for the bus, top to bottom, left to right: Martha Gallagher, Gerry Lyons, Eileen Jordan, Ann Curley (PRO, Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club), John Joe Kelly (treasurer, Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club), Brian Flanagan, Shay Walsh, Hugh McKermitt, Murt Hunt, Derek Walsh, John Joe Hoban and Pierce Higgins.

Courtesy Gerry Lyons.



The Ballyhaunis and Lancashire Under-13 panels and supporters.

Courtesy Gerry Lyons.

### Saturday the 4th

We assembled at Hough End Park at 2.30 pm for the match between the Ballyhaunis and Lancashire Under-13 teams. The Ballyhaunis team lined out as follows under the guidance of John Prenty and Tommy Waldron: David Murphy, Padraic Carney, Patrick Freeley, Patrick Waldron, Keith Higgins, Murt Hunt, Fergal Walsh, Christy McCrudden, Derek McConn, John Prenty, Paul Prenty, Alan Healy, Ian Prenty, Hugh Carney and John Freeley, subs used: Tadhg Buckley, Noel McGuire, Paul Jordan, Alan Lucey, Colm Gallagher and Ciarán Waldron.

The final scoreline of Lancashire 5-4 to Ballyhaunis 4-6 portrayed a very exciting game. Patrick Freeley had a good game at full-back, the half-back line of Keith Higgins, Murt Hunt and Fergal Walsh had a great game, Derek McConn was consistent at mid-field while the pick of the forwards were Hugh Carney with 2-3, Paul Prenty with 1-3, Christy McCrudden with 1-0 and Alan Healy.

That evening and night, various activities were organised by the Lancashire parents on behalf of the Under-Age visitors such as Bonfires (it was Guy Fawke's Day in England), bowling, the pictures, etc...

Later that evening, officers and members of the Ballyhaunis party were invited to "The Irish Heritage Centre", a building which exhibits the history of the Gaelic Athletic

Association from its beginnings to its present day. It made us very aware of how strong our culture/heritage is abroad. We were guests to the Lancashire County Board for evening dinner and afterwards were entertained by no less an entertainer than "Margo." The night ended on a high note with our very own Tom Waldron's renditions of some of the great Elvis Hits ... and Mick O'Connell with the "West's Awake."

### Sunday the 5th

Sunday started with Mass at St. John's in Chorlton. Afterwards, we headed once again for Hough End Park where the Under-14 Blitz was taking place. Unfortunately Yorkshire failed to turn up so a game, for a set of plaques, proceeded between the Ballyhaunis Under-14s and Lancashire. The Ballyhaunis team were as follows: Tadhg Buckley, Patrick Freeley, Desmond Lyons, Alan Healy, Anthony Curley, Brendan Rudden, Murt Hunt, Michael Webb, Tomás Murphy, Paul Prenty, Christy Lyons, Micheál Walsh, Derek McConn, James Mulrennan and Christy McCrudden; subs used: Tyoib Idrees for Derek McConn, Jonathan Powers for Christy Lyons (Eddie Murphy and Gary Nolan travelled, but were on the injured list).

The first half was close with Ballyhaunis playing with a strong wind. Brendan Rudden played a blinder contributing 1-1 to a half-time

score of 2-3 to 0-1. In the second half, Ballyhaunis stepped up a gear and finished easy winners. There were also good performances from Desmond Lyons at full-back, Alan Healy at left corner-back, Michael Webb at centre-field; best of the forwards were James Mulrennan, Michael Walsh, Paul Prenty and Tyoib Idrees. The mentors John Joe Hoban, Tommy Glynn and Gerry Lyons were impressed with the players on the day.

At a presentation ceremony later that evening Fr. Ahern, President of the Lancashire County Board presented plaques to the Ballyhaunis team. He noted that some of the names such as Curley, Rudden, Webb may one day wear the Mayo jersey with distinction. John Flanagan, Chairman, asked the players not to remember just their winning of the plaques, but to remember their visit to Lancashire to Ballyhaunis where friendships were made and in the future friends can come and go from Lancashire to Ballyhaunis and vice versa.

John Joe Kelly, on behalf of the Ballyhaunis GAA Club, acknowledged the sincerity of the welcome by Lancashire; he spoke of the efforts that Paddy Farry and others were making in promoting our National games and pastimes in Lancashire. John Joe also reaffirmed what John Flanagan said and encouraged our players in making friendships and also partaking in our National pastimes such as dancing and music. He thanked all the



parents who accommodated the youngsters over the weekend; he also thanked Lyons' Coaches for the efforts they had put into the trip.

John Joe, in concluding, asked Gerry Lyons to make a presentation of Galway Cut Glass on behalf of the Ballyhaunis Club to Lancashire. Paddy Farry accepted the Presentation on behalf of the Lancashire Board and likewise made a presentation to the Ballyhaunis Club. Paddy spoke of the welcome which was extended to them during the FÉile Peil na n'g in Ballyhaunis in July of this year and said he was delighted to return the compliment today. John Prenty, as Secretary of the Connaught Council, complimented the Lancashire Board on the tireless work that the officers and members were doing in promoting our games and said he would endeavour in his capacity as Connaught Secretary to set up coaching sessions in Lancashire over the next six months.

Over the weekend Mick O'Connell met Joe Mullarkey, formerly from Tullaghaun, who played Gaelic football in the fifties with Ballyhaunis. Mick also met the Walsh brothers

whose brother Sean lives in Drimaderra; Jim Prendergast from Knock who is brother of Fran Prendergast and a frequent visitor to "The Cape" in Ballyhaunis and Tommy Cassidy, son of Peter Cassidy, a native of Tooraree. Murt Hunt had long discussions with the Greallys from Killinaugher while Hugh Carney met his neighbour Martin Quinn from Classaroe.

John Prenty took four Under-10 players to his uncle's home, Jack Hunt (brother of Mrs. Bea Prenty) for the weekend and also had time to get into conversation with Noel Fitzmaurice, formerly from Togher and brother of Luke, former member of the Connaught Council and Mayo County Board. John Joe Kelly met with Angela Lyons who is related to the Herts of Knox Street. Tommy Glynn had a long chat with Terry Cribbin whose relations are from Drimbane and who is a first cousin of Gerry Cribbin. Derek Walsh from Knockbrack travelled from Birmingham to meet with his Ballyhaunis friends and we also met Tommy Leonard from Crossard who has played at all levels for Ballyhaunis and is currently playing with St.

Laurence's in Manchester. We also met Tom Garvey's sister from Carrowندان who is married to John McTiernan; She worked in John Forde's Ltd. as a young girl.

There were many more people whom we met, but at the time of writing I cannot recollect their names only to thank them for making our stay a welcome one. I would like to thank Tom Fox (who has relations in the Logboy area) who organised the accommodation and to Noel Burke from Abbeyknockmoy, Co. Galway, who ensured that taxis or mini-buses were available at all times.

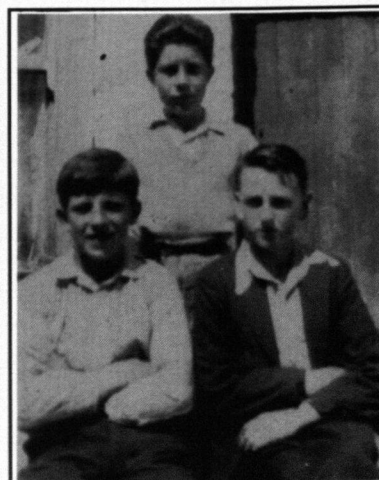
After lots of goodbyes we departed from Lancashire at 11 pm for Holyhead. The boat left at 3.30 am for Dun Laoghaire and arrived there at 7.15 am. Most of the journey was occupied in catching-up on lost sleep. Everyone awaited eagerly a full Irish Breakfast at "Mother Hubbard's."

We arrived into Ballyhaunis at 1.45 pm at the conclusion of a very successful trip (it was half past ... when some of us finally got home!) where memories are of our Lancashire friends who treated us as one of their own.

I would also like to acknowledge all the people who contributed to our sponsored walk, to the Parochial Hall Bingo committee who made a very generous donation to the Club and to the organising committee who made the tour possible.



Ballyhaunis National School, 1960: *Back (left to right):* Anthony Plunkett, Mike Webb, Joe Freeley, Walter Waldron, Eamon O'Reilly, Pat Healy, J.P. Murphy. *Fourth Row (left to right):* Noel Armstrong, \_\_\_\_\_, Micheál Webb, John Prenty, Gerard Lyons, John Culliney, Martin Murphy. *Third Row (left to right):* Eamonn Healy, Tom McGuire, Billy Lyons, Pearse Waldron, John Brennan, Sean Beisty, Jimmy Cribbin, Tommy Murphy. *Second Row (left to right):* Ted Webb, (R.I.P.), John Coyne, J.T. Smyth, Liam Connell, Pat Regan, Gerard Griffin (R.I.P.), Georgie Hannan. *Front Row (left to right):* Tommy Egan, \_\_\_\_\_, John Cassidy, Martin Brennan, Jim Fleming. (Courtesy Mrs. O. Waldron)



School Friends, 1930s. *Left to right:* Seamus Walsh, Seamus O'Connell, Joe Tarpey. (Courtesy Dr. Joe Tarpey)

# A Neighbour Remembered

**T**om Lyons who owned a public house in Bridge St., Ballyhaunis, was my next door neighbour during all of my school going days, and indeed, until I was well into my twenties. He was a good neighbour, performing many kind deeds surreptitiously, while as a publican he was considered to have few equals, because at a time when the day to day cleanliness of a pub wasn't of the highest pecking order, Tom Lyons' "Eagle Bar" and Lounge could be described as a showpiece. It was known far and wide for its clinical spotlessness and impeccable hygiene. I pen these lines at the behest of my good friend Mr. Tom Gilmore of Devlis, Ballyhaunis, who is the only nephew of Tom Lyons now resident in the Ballyhaunis area.

Tom Lyons was born in Drim, Brickens, Claremorris, and attended Brickens National School. Shortly after leaving school he went to Brett's business premises in

**By Mick O'Connell.**

Claremorris to serve his time. Like most shops of that era, Brett's carried on mixed trading and bar. Like many of his contemporaries, he, with his brother Martin, took the emigrant ship for America around 1910. After years of tireless endeavour he managed, and later owned a tavern in New York. Always interested in boxing he became actively associated with the sport, and won several bouts culminating in a splendid win over a tough opponent in Madison Square Garden, New York. However, his promising boxing career was brought to an end due to a severe knee injury sustained when training with the U.S. Army.

## Protégé

Tom Lyons was instrumental in having Tom Glynn from Cloonlara,

Brickens, travel to the U.S. and being a man of powerful stature, Glynn was soon making a name for himself in the boxing arenas in New York and other major U.S. cities. When Tom Glynn seemed to be certainly headed for the "big time", he had reluctantly to retire from the ring on medical advice due to a deteriorating condition affecting his hands. However, Tom Glynn remained close to the boxing game, and became friends of many of the leading boxers of the 'thirties' including Joe Louis, Max Baer, Max Schmeling, James J. Braddock and others, becoming a sparring partner for some of them.

## Publican and Steamship Agent

Tom Lyons returned to Ireland in the early 'twenties, and soon after, married Miss Mary Connolly



Tom Lyons behind the bar of his New York Tavern circa 1916/17.

(Courtesy Tom Gilmore)



of Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis, who was niece of Mr. John Kenny who owned a thriving drapery business in Main Street, which some years later was destroyed by fire.

Tom Lyons set up his pub business in Bridge Street, and also became an agent for the Cunard White Star Line Shipping Company. He also became proprietor of the Dublin Road Garage in Clare Street, Ballyhaunis, which flourished for many years until the emergency period when the restrictions relating to motor vehicles made it impossible to continue in business. Tom Lyons retained the petrol pumps from his Clare Street, enterprise, and had them re-located outside his Bridge Street premises where they remained a feature until their removal some years ago.

### Boxing Enthusiast

Very much interested in the local Boxing Club, Tom's expert advice and wise counsel were much appreciated. Ballyhaunis boxers of that time under the guidance of one time World Heavyweight Boxing contender Jim Coffey went on to gain many laurels including All-Ireland titles. Tom Lyons was also associated with the organising of the International Boxing tournaments against Italy, France and Germany held in Ballyhaunis in the 'thirties.

Tom Lyons retired from business in the late 'fifties, and the pub changed hands a number of times.

### Gone

Alas, the pub known as "The Eagle Bar" has gone, and like other relics of old decency it will not be forgotten by those of us old enough to have imbibed there.

Tom Lyons was brother of Mrs Margaret Gilmore, Devlis, Ballyhaunis. Two other sisters and a brother, Mary and Helen and Michael, resided in America as did Martin already mentioned. Another brother John occupied the home place at Drim, Brickens. All of them have now departed this life. Go ndeanaigh Dia trócaire ar a n-anamnacha go leir.

# Centenarian Plus

By Joe Greene.

**M**y Aunt Mrs. Mary Dooley (néé McGuire) of Fort Lauderdale, Florida celebrated her 105th birthday last June. She was born in Ballindrehid on the 28th of June 1890. That was the year of the Parnell Split; Parnell died the following year. Michael Davitt lived on for another sixteen years and the Bold Captain Boycott survived another seven years. Benjamin Harrison was President of the U.S.A.

My Mother, who died in 1993 in her one-hundredth year used to say that they were both baptised in the old Parish Church and that they had both sung in the choir. They also remembered as pupils of the Convent collecting for the new Church.

Aunt Mary left from Cobh for America in the early part of the century in her teens and since then she has never returned to Ireland. My mother met her in New York in the middle twenties - they were never to meet again. However, down the long years they corresponded monthly and her letters show that she had never lost her love for Ireland and for Ballyhaunis.

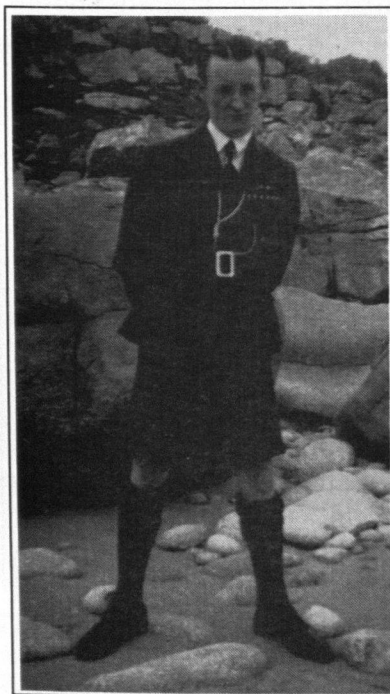
For the last number of years she has received a letter on her birthday from the President of Ireland, Mrs. Mary Robinson, and this has been a great source of pride and joy to her son James and her many grandchildren.



The Morley family, Knox St., and friends celebrate Marion Morley's 21st Birthday, 1959. Back (left to right): Bertie Dillon, John Morley, Marion Morley, Tony Greene, Johnny Biesty. Second Row (left to right): Carmel Johnston, Susan Morley, Nancy Morley (R.I.P.), Claire Morley (R.I.P.), Frances Morley, Marcella Greene, Sarah Owens (R.I.P.). Third Row (left to right): Irene Morley, Hilary Dillon, Norrie Dillon, Catherine Beisty. Front (left to right): Michael Morley, Myra McGillicuddy, Ann Stafford (Kit Keane's niece), Marguerite Morley. (Courtesy Susan Nally, Athenry)



The very popular Sergeant Mary Clarke, the first Lady Garda Sergeant ever in Ballyhaunis. A Native of Co. Longford, she was stationed here from 1994 till April 1995 when she was transferred to Omeath, Co. Louth.



George Murray, Devlis, Scoutmaster in the forties.  
(Courtesy Dr. Joe Tarpey)

### Photographs from the Sergt. Lyons Collection



John Carney, Carrowkeel standing beside a standing stone near his home.  
(Courtesy the Archaeology Department, U.C.G.)



Wrenboys in Abbey St. c.1903, with the Friary in the background.  
(Courtesy the Archaeology Department, U.C.G.)



Travellers encampment at Spaddagh, c.1903.  
(Courtesy the Archaeology Department, U.C.G.)



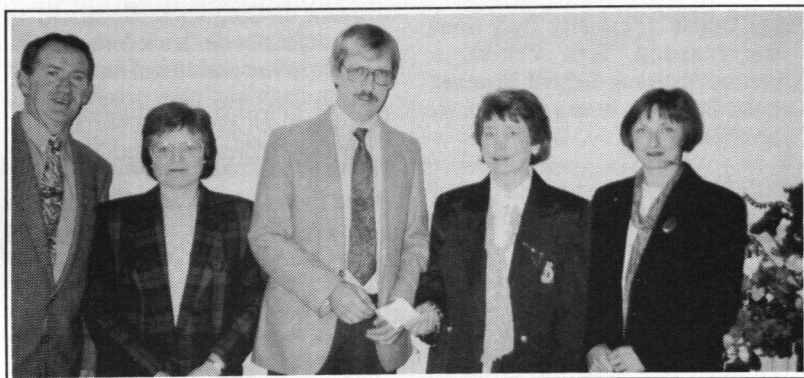
Travellers encampment at Spaddagh, c.1903.  
(Courtesy the Archaeology Department, U.C.G.)





President Mary Robinson on her visit to Sao Paulo, Brazil being welcomed by the Sisters of St. Louis. On her right is Sr. Helen Regan from Ballyhaunis.

(Courtesy Mrs. Delia Regan, Abbey St.)



Handing over the profits from Derrylea N.S. Reunion to Senior Citizens' Fund. Left to right: Joe Byrne, Helen Meehan, Terry Fitzmaurice, Kathleen McBride, Bridget Lynskey.

(Courtesy Helen Meehan)

## Births

*Annagh Magazine is happy to welcome into the community the following children, born from November 1st, '94 to October 31st, '95.*

David Patrick Bance  
 Conor Christopher Jordan  
 Richard Michael Niland  
 Megan Leigh Carroll  
 Jason Hubert Fahy  
 Keith Patrick Plunkett  
 Charlene Mary Coffey  
 Lisa Ann O'Connell  
 Jamie Paul Skeffington  
 James Finbarr Reidy  
 Hannah O'Dowd  
 Gerard Laurence Freeley  
 Edel Marie Fitzmaurice  
 Daniel Thomas McDermott  
 Jason Philip McGoldrick  
 Elaine Mary Vesey  
 Eadoin Lyons  
 Michael O'Rourke  
 Aisling Marie Leddy  
 Cyril Laurence Collins  
 Morgan Daniel Lyons  
 Kevin Patrick Kilbride



Ruane's Stations, Derrintogher, 1995. Back (left to right): Roseanne Freyne, Michael Regan, Anne Marie Mullarkey, Jordan Costello, John Costello, Finbarr Spellman, Natalie Spellman. Front (left to right): Michael Mullarkey, David Hussey, Anne Marie Costello, Bernadette McNamara, Alison Ruane, Garrett Spellman, Shirley Spellman.

(Courtesy Betty Regan)

# Contributors

*Some of our readers may not be familiar with all of our contributors, so the following brief biographical notes may be of interest :*

**Martin Forde** is a native of Island and is a farmer. As well as being a talented actor, he has produced a number of plays, some of which have been broadcast on MWR fm.

**Lyudmila Baturina.** An English teacher by occupation, Lyudmila lives and works in Minsk, Belarus (part of former U.S.S.R.). She accompanied the Chernobyl children to Ballyhaunis this year as their interpreter.

**Tony Boyle** lives at present in Galway. A former member of the bar staff in Gallagher's, Main St., he has been a regular contributor to Annagh magazine for many years.

**Rachel O'Connor** is daughter of Rory and Margaret O'Connor, and grand-daughter of Mary Hannah and the late Jack O'Connor MPSI.

**Michael Godfrey.** A native of Tullaghaun in the parish of Annagh, Michael now resides in Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon. A gifted poet and song-writer, he has written several famous songs which have been recorded by Margo, amongst others.

**Bill Naughton.** Born in Ballyhaunis, Bill and his family moved to Bolton, England, in his childhood. He has become recognised as one of the most important figures in English Literature and his better known works include "Spring and Port Wine" and "Alfie."

**Maria Rochford and Catriona Fahy** are both Students of the Community School. Maria is daughter of Billy and Nell Rochford, Knock Rd., while Catriona's parents are Jarlath and Ita Fahy, Devlis.

**Agatha Higgins.** Daughter of Seamus and Mrs. Clarke of Devlis, Agatha is married to Vincent Higgins, a native of Irishtown. They live in Knockbrack.

**Josephine Ganley.** From Lisacul originally, Josephine is married to Pat Ganley and they live in Crossard.

**Anthony Jordan** was born in Knox St., Ballyhaunis son of Tom and Delia (Kedian) Jordan. A Principal Teacher in Sandymount, Dublin, he has a number of books to his credit including biographies of Capt. John McBride, Sean McBride and Conor Cruise O'Brien.

**Peggy Cruise.** Formerly Dyer from Derrynacong, Mrs. Cruise, a retired National School Teacher lives with her husband John in Knockbrack.

**Jim Cribbin** is a much-travelled, but accident-prone farmer and literateur. He resides in Johnstown, but has been known to spend part of the year in the Antipodes. He has been a regular contributor to Annagh since its inception in 1978, and to its predecessor the Parish Newsletter in the early seventies.

**Patricia and Angela Brennan** are members of a large family, born and raised in Clare St. They visit Ballyhaunis regularly.

**Peter Higgins.** A native of Mountbellew, County Galway, Peter lives in Ballinphuill with his wife Kay and family. He is a founder member of the Ballyhaunis Hurling Club.

**Maura Griffin** taught for many years in the Convent and Mercy and in the Community School from which she retired a few years ago. She is a native of County Longford.

**Joe Kenny** is a native of Knox St. A teacher in Tullamore, Co. Offaly, he has written several plays, some of which have been broadcast by RTÉ.

**Gabriel Smyth** lives in Bridge St. and is son of Mrs. Mary and the late Jim Smyth. He is a graduate of Trinity College.

**P. J. or Paddy Brennan,** is a native of the Hollymount area and was Post Master in Ballyhaunis for many years. He lives in retirement with his wife Bridie in Upper Main St., Ballyhaunis.

**Mike Robinson and Dave Shimwell** are both attached to the Department of Geography, University of Manchester. Both are frequent visitors to the parishes of Annagh and Kiltullagh and have organised and supervised several important scientific studies in the locality.

**Anna Henry.** A native of Killala, Anna (née Gillespie) is married to Kevin Henry, Upper Main St. She teaches in the Community School and has played leading roles with both St. Patrick's Dramatic Society and the Musical Society.

**Michael Byrne** lives in Clare St. with his wife, Helena, and family. They run the highly acclaimed Public House which recently won a National award.

**Gerry Lyons.** A member of a large family, and son of Mrs. Kathleen (Sweeney) and the late Bill Lyons of Knockbrack, Gerry lives with his wife and family in Knockbrack.

**Willie Ryan.** A director of the Ryan's Supermarket group, Willie is son of Paddy and Josie (Carroll) Ryan. He is a well-known sports broadcaster with MWR fm.

**Liz Watson** is daughter of Maura and the late Sean Griffin of Clare St. She is a nurse in Galway and lives in Moycullen.

**Agnes Heaney** (née Mullarkey) is a native of Bargarriff where she resides at present. Her husband Padraic is a native of Garrymore.



**Gerry Cribbin** lives in Tooraree and is a well known local Historian and Archaeologist. He has been employed as guide and tutor by staff and students of the University of Manchester during their field-work trips to this area.

**Joan O'Malley**, from Knock Rd. is a second year Journalism student at Dublin City University, Glasnevin and daughter of founding Editor of Annagh Magazine, the late Anto O'Malley and his wife, Frankie.

**Mary Donnelly** (néé Boyle) is daughter of Brod and Peg (Lyons) Boyle of Ballinphuill. She lives in Ballinphuill with her husband Jim (a native of Milltown, Co. Galway) and family.

**Veronica Freyne** comes from Began and lives in Clare St., Ballyhaunis. She is closely involved with the ICA at national level and has won many prizes for her craftwork.

**Sr. Assumpta** is a native of Kilkelly and is a long-established member of the Sisters of Mercy in Ballyhaunis.

**Bridie Brennan**, a native of Claremorris, Bridie is married to Paddy Brennan, ex-postmaster.

**Kay Curley** is married to Patrick Curley, a native of Main St., Ballyhaunis. They live with their family in Hazelhill.

**Moirá Delaney** néé Patterson is a native of Granlahan. She is married to Paddy and they live in Abbey St. where he runs a Public House. She is principal of Began National School.

**Seán Ó Domhnaill** is a native of Barna, Co. Galway. He is the local correspondent for the Western People.

**Helen Hoban** lives in Derrynacong with her mother Mrs. Hoban. She is a National School Teacher and works in Tavneena N.S., Charlestown.

**James Reidy** comes from Island. He teaches in Castlerea Community School and lives in Doctor's Road.

**Martin Connery**. A native of Limerick. His wife Leonie (Finnegan) is a native of Bohoge where they live with their family.

**Murt Hunt** is a regular and popular contributor to Annagh Magazine. He, and his late wife Anne, organised several Parish Pilgrimages to Lourdes

**Áine Hunt** is daughter of Murt and the late Anne Hunt. A pupil of St. Mary's Primary School, she has inherited her father's literary and poetic skills.

**Edward Mulhern** lives on Knock Road with his wife Frances (Hoban) and family. He operates a taxi service and is a native of Clare St., where the family-run Public House is situated.

**Matt O'Dwyer**. Son of the late Jimmy and Mrs. O'Dwyer (both National School Teachers), Matt lives in Ballindrehid with his wife Geraldine and family. He teaches Mathematics and Science in The Community School

**Bernard Freyne** is a native of Clare St., and son of Anges (Dyer) and the late Sean Freyne. He has a well-known Archaeologist and resides with his wife Mary (Mulkeen) and family in Devlis.

**Eamon Murren** is a Secondary Teacher in Davitt College, Castlebar. He commutes regularly between Ballyhaunis and Castlebar and is well known in both towns. His hobbies include Sport and watching TV! He is a bit of a bird watcher, but knows nothing about horses.

**Michael Kelly**, Kiltaboe. His wife is Rosaleen Keane, a native of Kiltaboe, where they both live with their children Mark and Sarah and Rosaleen's father Michael.

**Joe Greene** operates the well-known Greensprint printing service with his son Alex from their premises on Main St. Joe has an avid interest in things historical and literary.

**Eugene Morley**. A native of Woodpark, Eugene lives in Station Rise with his wife Catherine (Mulkeen) and family.

**Fr. Joe Cooney P.P.** A native of Crossboyne, Fr. Cooney was previously Administrator of Tuam and he came to Ballyhaunis in 1993 when he succeeded Canon Costello as Parish Priest.

**Mick O'Connell**. Mick is a retired journalist who worked as a correspondent for the Western People for many years. He lives in Upper Main St. and is a prominent member of the GAA.

**Mary Higgins** lives in Abbey St. Mrs. Higgins (néé Jordan) is a retired National Teacher and is mother of Jim T.D., Cllr. Pat, and John Higgins. Her late husband was Johnny Higgins N.T.

**John Tuohy** from Tooreen works with Mayo County Council and is a founder member of the Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union.

**Chris Pratt** is the Art teacher in the Community School. A native of Nottingham, England, he lives with his wife Xanthe and family in Scrigg.

**Mary Reaney**. Formerly Waldron from Irishtown, Mrs. Reaney lives in Garrymore with her husband Tom and family. She teaches in the Community School, Ballyhaunis.

**Susan Laffey** (néé Fahy) lives in Abbey St. with her husband Paddy and family.

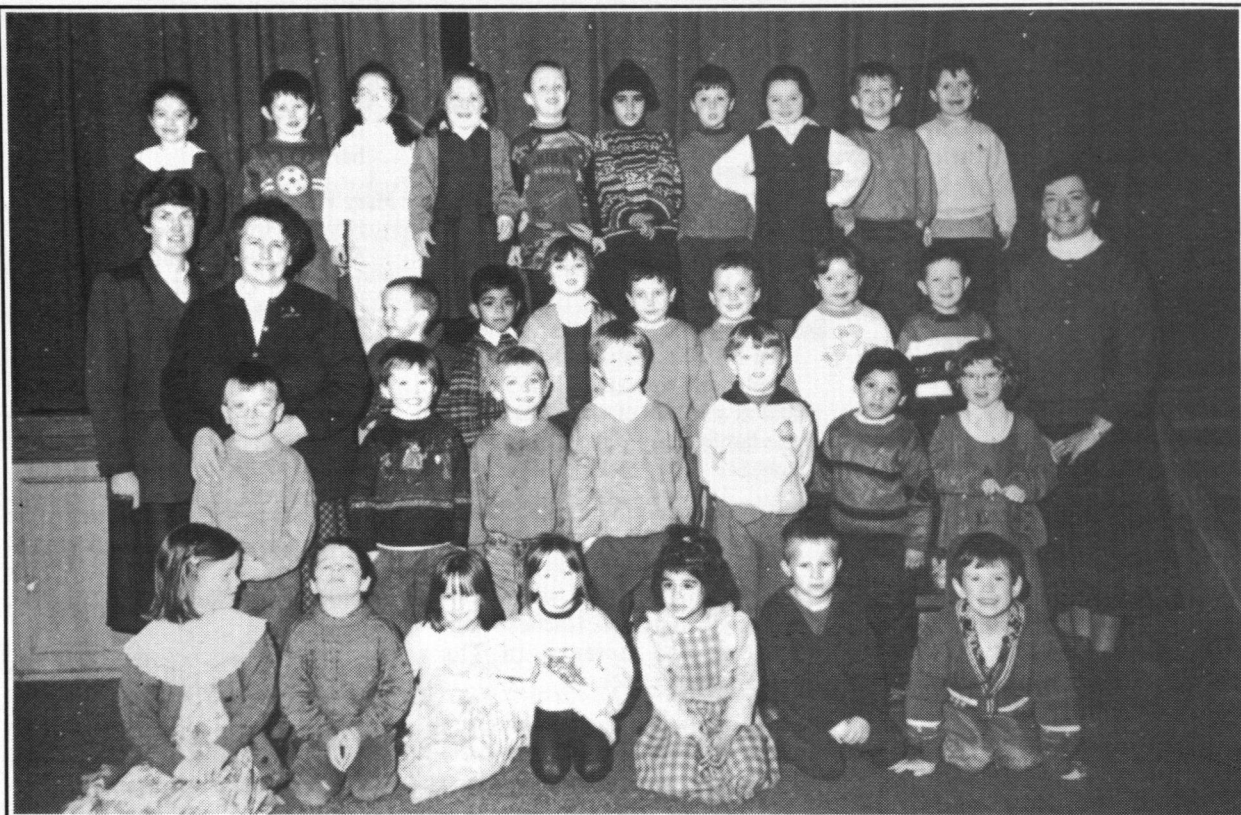
**Pat Higgins**. Recently co-opted Mayo County Councillor, Pat lives in Devlis with his wife Sally and family. He is brother of Jim Higgins T.D. and teaches in the Community School.

**Áine Whelan**. A native of Tourmakeady, Áine lives in Holywell and has taught Physical Education in the Community School for many years.

**David Dwane**. Son of Eamonn and Rosaleen (Garvey) Dwane. He is on the staff of the "Western People" and is a well-known musician.

**Eamonn Healy**. Son of Mrs. Mary (Finn) and the late Seán Healy, of Holywell. He works in Davitt House, Castlebar, is married to Helen, and was a founder member of the Ballyhaunis Rugby Club and Development Committee.

**Sandra Walsh, Olivia McLoughlin, Rhiona Rochford, Fergal Kelly, Oliver Jordan, Ciara Healy** are all students of the Community School, Ballyhaunis.



Infants class, St. Joseph's Convent Primary School, Ballyhaunis, 1995/'96, back row, from left: Stephanie Cassal, Daniel Ward, Sara Jane Lynskey, Orla Lyons, Kelan Kenny, Amana Nazir, John Lyons, Sinéad Higgins, Liam McDermott and Ruairi Finan. Third row: Patrick Conway, Rahan Latif, Caroline Cleary, Joseph Lyons, Thomas Brady, Shirley McGowan and Sean Cunnane. Second row: Kenneth Murphy, Kevin Moran, Séamus Webb, Thomas McDonagh, Kevin Nestor, Faizan Yousaf and Mairéad Griffin. Front: Ursula Byrne, Brian Hunt, Niamh Lyons, Shauna Folliard, Zanif Javaid, Charles Conway and Tadhgh Morley. Teachers, Sr. Teresa Fahy (principal), Mrs. Teresa Leonard and Mrs. Sally Fahy (vice-principal). Missing were: Gavin O'Connor, Amy Tighe, Christopher Mongan, David McNamara, Shane Nolan, Eamonn Fitzmaurice and Jonathan Maughan.



Up for the Match. Michael O'Connell, Upper Main St. and Paddy Jordan, Knox St. in the 1950s.  
(Courtesy Jack Halpin)



Summer 1995: Laura Bethney, Manchester; Claire Gallagher, Knock Rd.; Edel Moroney, Abbeyquarter; Lisa Carney, Scrigg. (Courtesy Joe Greene)



Wrenboys in Bridge St. c.1903, outside Farragher's (now George Delaney's).  
(Courtesy the Archaeology Department, U.C.G.)



# Patrons

*The Annagh Magazine Society is grateful to the following for their support; thanks is also due to the patrons who wish to remain anonymous.*

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<b>Higgins, Pat, Mayo Co. Council, Devlis</b> .....	30052
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<b>Keane's Kitchens Ltd., Kitchen, Bedroom, Furniture, Clare Road</b> .....	30038
<b>Keane, Joe, Merchant Tailor, Knox Street</b> .....	30751
<b>Kelly, Pdraic, Furniture Manufacturer, Drimbane</b> .....	30089
<b>Kelly, Rosaleen, R.P.N., M.S.R.I., Kinesiology, Learning Difficulties</b> .....	30022
<b>Knock Road House, Bed &amp; Breakfast (Prop.: John and Margie Gallagher)</b> .....	30372
<b>Lilly, John J., Plant Hire, Johnstown</b> .....	30352
<b>Little Brook House, Bed &amp; Breakfast (Prop.: Breda Burke)</b> .....	30151
<b>Loughran, F. J., M.V.B., M.R.C.V.S., Upper Main Street</b> .....	30017
<b>Lyons, Gerard, Foodstore &amp; Newsagents, Abbey Street</b> .....	30323
<b>Lyons, James, Publican, Main Street.</b>	
<b>Lyons, Michael, Coach &amp; Minibus Hire, Lecarrow</b> .....	30347
<b>McGarry, Gerard &amp; Associates, Development Consultants, Architects, Engineers</b> .....	30170

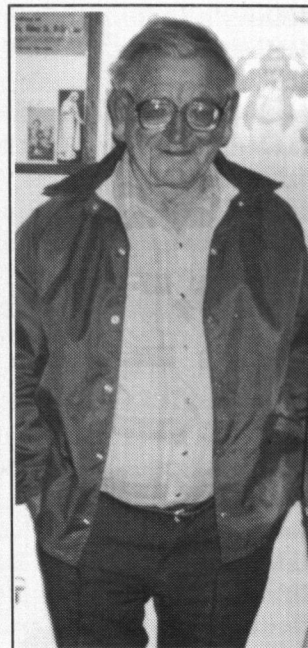


McGarry's, Ladies' Outfitters .....	30084
McHugh, Terence, High Class Victualler, Abbey Street.....	30061
McNamara Car Dismantlers, Dublin Road .....	30439
MacSiurtáin, Publican, Main Street .....	30854
Madden, Gerald, Snooker Tables, Gurteen.....	30228
Manor House, Restaurant, Accommodation, Weddings, etc., Knock Rd.....	30700
Meadow Farm Eggs, M.Caulfield, Carrowkeel .....	30183
Meehan Memorials, Clare Street.....	30599/30203
Mercy Sisters (Hon.), Upr. Main Street .....	30108
Mobile Tractor Repairs - on call Day and Night, Ring: Eamonn .....	30386
Moran Bros. Ltd., Building/Publ. Wks. Contrs., Tooraree. (Members 6-year Structural Guarantee Sch.) .....	30146/30725
Moran, Donal, Television Systems Ltd., Knox St. ....	30569
Moran, Donal K. & Sons, Building Contractor .....	30079
Moran's Coaches & Minibus Hire, Knock Road .....	Fax./Tel. 30346
Moran, Tommie, Sweets, Ices, Fancy Goods, Fuel Merchants, Main St. ....	30493
Morley, P. J., T.D., Bekan.....	(094) 80217
Morley, Tony & Sons, Exterior & Interior Decorators, Knox St. ....	30944
Mulhern, Edward, Bar & Taxi Service, Clare St. ....	30249
Mulrennan, Jas. & Sons Ltd., Fitted Kitchens & Bedrooms Specialists (Keane's Kitchen Centre).....	30038
Munro, Brian & Sons, Insurance Broker .....	30343
Murphy's Auto Sales, Main Hyundai Dealer, Dublin Road .....	30307
Murphy, Eddie & Sons, Menswear Specialists, Main Street.....	30651
M.W.R. 96.1FM., Abbey Street.....	Ads: 30553 / Requests: 30169
N.C.F. Ltd., Mart and Stores .....	30166
Nestor & Co., Accountants, Upper Main Street .....	Fax. 30294; Tel. 30005
Newsround, Newsagency, Toys, Giftware, Cards, Main Street .....	30897
Nico's, Takeaway & Restaurant, Bridge Street .....	30190
O'Brien, John, Auctioneer, E.B.S. Agent, Main Street .....	30088
O'Connor, John, Ronoco Ltd., Doctor's Road .....	30037
O'Grady, Rev. James, C.C. (Hon), Upper Main Street .....	30095
Oak Bar, Niall Delaney .....	30099
Originals, by Mary Smyth Ltd, Designers of Unique Clothes, Main Street .....	30373
Parochial Hall, Bingo .....	30212
Patterson, Noel, Main Street .....	Fax. 30865; Tel. 30113
Phillips, Charlie & Sons, Shoes and Drapers, Main Street .....	30368
Phillips, Eamon, High Class Victualler, Main Street.....	30381
Phillips, Paddy, Publican .....	30118
Rattigan's Bar, Knox Street .....	30157
Rochford Motors, Main Mitsubishi Dealers, Knock Road .....	Fax 30570; Tel. 30163/30350
Ruane, P., Radio and T.V. Dealer / Repairs, Knox St. ....	30129
Ryan's Super-Valu, Main St., Free parking at rear of store for all our customers .....	30359
St. Mary's Primary School, Abbeyquarter.....	30310
St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School, Abbey Street .....	30505
St. Patrick's Dramatic Society	
T.C. Fast Foods, Main St. and N60 Bridge Street .....	30357
Tynan Dillon & Co., Chartered Accountants, Clare Street.....	30261
Ulster Bank Ltd., Abbey Street .....	30049
Val's Lounge, Bar Food Specialists, Main Street .....	30068
Valerie's - Ladies' & Gents' Hair Salon, Barrack Street .....	30681
Wash Tub, Launderette & Dry Cleaners, 24-hour service, Ironing Service .....	30449
Webb, M. J., Master Butcher, Main Street .....	30003
Western Brand Chickens Ltd., Fresh and Frozen Daily .....	Fax. 30939; Tel. 30069
Winston, Gerard, Family Grocer, Devlis .....	30395

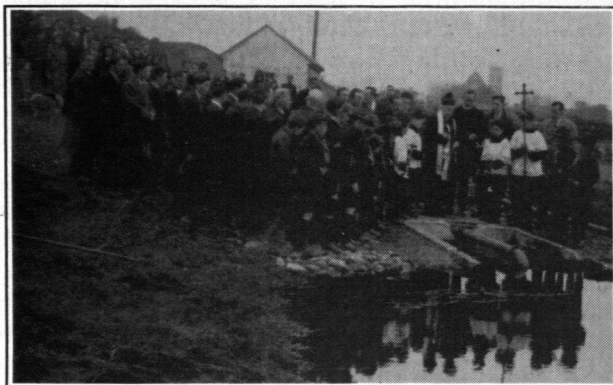
*Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present.*



"Riverdance" Star, Jean Butler's, Ballyhaunis family who attended a performance of "Riverdance" in February 1995; Front (left to right): Michael Butler (father), Mrs. May Byrne, Derrymore (grandmother), Josephine Byrne-Butler (mother). Back (left to right): Maria Byrne (cousin), Patricia Lackner (aunt), Yvonne Byrne, John Byrne (cousins), Attracta Poje, Marguerite Byrne (aunts).



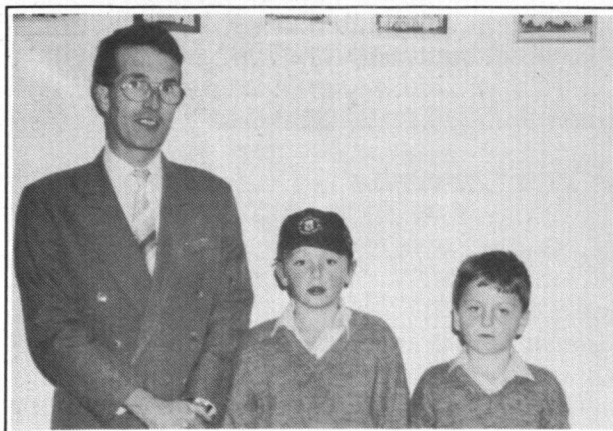
Home on Holidays: Pat Smyth, Main Street.



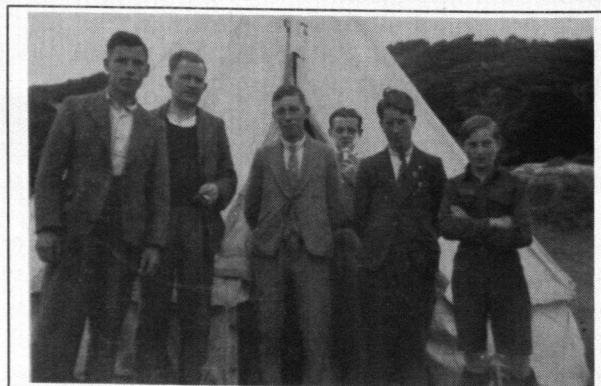
Blessing the Water-Works Scheme, 7th Nov. 1932. Included amongst those pictured are Very Rev. G.J. Prendergast P.P., Rev. E.A. Mansfield O.S.A., members of the 4th Mayo Troop, Ballyhaunis and a large gathering of people.



Congratulations to Michael and Kathleen Waldron, Johnstown, Ballyhaunis who celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary on the 16th October 1995.



Joseph and Patrick Kelly, Knox St., with their teacher, Mr. Jim Lundo, Principal, St. Mary's School. Joseph was the winner of the Crayola Colouring Competition – a set of 5000 Crayola crayons for the school, in October, 1995.



Scout Camp, Furbo 1934. Left to right: Joe McDonnell, Martin Lyons, Seamus Durkin, Oliver Cunningham, Seamus Hannon, Patsy Hannon. (Courtesy Dr. Joe Tarpey)

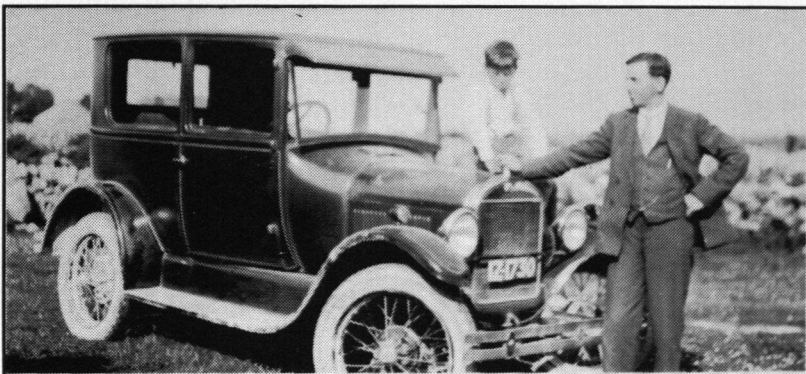




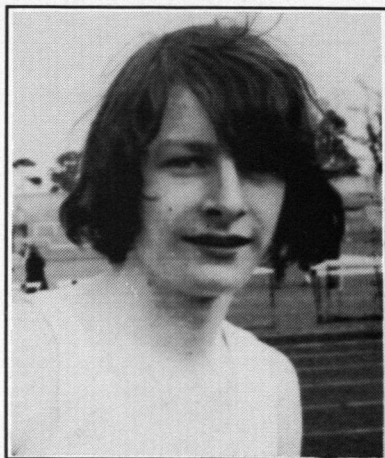
Mass Servers in St. Patrick's Parish Church, that attend St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy; Back (left to right): Lisa Carney, Claire Healy, Siobhán Lyons, Orla Mulrennan, Elizabeth Rabbitte, Fiona Murphy, Louise Lilly. Middle (left to right): Ciara Buckley, Jacklyn Moran, Tara Nevin, Alison Ruane, Sandra Waldron, Karen Jordan, Karen Lilly. Front (left to right): Cathriona Quinn, Claire Gallagher, Bernadette McNamara, Edel Moroney, Laura Byrne, Elizabeth Gallagher, Laura Murphy. (Courtesy Betty Regan)



Returning from the Stations in Ballindrehid 1962. Back (left to right): Fr. Herity C.C., Bud Waldron (Postman), Fr. Rushe P.P.. Front (left to right): Dermot Freeley, Freddy Herr.



Gus Levins, Upper Main St., and Jack Halpin, then of Abbey St. (the child), taken 1928. (Courtesy Jack Halpin)



Tommy Moran, Main Street.



"Prayerful Pilgrims" - On their way to St. Patrick's Purgatory, Lough Derg; Left to right: Bridie Leonard, Peg Greene, Rosaleen Curley. (Courtesy Peg Greene).



Members of the King Byrne School of Dancing who came second in the All-Ireland Championships four-hand reel 1995; Left to right: Caroline Keane, Cloonfad; Karen Lilly, Sarah Kelly, Sinéad Mulrennan, all Ballyhaunis. Western People 8th Mar. 1995



Left: Ruane's Stations, Derrin-together, 1995: Tom Ruane, Fr. James O'Grady C.C., Margaret Ruane, T.P. Costello. (Courtesy Betty Regan)

Right: Snooker Hall 1969: David Freeley, Upr. Main St., Cyril O'Malley (R.I.P.), Barrack St., Patrick Freeley, Main St. (Courtesy May Freeley, Upperr Main St.)





# Annagh '95

