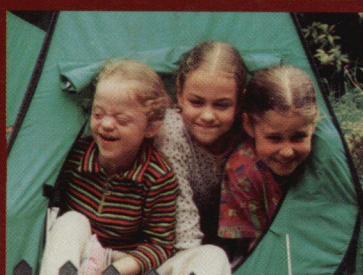
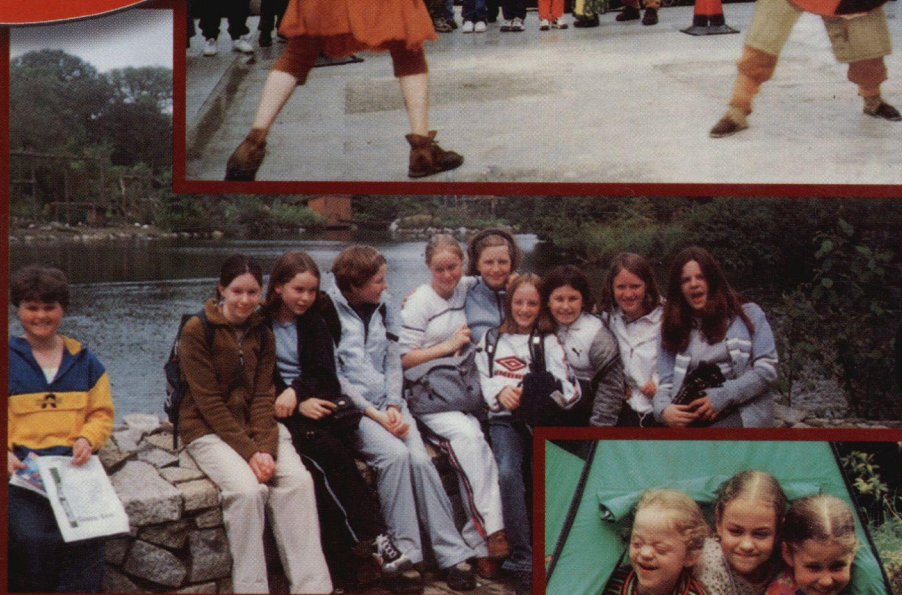


# Annagh 1999





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# *Christmas Greetings*

*W*e are fast approaching the end of a year which will be forever etched on our memories as we enter the last weeks of this century and this millennium. In years to come we will remember what we were doing at the precise moment of the change over from the Second to the Third Millennium; we will remember who was at home with us; where family members were and certainly, we will remember all those who didn't survive to experience this moment and we will say a silent prayer for them. For ourselves, we give thanks to God that we have been given the opportunity of experiencing this great moment, the chance to celebrate the two thousandth year since the birth of Jesus and we ask Him to guide and protect us as we enter the Third Millennium and the 21st century.



I take this opportunity of wishing Ballyhaunis people, at home and abroad, all the blessings of Christmas and every happiness in the New Year. May the birth of Jesus, which we celebrate on this historic occasion, strengthen our faith in the year and years to come.

Last year we undertook as our Millennium Project, the building of a spire on the tower of St. Patrick's Parish Church. It was an ambitious project but it was felt that it would reflect many things. It would be a fitting memorial to the generation who built the church at the beginning of the century and to the generations since who have maintained it. It would be a symbol of our Christian faith as we celebrate the Millennium and, for generations to come in the next century, it would reflect the faith, commitment and generosity of the present generation of Ballyhaunis People. The spire is almost complete and sits proudly on the tower of the church. It will be formally declared open and blessed at Mass on New Year's Eve. For this we owe a huge debt of gratitude to all the people, at home and abroad, who donated money, bought tickets, sponsored slates and organised fund-raising activities. Without this support it could not have been done and certainly not paid for.

Our thanks also to Mr. Seamus Brennan, T.D., Minister of State, and to the National Millennium Committee who approved our project and gave generous funding.

I want to pay special tribute to a wonderful committee who, by their commitment, dedication and hard work over the past year have made all this happen. It has been a tough year for them but I believe they will look back with pride on what they have achieved and feel that it was well worthwhile. I'm sure I speak for everyone in the parish and in many countries around the world, when I say to the members of the Ballyhaunis Millennium Committee, we are proud of what you have achieved in twelve months and we thank you for your commitment and dedication.

In conclusion, on my own behalf and on behalf of Fr. James O'Grady, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and every blessing in the New Millennium.

*Joseph Cooney*  
Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P.



## *Editorial*

**W**elcome to the twenty-second edition of Annagh Magazine. It is with optimism that we look forward to the new Decade, Century and Millennium.

Our thoughts are with the people of the Parish of Annagh of all ages throughout the world. We hope to bring them all briefly and hopefully happily together as they enjoy the pages of Annagh 1999.

We are grateful to our loyal readers and contributors of prose, poetry and photographs. We thank all our magazine sellers and our printer. We would like to pay tribute to our present committee which, like those over the past twenty-two years, has worked selflessly and diligently during the past year.

It is with great pride that we acknowledge the completion of the Ballyhaunis Millennium Spire, on St. Patrick's church. It is a testament to the faith and generosity of Ballyhaunis people past and present at home and abroad.

It is with sadness that we record the death of our esteemed and much loved President Jack Halpin in whose memory we dedicate this issue of the magazine. His wisdom and insight was much appreciated by our committee. He regularly sought out and contributed items of interest for the magazine. His generous spirit, gentle nature and great humour will be sadly missed at our meetings. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a Anam Uasal.

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

Maura Griffin, Jim London, Paul Waldron

## **Officers**

President: Jack Halpin R.I.P.; Chairperson: Martin Forde; Vice Chairperson: Jimmy Cribbin; Editors: Paul Waldron, Maura Griffin and Jim London; Secretary: Máisín Meath; Treasurer: Maura Griffin; Assistant Treasurer: Gerry Cribbin; P.R.O.: Joe Hosty. Committee: Agnes Heaney, Murt Hunt, Michael Godfrey, John Halpin, Seamus Mulrennan and Mike Byrne.

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### ***Cover Photographs***

#### **Front Cover**

Clockwise from top-left: 1 Medieval Weekend, Ballyhaunis, June 1999; 2 Stained glass window behind the High Altar in St. Patrick's Parish church; 3 View from spire of Main St. and beyond (courtesy of Mike Griffin); 4 The new spire being lifted on to the church tower on Tuesday 6th October 1999; 5 Johanna Burke-Rowland, Cindy Ward, Elaine Cregg, Catherine Nestor, Eilis Nevin, Sinead Mulrennan, Sarah Buckley, Joanne Hoban, Karen Higgins and Roisín Flanagan; 6 Sinead Byrne, Riona Murray and Derbhla Murray.

#### **Back Cover**

Clockwise from top-left: 1 View of Abbey St. from the new spire (courtesy of Henry Madden); 2 Front l-r: Tasha Coyne, Conor McCarrick. Back l-r: Benny McCarrick and Eamon Murren; 3 l-r: Agnes Molloy-Tarpey, Martina Morrisson-East, Ron East and Sean Tarpey; 4 l-r: Pauline Greene, Tony Greene, Marcella Keane; 5 l-r: Irene, Denise and Yvonne Byrne; 6 l-r: Sarah Buckley, Eilis Nevin, Ruth Dillon-Leetch, Katie O'Connor, Elaine Cregg, Venetia Powers, Sinead Mulrennan, Leanne Murphy, Catherine Nestor and Maura O'Dwyer; 7 l-r: Elizabeth Lyons, Rita Tolan, Mary Waldron and Agnes O'Reilly



# The Townland of Tooraree

*Gerry Cribbin*

## Introduction

The townland of Tooraree, just to the north-west of Ballyhaunis town, comprises of about 400 acres, at the northern end of the present church parish of Annagh, and in the old civil parish of Began. Leaving Ballyhaunis town, Tooraree takes in all of the left hand side and some of the right hand side of the Doctor's Road and Low Ballindrehid, as far as the Bridge at Joe Healy's house, as well as both sides of the Knock Road from Mrs. Bridie Brennan's house out just beyond the Gurteen Road. That terrace of houses in Upper Main Street which includes Hopkins' shop is also in the townland of Tooraree

The townland contains very dry land: free-draining with light brown soil on a limestone base. The only surface water to be found is in the bottoms to the east side of the Doctor's Road, where the local people cut turf until recently; in Curran's Lakes, and in the Gleóir River which forms the boundary to the north-east of the townland. The south end of the townland had no water source, which meant people had to cart water in barrels to their animals, or drive them once a day to the Gleóir River to drink, which caused considerable hardship, especially in Summer time when they would be busy with other work. For drinking water there was one well on the Doctor's Road, just opposite Frank and Mary Healy's present house. This well was the site of an incident many years ago when a horse took flight, frightened by the noise of a motor-lorry, and both horse and rider fled into the well. I believe the horse was seriously injured; the rider was rescued from under the horse by the late Brod Moran from Annagh and survived the incident.

The population of Tooraree when the 1841 census was taken was 345 (169 males and 176 females), living in sixty-nine houses. Where all those houses were, I have no idea as there is no trace of them now, and no folklore about where they might have been. The population in 1851 was 168 (74 males and 94 females), living in thirty-six houses. The population during those ten years - which also takes in the years of the Great Famine - was reduced by half. There was bound to have been some births in those ten years, which gives some idea of the savage effect the Famine had on small farmers and cottiers here. Some family names that have survived since the Griffith Valuation was compiled in 1856 are Flanagan, Healy, Lyons and Prenty. The other family names are lost or forgotten now.

## Archaeology

Two polished stone axes, evidence of human habitation here during the Stone Age, were found during tillage work in the townland many years ago and were in the possession of the finders - a local family. Also, a stone cross was found by the Melvin Family on their land - there's no trace of it now, and it's not known if it was Sandstone or Limestone. If the latter

it was probably of natural formation and not man-made.

Many Bronze Age cooking sites (Fulachta Fiadh) were found along the banks of the Gleóir River at the north end of the townland: these would date to about one thousand year B.C. A set of red deer antlers and body bones were also found, dating to the Late Bronze Age, on the same river bank. Also, some traces of an ancient river crossing or bridge came up during drainage work by the Office of Public Works. One ring-fort, possibly early Christian, on the northern slope of "Car-Hill" - in Tom Wallace's field - was cleared away in the last century, possibly to make way for the Race Course.

The name of the townland - Tuar na Rí, as the old people pronounced it - may have come from the practice of spreading flax on the hill to bleach and dry it, by those people who lived in the area. It appears that flax was grown in the area as there were two weavers in the area living near-by - Maguire from Ballindrehid and Tighe in Annagh. A local farmer called one of his fields "The Linen Field" and several hills are called Tuairin and High Tuairin (pronounced 'Toorin', not 'Tooreen').

## Roads

There is a wide carriage road between the bridge over the River Gleóir and Tom Dillon's new house on the Tooraree-Annagh road, at least fifteen foot wide, leading westwards to Island House and Ballinacostello. This, it appears, was the main route leading into Ballyhaunis for the people who lived in that area. This carriage road linked up with the old Tooraree Road, which joined with the Knock Road where Mrs. Bridie Brennan's house is today and continued into the town. It seems that the Doctor's Road did not exist as a road beyond the dispensary. Sometime in the 1880s or 90s Dr. Crean acquired land on both sides of the road and proceeded to build stone and mortar walls on each side of the track-way as far as Melvin's Farm on the right-hand side, and as far as where Peter McCafferty's house is now, on the left. It's difficult to know if he continued on down to the "Gub" - as the junction of the Tooraree and Doctor's Roads was known. Just at the "Gub" was the "Trence", a wet swampy area in John Dillon's field. (Both words are in danger of disappearing as local place-names).

## The Land Agitation

One of the largest gatherings of people ever in the Ballyhaunis area took place on Sunday the 10th of October 1880 on the "Old Tooraree Racecourse." In a report in the Connaught Telegraph it was described as a Nationalist meeting, agitating for better conditions for tenant farmers. At about two o'clock Ballyhaunis was completely besieged by the tenants around that district, who formed into a procession behind which was a long train of cars, and an immense cavalcade of horsemen led by the Ballyhaunis Brass Band. Having paraded the town, they proceeded to the scene of the meeting on the "The Old Racecourse at Tooraree" where a permanent stand for the lovers of the sport was erected. On the motion of Michael Delaney, and seconded by Mr. Lavan, the Rev. Canon Waldron P.P. occupied the chair. The crowd was estimated to be in the region of ten to fifteen thousand people.



## The Old Tooraree Race Course

According to Dr. Michael F. Waldron of Knox Street, the first races over the Tooraree Course – on the Crawley farm – were held in June 1866. He states this in his notes explanatory to the poem “Ballyhaunis Revisited”, published by the Connaught Telegraph in 1934. Verse ten of this poem goes:

I saunter along to the field where the Races were held  
In the old times - “Once fam’d Tooraree”  
But no trace of the horses, the tents or grandstand  
Nor merry crowds jostling at all can I see

The famous Tooraree Races were the subject of many street ballads. The fixture was one of the most popular in the West. It used to be one of the Ballyhaunis red-letter days, eagerly looked forward-to for months ahead by young and old - “The Great Gala Day of the Year.” Many big race meetings were held over the fifty years following 1866, although it’s doubtful if meetings were held every year. The Railway Company provided free transport for the carriage of horses to and from the races, with free stabling provided for the horses by local traders and businessmen. Prominent amongst these were Dr. Davis and his son Paul, Edward Webb, M. M. Waldron (Small Michael), M. A. Waldron (Big Michael), John Farragher (where George Delaney junior has his business now), Thomas Cunningham, Thomas Moran, the Morleys and Jim Caulfield (where Mid-West Radio is now).

On the day of the Races, usually in the June-July period (although it was held in September on one occasion due to very wet Summer), a parade from the town was led to the Racecourse by the Ballyhaunis Brass Band, followed by people on foot, in side-cars, traps and on horseback. The gentry of the day made for the Grand-Stand which was situated opposite where Billy Rochford’s Garage is today. Many more headed for the hill at the back of Emmett Keane’s present house where they had a wonderful view of the course all around them. That hill is still known as “Car Hill” to the older people in the area. (It has another dubious claim to fame as it is said Lord Cornwallis’ regiment camped here in 1798 while on their way to intercept the French Army leaving Castlebar.)



Tooraree in the late forties. Back l-r: Michael Collins, Peggy Barrett, Joe Collins (R.I.P.), Mickey Barrett (R.I.P.). Front l-r: Eamon Cribbin (R.I.P.), Sonny Barrett, Bridie Barrett, Gerry Cribbin and Teresa Barrett.



The Flanagan family, Ballindrehid. Front l-r: Brian, Mick, Jimmy, Noreen. Back l-r: Seán (on the stairs), with their mother Delia.

All was now ready for the “Big Event” which had been looked forward-to for many months. Tents had been erected to cater for the large crowd of hungry and thirsty people, many who travelled long distances to get there. A race-card for 1902 lists John T. Ruane of Knox Street in charge of “The Grandstand Refreshment Bar”, and proclaims that: “All drinks guaranteed of the very best description at hotel prices.” Another race-card from 1912 states that the catering and bar facilities were operated by Tom Cunningham and his staff of Abbey Street (Pado Cunningham’s grandfather). Others who came to earn some money were people with side-cars, traps and long-cars who taxied people from the town and Railway Station to the Course; I believe this was known as “Posting.”

## Colourful Sideshows

And of course there were those others who always follow a crowd, and provide much of the colour and excitement of an occasion such as this - the Card-Sharps, Three-Card-Trick Men, Jugglers, Trick-of-the-Loops, Thimble-Riggers and Fortune-Tellers - all trying to convince the people to “Put your money down”, “Place your bets”, “Find the Lady”, “Have another go with your old pal Joe, your mother won’t know and I won’t tell her”, “Five-to-one on the red, even money on the black, put your money down.” The spiel flowed from them non-stop all day. This was one of the few days in the year in which to entice young and old to part with their few coppers. So you had to give it a try; after all it was easy; you knew where the Queen was and, of course, the girls were watching and giggling as you “put your money-down”; but she had moved; how did he do that!? You were certain it was there, but you would know better the next time, and so the game was played on and on with one inevitable winner.

## Fatal Accident

An account of a race-meeting in Tooraree on the 2nd of June 1869 in one of the local newspapers gives: “The race passed off in a most orderly and peaceful fashion, under the supervision of Mr. Paul Davis, except for the unfortunate accident to Broderick the jockey. After passing the Winning Post in the second heat, the horse “Mary Anne” bolted and fell over the ropes. The jockey suffered a severe fall which



caused concussion of the brain. Although Dr. Davis and two other Doctors were in attendance poor Broderick died at midnight." As young children growing up in Tooraree we were often told of a ghostly horseman to be seen riding over the fields, especially on dark nights. We never saw him because we made sure to be in home safe before he appeared. The death of Mr. Broderick, the jockey, may have been the inspiration for this ghost story.

## 1876 Races

An advertisement for the Races in June 1876, printed in the Connaught Telegraph reads: "Ballyhaunis Steeplechase Races on Monday, June the 19th 1876 over the Tooraree Course. All Grass Land, Sod Fences, and Hurdles - No Walls. Stewards: R. J. O'Grady Esq.; A. L. Crean Esq., J.P.; George Browne Esq., M.P.; Hugh Burke Esq.; Captain O'Grady; Paul Davis Esq.; E. C. Kelly, Esq.; Charles D. Ellison Esq.; David Keys Esq.; Michael O'Grady Esq.; Treasurers: E. C. Kelly Esq. and Mr. Michael M. Waldron; Honourary Secretaries: Messrs. M. J. Fitzgerald, M. A. Waldron, and M. Lavin; Judge: R. J. Hunter, Esq. Five races. Total Prize money: 215 sovereigns. Free stabling provided for all horses running at this meeting, and conveyed by the Midland Great Western Railway Company all over their lines at a single fare for a double journey. Fire-Works display and a dance in the local Dance Hall on the night of the Race meeting, to bring the day to a fitting close."

## 1902 Races

An advertisement in the Western People for the Races in 1902 proclaims of the Tooraree Course: "All grass lands adjoining the town, after being levelled and re-modelled, and now admitted to be the best course in the Province of Connaught." The race-card lists the following stewards and officials - Stewards: Charles E. Crean Esq., M.D., J.P., Henry Doran Esq., J.P., M. B. Costello Esq., M.D., J.P., R. W. Kelly Esq., M.D., H. Lindsay-Fitzpatrick Esq., D.L., John B. Dillon Esq., J.P., C. O'L. Maguire Esq., M.D., J.P., James Treston Esq., E. C. Kelly Esq., W. G. Knox Esq., Arthur Blake, Esq., P. J. Halpenny Esq., M.U.B., Martin Curran Esq., J.P., W. McCann Esq., Charles L. Ellison Esq., A. F. Crean Esq., J.P., A. J. Crean Esq., Farrell McDonnell Esq. and Charles Ffrench Esq. The Officials were: Stakeholder: Mr. T. Brindley, Dublin; Judge: Mr. W. L. Waters, Dublin; Clerk of Course and Scales: Mr. C. Brindley, Dublin; Handicapper: Mr. R. McK. Waters, Dublin; Starter: Mr. D. Ruttledge; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Richard Henry; Auctioneer: Mr. M. J. Mellett; Hon. Secs.: Messrs. J. M. Conry, James P. Caulfield and J. J. Waldron.

The first race of this meeting was the "Farmers' Plate", with a total prize fund of twenty five sovereigns, according to the official race-card. It was run over two and a quarter miles, and was a steeplechase confined to horses owned by farmers or tradesmen. The field numbered fourteen runners. The second race - the "Town Plate" - was a steeplechase run over two and a half miles, with prizes totalling thirty-sovereigns; there were eleven runners. The third race was the "Commercial Plate", a handicap steeplechase over three miles; Fifty sovereigns was the prize money in total and there were ten runners. The fourth race - the "Stewards' Plate" - was a handicap flat race run over two miles, with prizes



L-R: Maureen Barrett (R.I.P.), Bridie Barrett, Kitty Barrett. Taken c. 1925 (Upper Main St.)

amounting to thirty sovereigns; it had twenty-one runners; the fifth and last race was the "Provincial Plate": total prizes were fifteen sovereigns and with fifteen runners. Two of the horses at this meeting were "Lissinsky Lad" and "Ballyhaunis", owned by Mr. H. Doorly and Mrs. Hunter. Seventy-one horses ran at this race meeting for a total prize fund of 160 sovereigns. This would appear to be a very large prize fund for the period 1902. One wonders how many punts one would have to put up today to equal 160 sovereigns of that time!

## The 1912 Races

Again, according to the official Race-card of 1912, seventy-six horses ran in six races for a prize-fund of 180 sovereigns. I won't give the list of runners for 1912, but the types of racing were: Steeplechase, Hurdle Races and Flat Racing over a variety of distances, also a Corinthian Handicap Flat-Race over two miles and a quarter (whatever that was). An interesting item in pencil on the back cover of the 1912 race-card, appears to refer to the takings at the gate for the race meeting. Notes: £43. 0 shillings and 0 pence; Gold: £68. 10 shillings and 0 pence; Silver £23. 14 shillings and 3 pence; Copper: 4 shillings and 4 pence; Total: £135. 8 shillings and 7 pence! It is remarkable to note all the gold sovereigns that were in use in 1912 and after.

## End of an Era

The last race meeting on the Old Race Course took place on the 4th September 1916. The land was taken over by the Congested Districts Board and divided amongst the local



people, giving four acres each to eighteen families. There was a lot of talk about keeping the races going and speculation that the local race Committee would buy out the farm, but it was not to be. So four acres each of Crawley's Farm made a welcome addition to the small holdings of the local families.

## The New Race Course - 1930s

The New Race Course in Tooraree was on the Reilly farm on lands where later the Mayo Council built what are still locally referred to as the New Tooraree Cottages. The New Course comprised of about fifty acres of good dry land, similar to that on Crawley's Farm. Racing over this course started sometime in the late 1920s. The earliest written account, found so far, of races here was in a Western People of 1930: "Ballyhaunis Races on Saturday, 7th of June, under Irish Racing Association Rules, over the Tooraree Course. President: Mr. James Waldron; Vice President: Mr. Joseph Cooney N.T.; Treasurers: Messrs. P. J. Caulfield, W. L. Smyth, V.S.; Judges: Messrs. T. Caulfield and P. W. O'Brien; Clerks of the Scales: Messrs. J. J. Cunningham and E. Condell; Clerks of the Course: Messrs. Tom Forde and Michael Greally; Stewards: Dr. Crean, Dr. Smyth, Dr. Waldron; Messrs. J. Dillon-Leetch, Solicitor, Patrick Freeley, F. E. McNellis, Manager Ulster Bank, Patrick Morley, P. P. Waldron, M.P.S.I., Basil Curran, Feamore, H. Grennell, Manager National Bank, E. W. Kelly, Churchfield, Peter Hannon, Austin Crean Solicitor, Mr. Walsh, Solicitor; Handicapper and Manager: E. Condell, Dublin; Starter: W. L. Smyth, V.S." The total prize fund for the meeting was £100 (the meeting of 1902 on "Old Course Tooraree" had a prize fund of 160 sovereigns!). Trains were run at specially

reduced Fares from all the major towns in the West, and, on the night of the Races, a "Cinderella Dance" followed in McGarry's Hall. A report of the Races appeared in a later issue of the Western People: "A fine crowd, beautiful weather: two essentials ingredients for success at any public fixture blessed Ballyhaunis Races, over the Tooraree Course on Saturday last, and the crowd - a record one. Side-shows and numerous diversions, which have to be associated with the popularity of the Races, were there in plenty and did a roaring trade. It is hardly possible to imagine anything seen on such occasions that didn't turn up here and all enjoyed themselves. Bookies were there to the number of a dozen or so, including Paddy Donoghue, whose Cups and Trophies are known where-ever Irish Racing Association rules are held."

The Races were held again over the New Course in 1931, on the 4th of July, according to a race-card and a front page advertisement on the Western People, which included a list of horses and announced that the "Letterfrack Industrial School Band will attend", and that "a Race Dance will take place that night in McGarry's Hall." A notice in the Connaught Telegraph for the Races the following year - 1932 - proclaimed: "Make no mistake about it, the Ballyhaunis Races of Thursday the 6th of July will be one of the grandest events of its kind ever seen in the West, even over the famous Tooraree Course, that is certain. Come yourself and bring all your friends and neighbours to enjoy a rollicking day of pleasure and excitement. T'will be splendid - 'Too-ra-ra, Too-ra-roo, such racing you never did see as you will certainly view on the 6th of July, Too-ra-ra, Too-ra-roo, Too-ra-ree, so says Shakespeare, so says all of us.'"


I don't know if the Races were held in 1932, but it's possible they were postponed for some time as a reference in the Western People mentioned a June day in Ballyhaunis when, owing to the terrible weather, the Races had to be postponed. Also, in an article in one of the local papers one Tom Hopkins of Bayonne (U.S.A.) is referred to as handing in a song about the Races:

## Ballyhaunis Races

*In the month of June all in our bloom  
In Ballyhaunis we will be  
For to see the Races and the Steeplechases  
Upon the Plains of Tooraree  
And thousands will assemble there  
From all the County around  
Sure the first horse that will come in  
Will win the Race, I'll bet a Pound.*

*From Dunmore and sweet Cloonfad  
There'll be people there that day  
From Williamstown and Ballinlough  
Aye, and the men of Castlereau  
Claremorris town of high renown  
And from Ballindine there will be  
To see the Races and the Steeplechases  
Upon the Plains of Tooraree.*

*Run under Rules of Racing and I. N. H. S. Rules.*



**BALLYHAUNIS**

**Flat and Steeplechase Races,**

**On Thursday, 12th June, 1902,**

OVER THE

**"TOORAREE" COURSE.**

WESTERN PEOPLE,
BALLINA.



*The tents all standing in one row  
With drinks and eatings of the best  
The horses all prancing to-and-fro  
All their jockeys nicely dressed  
The pretty girls from the Country  
Oh, how nicely dressed they'll be  
For to see their sweethearts, Mick or Tom  
On the Plains of Tooraree.*

*Now to conclude and finish  
I'll lay aside my pen  
Hoping we'll all be in prosperity  
At the Races here again,  
Both young and old, brave, stout and bold  
Will all spend their money free  
And each lad and lass will fill their glass  
On the Plains of Tooraree.*

## One Of The Last Race Meetings

The last Race on the New Course took place on Thursday, the 6th July 1939. The "Premier Sporting Event of the West", as advertised in the Western People: "A wonderful day's sport, up to its usual standard special rail facilities; all horses competing will be carried back free. Social Side: Annual Race Dance will follow in McGarry's Hall, recently fitted with new responding maple floor and other modern amenities; music by Stephen Garvey's Celebrated Broadcasting Band, personally conducted." This was the year the war broke out in Europe, and that, along with other factors sounded the death knell of the Races of Tooraree. Races were advertised for July 1940, though its not entirely clear if they took place.

## The Old Cottages

In 1905-06, eight semi-detached houses were built by the British Government under the "Soldiers and Sailors Act". These houses, now referred to as the old cottages, still stand.

## The New Cottages

As with the Old Course some twenty-three years earlier, racing over the New Course came to an end in 1939. The land was sold to ten local families in three acre stripes. About ten acres was bought by Mayo County Council for house-building. During the war this ten acres was divided into plots and given out to people from the town and surrounding area to grow vegetables and potatoes during this time of scarcity – The Emergency. It was some time in 1949 when foundations for eighteen houses were dug on the plots for Mayo County Council. The contract was undertaken by Mr. Patrick Dyer and his son John of Derrynacong. These were probably the first cavity-block houses built in the area with the finest red deal timber used in all the woodwork, with bathrooms, toilets and hot and cold water. This must have been the largest house-building scheme undertaken for miles around with men cycling in from Knock, Cloonfad, Granlahan, Gorthaganny and Derrynacong to work on the construction of houses. No Hi-Macs, JCBs or concrete mixers there. The only mixer was a "One RB" and if you couldn't drive that you could go home. This job could also lay claim to another first – the payment of "Wet-time." If it rained, you went in to

shelter and got paid a certain sum while you sat in the cement store and played cards. There were some very sharp card-players in the group and you would be a lot happier when the rain was over, but somewhat poorer!

## Football Pitch

For some years the G.A.A. had a football pitch on the Reilly Farm. I am sure there were many memorable games played on that pitch over the years, but one that comes to everyone's mind was the game between Ballyhaunis and Kilmaine, which was a very tightly fought game in every respect. I don't know who won the game, or if it was abandoned. Anyway, the game appears to have ended and most of the spectators and players had left the field and moved up the Tooraree Road towards town, when another disagreement broke out. The rest of the story is hear-say and could never have happened, but certain people will still swear it's true and that they saw it happening. A well known local man and team member, who was very fond of a good scrap, was in two minds whether to follow the crowd – still in his togs and football boots – or hurry back to where his clothes were somewhere up the field and tog-in (no dressing rooms that time). He decided on the latter, only to find his wife had taken his clothes and disappeared over the hill with them. She did not want him getting involved in the scrap. By the time he retrieved his clothes most of the scrap was over and the people had moved on into town, much to his disappointment. As I said at the beginning this story may be all fiction with no truth in it at all. Maybe some historian in the G.A.A. will set the record straight and write the true story for some future Annagh Magazine.

## Cattle Pounds

There was a Cattle Pound on Dr. Crean's land, opposite where Billy Phillips' house is on Doctor's Road. This, as part of a strip of land on the east side of the Doctor's Road was transferred to Carrownluggaun when the townland boundary was moved to the then recently built road in the late nineteenth century. There was another Cattle Pound in Upper Main (in Tooraree townland), roughly where Mick Moran the blacksmith had his forge.

## Placenames, Paths and Lime-kilns

"Bally's Poirse" goes through the village of Ballindrehid; "The Long Poirse" from that village to the bog; Cnocán na Teagla (the hill of the rye-grass) from near Jimmy Flanagan's to the bog; may also refer to the hill there. Other field names included "The Linen or Flax Field", "Poll a Mhullaigh", Cnocán Mór, Gaynor's Hill, Páircín and the Fish Hole. There is an interesting story behind this last placename: Thomas M. Neary, who had a shop in Main Street, also owned a farm in Tooraree. He used to sell fish, and if any old, unsold fish were left over, they were dumped in a hollow in this field. There were seven lime-kilns in the townland and two paths or right-of-ways: one from the stile on the Doctor's Road, across Tooraree towards the Island direction; the other one from near the top of the old Tooraree Road across Crawley's Farm and on towards Island.





# Ballyhaunis Races,

On Saturday, 4th July, 1931,

UNDER IRISH RACING ASSOCIATION RULES,

OVER THE NEW TOORAREE COURSE.

**PRESIDENT**—Mr. James Byrne.

**VICE-PRESIDENT**—Mr. P. J. McGarry.

**TREASURERS**—Messrs. Ml. Curley and Miko Conway.

**JUDGES**—Messrs. John Gallagher and J. J. Coyne.

**CLERKS OF SCALES**—Messrs. Patk. Kenny and Thomas Flatley.

**CLERKS OF COURSE**—Messrs. Michael Greally and Thomas Forde.

**STEWARDS**—Peter Hannon, John Conway, Austin Crean, Solr.; Dr. Smyth, Dr. Waldron, M. F. Waldron, LL.D.; John D. Leetch, solr.; E. W. Kelly, Churchfield; F. E. McNelis, Manager Ulster Bank; H. E. Grennell, Manager National Bank; John Durkan, P. P. Waldron, M.P.S.I.; M. Walshe, Solr.; Paddy Smyth, Pat Neary, B. Curran, Feamore; John Byrne, P. J. Caulfield, P. Jennings, Postmaster; James Waldron, Main St.; B. T. Lynch.

**HANDICAPPER**—Mr. E. Condell, 18, Bective Terrace, Cabra Road, Dublin.

**STARTER**—Mr. Peter O'Malley.

**1st Race, 1.30 p.m.—LADIES' PLATE OF £15**, out of which second horse receives £1. Distance 1½ miles. Entrance fee, 7/6.

**2nd Race, 2 p.m.—FARMERS' PLATE OF £10**, out of which second horse will receive £2, and third £1. Confined to within a radius of 4 Irish miles of Ballyhaunis, and to agricultural horses, not winning any previous race, owned by bona-fide farmers from 1st January, 1931.

**3rd Race, 2.30 p.m.—THE BALLYHAUNIS PLATE**—an Open Handicap flat, £20; out of which second horse receives £3. Distance, 2 miles. Entrance fee, 10/-

**4th Race, 3 p.m.—THE TOORAREE PLATE**. For ponies, 14 hands and under. Confined to within a radius of seven Irish miles of Ballyhaunis. Stake, £7; out of which second receives £1. Distance, 1½ miles. Entrance fee, 3/-

**5th Race, 3.30 p.m.—VISITORS' PLATE, £10**; out of which second receives £2, and third £1. Confined to ordinary draught horses within a radius of 8 Irish miles of Ballyhaunis. Distance, 1½ miles. Entrance fee, 5/-

**6th Race, 4 p.m.—TRADERS' PLATE, Open Handicap, £15**; out of which second receives £2. Distance, 1½ miles. Entrance fee, 7/6.

**Admission to Course**—Adults, 1/-; Enclosure, 2/6 extra. **Motor Cars, 2/6**  
**Standings and Tents, 2/6.**

Free stabling for all horses competing at the Meeting.

**ENTRIES CLOSE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 27th.** No Entry will be accepted after that date.

**NOTICE TO OWNERS**—The Handicapper wishes to draw attention of owners to the fact that any unregistered horse or pony which is not properly described, and whose previous performance and full particulars are not given, will be placed at the top of the Handicap. Application for Registration Forms should be made to the Secretaries.

The Committee shall not be responsible for any loss, injury, or damage which owners, jockeys or horses may sustain, nor for any accident that may occur to any person on the Course, and Entries will only be accepted and admission granted to Course on these conditions.

Any horse not at starting point at the appointed time will not come under the Starter's notice.

**JAMES CARNEY & P. BYRNE, Hon. Secs.**

Trains are being run at specially reduced fares from the following Stations:—Athlone, Ballina, Westport, Ballinrobe, Tuam and Sligo. (See Railway Posters.)

**A DANCE WILL FOLLOW IN MCGARRY'S HALL.**

**COMING MEETINGS**—Crossmolina, 9th July; Strokestown, 2nd July.

Elbert's (or Elwood's) house. In the middle of Crawley's farm (the Old Racecourse) lived the herd and his family: their name has been forgotten now. Starting back at the junction of Upper Main Street and the Doctor's Road, there were one or two houses around where Tom and Noreen Hopkins' is now. Part of Hazelhill townland crosses the road here and the next houses in Tooraree out the Knock Road were where the Gavin family used live, in the Tooraree Road behind where Mrs. Bridie Brennan's house is now. There was a house or two right opposite the Tooraree Road too, between Ard Patrick and the Tech. The occupants of these houses in this area haven't been tracked down exactly, but the heads of household in 1901 were: Sarah Brennan, Bridget Swift, Anne Walsh, Bridget Lyons and Mary Rattigan (Mrs. Donlon) — all of them either widows or with their husbands working away. John Mulkeen, a herd for the Lyons family, lived across from Patterson's, and Bridget McNamara a little further on. Further on still lived the Prenty family, where Rochford's Garage is now (the Prenty family still live here, in new houses further out the road). The last house in Tooraree townland out the Knock road was Michael Brennan's.

## Conclusion

At the present time the townland of Tooraree is a heavily populated area, although parts of it retain its rural, agricultural nature. It embraces the built-up residential areas of Tooraree, Doctor's Road and the Knock Road, the farming village of Low Ballindrehid and that terrace of houses in Upper Main Street from the head of the Doctor's road to Moran's. As well as containing the Community School — one of the first of its kind in the country, and one of the finest at the

present time, it has an Industrial Estate with a number of vibrant enterprises. It's role in the history of housing in Ballyhaunis should also be noted: along with a row of historic early 1900s "Soldiers and Sailors" houses, and a 1940s Council Estate, it contains the "Mayo Homes", one of the earliest private housing developments in this part of the country.

I hope you have enjoyed our journey across the "Plains of Tooraree" and that this short account of our historic townland will be of interest to all who live or work here, or who have just heard of the place.

## 1901 Census

The 1901 census lists twenty-one houses in Tooraree, nineteen of which were then occupied. In Low Ballindrehid, approaching from the Doctor's road, the heads of household were Mark Melvin (on the right), Mary Lyons, Martin Lyons, John Lyons, Patrick Healy, Thomas Flanagan, Francis Flanagan and John McGreal (all on the left). Coming up the Tooraree Road again from town there were Michael Mulkeen's and Martin Dyer's houses. Back towards High Ballindrehid (in the townland of Bracklaghboy) there was an unoccupied house that had been occupied by a Gaynor family towards the end of the nineteenth century, and then Thomas





*Ballyhaunis outing to Smithwicks Brewery, c. 1968. Front l-r: Smithwick's official, Úna Phillips, Thomas Murphy, Mary Byrne, Annie Freeley, Teresa Conway, Mary Elwood, Dottie Dillon, George Delaney, Mary Cunningham, Smithwick's official. Second row l-r: Larry Moran, Mary Keegan, James Lyons, unidentified, Tom Hegarty, Sonny Phillips, Tom Finn, Kathleen Mulhern, John Forde, Flo Dillon, unidentified, Bill Elwood, Eamon Burke. Back l-r: unidentified, Jack Halpin, Phil Maguire (Hurst), unidentified, Ann Freeley, Ms. Rattigan, Myra McGillicuddy, John Morley, Charlotte Coyne, Johnny Gilmore, Bernie Byrne.*



*Above: The O'Sullivan sisters, U.S.A., daughters of Catherine Waldron, Scrigg. L-R: Robby, Mary, Sr. Bernadette and Kathy.*

*Right: Ms. Orla Donnelly, Ballinphuill, Ballyhaunis, who was the recipient of a gold medal for her success in achieving the highest marks in Ireland in Business Studies in the Junior Certificate examination in 1998. The medal was awarded by the Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland and was presented to Orla by the Minister of State at the Dept. of Education, Mr. Noel Treacy at a special ceremony in Dublin on 5th January 1999. Orla is a student at Ballyhaunis Community School and is daughter of Jim & Mary Donnelly, Ballinphuill.*





# The Agricultural Shows

*Myra Fitzgerald-Healy*

Once Christmas and the New Year had passed the next red letter day for several town and country folk in this area was the Agricultural Show. These were the days before T.V., the Internet and cars. Transport was limited so it was usually "Shank's Mare" or a bicycle to take one to the Big Venue. Most towns held their own Agricultural Show, usually in conjunction with a carnival or most certainly amusements. The majority of shows were held during the month of August or September, so that before school resumed or the crops and potatoes were harvested, a large attendance was guaranteed - a fine day was also a bonus.

The Show Committee worked hard for several months beforehand - organising the venue, prizes, sponsorship, judges and catering. Programmes were usually distributed a month or six weeks in advance so that exhibitors could choose what sections they wanted to enter: Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Home produce, Gardening, Cookery, Hand-crafts, Turf and Farm produce. Hours of debate and discussion follow as to what classes to enter, would the goods win a prize-red, blue or yellow rosettes, a cup or the Supreme Championship? If won what an honour! If not, what would the people say? The social occasion of meeting and greeting friends, old and new, a politician or dignitary and discussing families, the weather and the price of livestock. The debates on winning entries, where points were lost and what one could do to capture the elusive first next year, took a lot of time and consideration.

Why am I interested in Agricultural Shows? I was brought to my first show at the age of six months. My grandparents lived next to the show grounds in Claremorris and the second Tuesday in September was the social outing of the year, meeting relations and friends and getting the odd half crown (now 12½p) which was a fortune to a child.

Ballyhaunis Agricultural Show was usually held on the third Thursday in August in the Vocational School and its grounds (now the Manor House). The late Pat Hughes (R.I.P.), Headmaster and later Eddie Thornton did everything possible to make the occasion a resounding success. Each section of the show was controlled by Stewards whose job it was to take in all the goods for judging and take care of them while the show was on, which usually ran from 10 am to 5 pm. Those people gave their time voluntarily and usually got a pass for the Show Dance in return.

My first prize, which I won for an embroidered tray cloth was 7/6 (now 37½p). It wasn't the prize that mattered but the honour of winning. Since then I have travelled to several shows all over the country and have been very lucky in the hand-crafts and cookery sections. It is still one of the most pleasurable days in the country calendar. Regretfully, Ballyhaunis Show got caught in a changing world, testing of cattle to take them out, E.U. rules and regulations contributed to its demise. The last agricultural show in Ballyhaunis was held in the early seventies. Claremorris Show is still held but now the date is usually given by the Irish Shows Association so as not to clash with other events.

Macra na Feirme also contributed to the running of the show. The names that I can recall are Michael Freeley, Eddie Egan, Jim Cribbin, Paddy Kelly, Henry Madden and John Cleary amongst others. For several people the Annual Show Dance, which was held in the Eclipse Ballroom (now Midas) on that night, was a bigger and more important occasion than the show itself. The best bands were employed, young and old enjoyed themselves until the early hours. So ended a perfect day. Some weeks later the results appeared in the Western People and the prize money paid. The joy of seeing one's name in print as prize-winner gave an incentive to enter some more classes the following year. This also gained support for the local effort of both rural and urban dwellers.

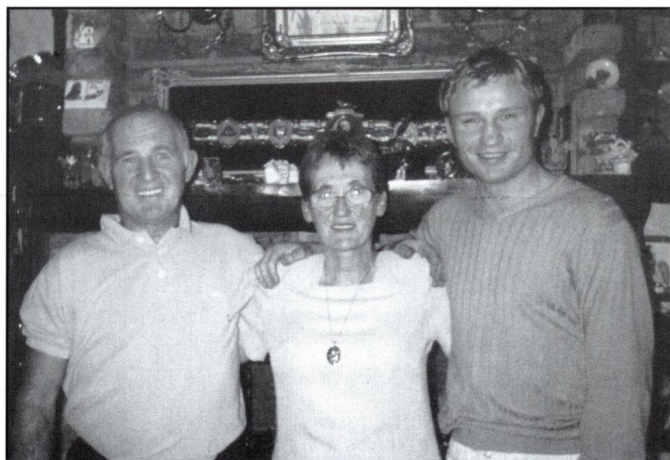
I recommend you all to attend an Agricultural Show for an enjoyable and unique day, where you will see a superb range of Irish agricultural life. It would be a pity if the Celtic Tiger gobbled our heritage and traditions, such as the Agricultural Show.

## Boxing Champion Has Ballyhaunis Connections

The European Lightweight Boxing Champion Billy Schwer, based in Luton, is a nephew of Kathleen O'Boyle, Carrowkeel. Billy's father - Billy senior - is Kathleen's brother. Kathleen O'Boyle, accompanied by her husband and family, watched Billy with pride, defeat the Italian Sandra Casamonica on Sky Television in Bethnal Green, London in May 1999. It was Billy's fortieth fight in his career. Billy himself reckons that he is an old-fashioned fighter, the type to take a risk to protect what he proudly owns. Billy is also the holder of the British and Commonwealth title. His World Title fight will be held in the 'Wembley Arena' in December against Stevie Johnston, the W.B.C. World Lightweight Champion.

Billy's father was a schoolboy champion boxer in 1954, 1955 and 1956. He was Senior Flyweight Champion of Ireland in 1962. So, Billy junior is being well advised by his father and coach Mickey Duff.

Ballyhaunis boxing fans everywhere will follow Billy's career with great interest, nonemore so than his aunt Kathleen O'Boyle.



Billy Schwer Jr., on right, with his father Billy Snr. and aunt Kathleen O'Boyle



# St. Patrick's Well, Holywell

*As told by Mrs. Biesty, Pattenspark, Ballyhaunis in 1938.  
Taken from the Irish Folklore Commissions "Folklore  
Essays."*

St. Patrick on his way to Croagh Patrick stopped at a place now known as Holywell and built a church there. He also blessed a little well that is now in Tarmey's field. Holywell is about two miles from Ballyhaunis and that is the reason why the place is called Holywell.

It became a famous place of pilgrimage and down to the present day (1938) some of the old people still perform stations at the well on Garland Sunday, that is the last Sunday in July. St. Patrick left St. Mucna in charge of his church there and its ruins are still to be seen. It is said that St. Mucna is buried there.

It has been used in recent years (1938) as a place of burial for stillborn children. It is also said a prince from Kerry came to the well on a pilgrimage and died there and was buried in the little graveyard attached to the church. A pattern is still held on Garland Sunday at Holywell. There are no special prayers to be said, but the rosary is said by the people.

It was the custom to tie a bit of ribbon or wool material in the tree which is beside the well. The reason for doing so is not known. From St. Patrick's well in Holywell, St. Patrick's church in Ballyhaunis got its name and Holywell, without doubt, is a place of great sanctity. The water in this well is supposed to have curative powers and many people on pilgrimage brought holy water home with them and used it as we use it in the church.

There is a story told about a stone bearing a cross which was taken from the church in Holywell to be brought to the church at Beken, but it is said that it fell off again and again, so they left it there in the place where it fell, and it may still be seen by the roadside at Carrowkeel. This stone is said to have power of curing diseases of animals and used to be visited by many people for that purpose.

## The Stations

The Stations are performed by going up to the mound where the stone is placed about ten yards from the well. Kneel and say ten Hail Marys and ten Our Fathers. Then go around the mound seven times saying a Hail Mary each time. Go on your knees from the mound to the cross at the well, and say three Hail Marys. Make the sign of the cross three times with the little stone left on the cross and kiss the cross each time. Then go around the well ten times saying an Our Father and a Hail Mary each time. Rest on one knee each time as you pass the stone that has the mark of St. Patrick's knee. Come to the cross again and do as before, then come to the well and say three Hail Marys then fill the cup with water and taste it.

# A.I.M.

*Annagh Island Mannin Development Association*

A.I.M. are currently in the process of building a Visitor Centre. This centre will house a museum, general purpose room, kitchen and toilets. The committee has been in contact with the National Museum and they have indicated that when a suitable building is available, artefacts that they have from the area may be given on loan. The Museum has a very rare dug-out canoe, which the O.P.W. found in the Glore river between Mannin and Island lakes in 1995. It has been dated by the University of Manchester at 3,985 years old and it is expected that it will be returned. People who have collections and artefacts will have the opportunity to put them on display also.

The centre is located on a site provided by Jimmy Hunt near the boundary of Aghamore and Annagh parishes. It is part funded by Leader 2 through the I.R.D. Office in Kiltimagh and much of the work is done in a voluntary capacity. The committee raised some of the cost and would like to thank everyone that has supported this project in any way. It is hoped to be completed in a few months. It is intended to put in place self-guided walk-ways as there is a variety of flora & fauna in the area and a number of sites of archaeological interest.



Visitor Centre, at Cartron South under construction.



## Golden Wedding.

**Congratulations** to May and Tony Boyle (left) of Riverside, Galway who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary last June. Tony is a regular contributor to Annagh Magazine for the past fifteen years and readers will enjoy his 'Memories of Father Mansfield' in this year's issue.

He also contributes to 'Riverside News' and other articles to his own parish Annual Magazine in Galway city. He worked in Ballyhaunis in the 1940s.



# A Child Of The Sixties

*Tom Caulfield*

Thirty years have elapsed since the 1960s passed into history. This was the decade when Ireland entered the modern world. De Valera had just relinquished the office of Taoiseach in 1960 and (for his second time) had become President of the Irish Republic. The new economic policies of Sean Lemass and T. K. Whitaker were working and a wave of confidence and optimism swept the country. Garret Fitzgerald summed up the sense of buoyancy about the future in an 'Irish Times' article of July 1960 with the headline: 'Good Times Coming'. The population started to grow again for the first time since the Famine. Subjects that had been avoided were being openly aired and traditional values are now being questioned. Also in 1960 a certain C. J. Haughey was appointed to his first government post.

In sport, Galway's footballers and the hurlers of Tipperary dominated the sixties. Horse racing belonged to 'Arkle' and the show jumper 'Dundrum' was a favourite in the hearts of all Irish people.

Ireland first entered the Eurovision Song Contest in 1965 with a song called "Walkin' The Streets In The Rain" sung by Butch Moore. The Nolans of Tolka Row became Ireland's first soap family. The infamous Late Late Show incident of the Bishop and the Nightie, and all its absurdity, had no sooner settled than another one blew up when Trinity student Brian Trevaskis referred on the show to the Galway cathedral as a "ghastly monstrosity" and to the Bishop of Galway as a 'moron.'

Irish traditional music gained a whole new generation of adherents in the 1960s. This was due in part to an international revival of interest in folk music and partly to the work of Sean O'Riada. The ballad boom was another feature of the revival. The Dubliners and the Clancy Brothers were among the earliest and most enduring groups. Showbands might have been a little old fashioned in comparison to what was happening in the rest of the pop music world, but they were hugely popular in Ireland, especially in the provinces.

In Ballyhaunis these changing times meant more money in our pockets and more to spend it on. Sales of new cars were up and there were plenty of new models to choose from. J. P. Freyne or B. T. Lynch would have been only too happy to sell you a new Ford Anglia with the funny sloped back window for just £535 ex-works.

The consumer revolution edged closer and the town's first supermarkets opened. Supermarkets made sense and saved money. Toothpaste which cost 3s 8d in a small shop in 1965 was only 3s 1d in a supermarket. Unfortunately there was a price to pay in human terms, and shopping, which had

been a social activity - a daily round of human contact and banter - was transformed into a purely commercial one.

There was much talk of Advance Factories in small town Ireland and the baby food company 'Liga' was approached to set up in Ballyhaunis. When this deal fell through a champion greyhound from the Upper Main St. kennels was renamed 'Suitcase Factory'!

The Fair Green was our 'Field of Dreams' and the venue for our annual bonfire. Each Summer we headed to Pollnacrougha or Annagh Lake to cool down and in Mack's Hill a new swimming pool was started. In time this scheme too was abandoned and the unfinished pool doubled as a football pitch until its eventual completion.

There were no soccer or rugby clubs in the town in the 1960s and the G.A.A. had no competition when it came to recruitment of young members. Capturing the County Intermediate Title in 1967 was the highlight of the decade. Little did we know then that twenty-one long years would pass before our next victory in the same grade. As a youngster my father brought me the length and breadth of the country to support the Mayo team which included heroes like Fr. J. J. Cribbin and my cousin Tom Fitzgerald. A planned trip to Gaelic Grounds in Limerick in April 1969 to see Mayo do battle with the Kingdom was thwarted when we returned from First Mass to see our house at Upper Main Street in flames.

Donogh O'Malley was the man who revolutionised Irish education and gave all Irish children, irrespective of their families' means, access to second level education. Sister Carmel was my first teacher when I started school in a terraced house in Clare Street. The convent school was then undergoing renovation. Saint Patrick's College for boys opened its doors in September in 1962 with Fr. Patrick Costelloe at the helm. I enrolled there in 1972 and was among the final class to sit the Leaving Cert. in 1977 when St. Pat's was replaced by the Community School.

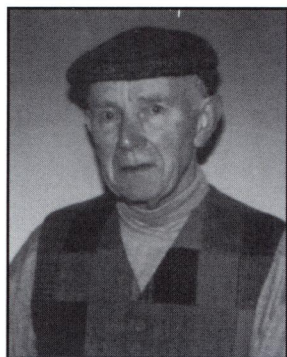
No account of Ballyhaunis in the 'Swinging Sixties' would be complete without mention of the 'characters' who added their own splash of colour to the town's make up. Each street had its quota of these men and women, some comical, some eccentric, but all memorable. In Upper Main Street we were blessed with more than our fair share of these celebrities.

Today, Ballyhaunis is a thriving, modern, progressive town. We are rightly proud of our status as capital of East Mayo, providing much needed employment in the industrial and service sector. However, Ballyhaunis is unique among the small towns of Ireland. We have our own distinguishing characteristics that single us out: our language, accent and idiom; our religious, sporting and social history. A review of our past may help to sharpen our awareness of our identity. After all if we lose this we may have trouble in recognising ourselves.



# Memories Of Ballyhaunis Fifty Years Ago

*Martin Jarlath Gormally*



When I was asked recently to write something for the next edition of Annagh Parish Magazine my first reaction was "why me, what can I contribute which would be even remotely of interest to the current population of Annagh Parish or it's emigrant sons and daughters?" I had what I might call a passing acquaintance with the area almost fifty years ago when I worked there as an official of the Department of

Agriculture for three and a half years. I was persuaded that, as an outsider, my impressions of the area at that time would be of considerable interest. Readers must judge for themselves the validity of the assurance.

I had a casual knowledge of Ballyhaunis town from earlier visits on my way to Knock. When I came to reside there I found a vibrant market town situated in a densley populated hinterland strategically placed on the main route to Knock for traffic from midland and eastern counties. Its well appointed business premises and private dwellings were ample evidence of overall prosperity. The volume of traffic which flowed through the town - buses and motor cars carrying pilgrims to Knock Shrine - was as much as the main streets could accommodate. Pilgrims stopping for food and sundry purchases brought business. Weekly markets and monthly fairs all added to the local economy. The town had no major industry at that time but income from farming and emigrant remittances ensured that there was bread on the table for all.

## Christmas and New Year

A multiplicity of small family holdings in the Ballyhaunis area combined with traditional large families of that time gave rise to a high emigration rate. A common sight at the railway station was the number of able-bodied young men and women who boarded the train on their way to foreign destinations, many never to return. Others migrated to England for seasonal work, returning once or twice a year to keep the family unit intact. Christmas homecomings brought great life to the town as families - temporarily reunited - celebrated a few weeks together. I recall star-filled frosty nights when crowds of people milled through the streets exchanging handshakes and Christmas greetings. Peace and goodwill abounded everywhere, well almost everywhere, there was the occasional bout of fisticuffs as old feuds resurfaced, but these only added to the atmosphere of the occasion as peace was soon restored.

At midnight on New Year's Eve the pealing of church bells was drowned as banging of bin lids and tin cans mingled with the barking of dogs and the cries of babies awakened from their sleep when young people took to the streets to welcome the New Year. I

daren't relate what anguished parents shouted from bedroom windows as their sleep was so rudely disturbed. All in good fun, it happened just once a year and made great conversation for the week thereafter.

My role in the area consisted of assisting landowners to improve their holdings through drainage, reclamation, and fertiliser treatment, thereby providing an opportunity to increase farm income. A depression in farm prices in the twenties was followed by the Economic War of the thirties, and compulsory tillage during World War Two. These factors, combined with a severe shortage of fertilisers, left the land depleted and impoverished. Crop yields were low and the condition of livestock was in the main poor. Prices pertaining for farm produce were paltry when compared with current standards. The following are a few quotations from fairs and markets of the time (old currency):

Three year old bullock	50 pounds
Yearlings	24 pounds
Suck calves	7 pounds
Bonhams	8 pounds
Potatoes	10 shillings, cwt.
Chickens	8 shillings, each
Eggs	6 shillings, score
Butter	3 shillings, lb.
Milk	6 pence, pint

In 1949, with the help of United States Marshall Aid, a major programme of land rehabilitation was launched by the Irish Government. Substantial grants were offered to farmers who undertook drainage and reclamation of their holdings. Provision was made for low interest loans towards the cost of lime and fertiliser treatment and ground limestone was heavily subsidised to promote its use on land. Over the following twenty five years several million acres were improved under those schemes. There was an air of excitement as huge earthmoving equipment and drainage machinery began to appear on small western holdings. Emigrants who had become familiar with the working of similar machines in England and elsewhere abroad returned home to take up the demand for operators in Ireland. Farmers around Ballyhaunis and neighbouring parishes were quick to avail of the schemes on offer. As a result there were very few holdings in the district that I didn't have to visit at one time or another.

Because of the nature of the work, most of my acquaintances were among the rural population from whom I received courtesy and co-operation. Despite my rather brief sojourn in the town of Ballyhaunis I developed a close friendship with many of the towns-people, most of whom have regrettably since departed this life. At the risk of causing offence by omission I should mention a few special friends: Mickey Curley, John Freyne, Tom Lyons, Jackie Halpin, George Delaney, Tom Forde, Albert Madden, Bill Hynes, Jack Dillon, my former school mate Denis Hannon, and of course the priests of the Parish Church and Friary. These, and others too numerous to name I still recall with affection. Nowadays as I pass through the town on the express bus to Galway (courtesy of my free travel pass) I look for the names of shops and establishments that I knew. Thankfully, a large number are still intact although new names appearing indicate changes in ownership in some instances. It happens everywhere: life goes on, nothing remains the same for too long. Along the bus route I look out for fields which were restored to agricultural use in my time. It



is fulfilling to find the improved land still productive and well maintained. Some have reverted to a neglected condition due, I feel sure, to some unavoidable circumstances - ageing ownership, the flight of a younger generation to urban centres, inability to make a decent livelihood on limited acreage, and the age-old problem of emigration. As in most western counties the outflow of population from Annagh parish over the past two centuries has been enormous. Family names from the area are identifiable in cemeteries abroad from Birmingham to London, from Boston to New York and in countless other centres. There is a proud record of sons and daughters from the area who carried the torch of Christianity to five continents.

While working in County Meath I encountered many families from Western Seaboard counties who had been transferred to new holdings in that part of the country by the Land Commission in order to relieve congestion. Migrants from Mayo were always identifiable from the picture of the Sacred Heart and its associated red lamp which were given pride of place in their livingrooms.

A lot of water has flowed under the bridge in Ballyhaunis since I resided there almost fifty years ago. I moved from there to Donegal and subsequently worked in most counties north of the Galway to Dublin line where cultures and farming practices varied substantially from those which I met with in Mayo. Despite associations formed in the places where I have since lived, I still hold Ballyhaunis in high esteem. Here I found a soulmate and here our first children were born. I treasure the friendship and goodwill which I experienced among you. So, people of Annagh parish, accept this tribute from a "blow-in" who once lived in your town, although few at this stage will have any recollection of me.

For those my friends who have departed this life I pray "Ar dheis Dé go maire siad uilig".

## Ballyhaunis Bridge Club

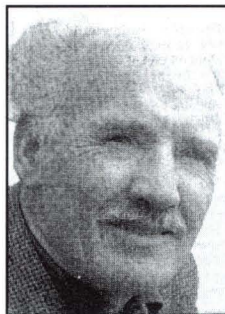
*Jean Gallagher*

The Ballyhaunis Bridge Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday night at 8 pm in "The Hazel" pub. At present we have seventy-two members. New members are always welcome.



L-R: Mrs. Dorothy Durkan, Mrs. Mary Morley and Mrs. Kay Higgins (President)

## New Chapter To Open For Author Bill's Books



*Bolton's most famous writer Bill Naughton is to join the likes of Shakespeare and Dickens on the timetable in schools up and down the country.*

The Bolton writer who penned Alfie has been included in the first recommended reading list for contemporary fiction issued by the Government.

Education secretary David Blunkett unveiled his list of selected authors when he put forward proposals to make wholesale changes to the National Curriculum in the new Millennium. Up until now, teachers have been able to pick their own titles for lessons in modern literature but told to choose from selected authors for historical works. The Government have now issued a list of nine authors, including Naughton, who must be used to cover recent and contemporary fiction in secondary schools from September 2000.

Barry Wood, chairman of Bolton Octagon and Head of English and Creative Writing at Bolton Institute, believes it only right that the Bolton author is included in the list. Naughton's books are already a firm favourite with many English teachers in both primary and secondary schools up and down the country. "Many of his books deal with young people and families, and there is something about his depiction of childhood which appeals to a whole range of students, not just those from the North", he said, "for instance 'Spring and Port Wine' deals the conflict between the generations and is very appropriate to contemporary society."

Naughton's widow - Erna - is delighted the books of her late husband have been included on the official list and confirmed there is still widespread interest in his work. She said the 'Goalkeeper's Revenge' and 'Spring and Port Wine' are already widely read in schools and she often gets letters from young people who have just been introduced to his work. "He died in 1992 but he lives on through his writing and it is nice to know children are still reading his books", she said.

David Blunkett ordered the review of the National Curriculum last year and proposals recommended by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority will go out to consultation before being put in place in September 2000.

The President this year is Mrs. Frances Gaffney; Treasurer: Mrs. Joan Flynn; Tournament Directors: Mrs. Corrine Flatley and Mrs. Dorothy Durkan.

We have several major competitions throughout the year: "The Murphy Cup", "Rochford Motors", "Bank of Ireland", "A.I.B. Bank", "Ulster Bank" and the President's Prize.

Finally, we would like to thank all our sponsors.



# Mes Cinq Jours À Bruxelles

*James Stratford*

It was a cool September evening when my flight touched down in Brussels, capital of Belgium. I followed the many tailor-made suit wearing, 'laptop computer with matching mobile phone' junkies to the luggage reclaim hall, where a sense of geographical confusion confronted me. To my right, a couple chatting away in some German dialect; a crowd of animated Italians ahead of me. It was then I realised that this was more than merely the "city with no river" that I had heard so little about, in this predominantly French-speaking country. Now it dawned on me. I was amongst Europeans.

I continued my way through the arrivals lounge and met up with my room-mates (for the next five days) and Caroline, a rep from Focus Research (Objectif Recherche), the people who organised the 'mission'. We synchronised our watches and got stuck into the complimentary Belgian chocolate. I suspect the chocs were to take our minds off Caroline's insane driving through rush-hour traffic. In the strangely short time it took us to reach the Augberge Jacques Brel, our Youth Hostel, we had learnt a lot about each other. There was Florian Thaler, a German speaking Italian who spoke many languages and had just returned from a trip to South Africa; Jetta Højgaard of Denmark, who incidentally voted against Europe (!). Last but not least, Ana Fernandes from Portugal, whom everyone got on with really well. The following day, we met with Bénédicte, a "petite parisienne" whose job it was to co-ordinate our five days in Brussels, and keep us motivated with our work!

Each of us had been chosen by the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe (F.E.E.E.) for our involvement in the Young Reporters for the Environment (Y.R.E.) project in our native countries. This was the climax of the Y.R.E. itinerary for the year, as it were. Our responsibility was to report on the closing event of the Global (Ex)Change project, which although a different thing altogether, ran along similar lines to Y.R.E. (an environmental theme).

Global (Ex)Change is an initiative of Focus Research (the Belgian Institute for the Promotion of Science) which involved students from France, Italy and from within Belgium itself. They were to compile their different projects over a twelve month period on an environmental issue affecting their locality in conjunction with so-called 'godfathers', who in reality were scientists specialising in various fields (e.g. Pollution)

Our reports of the closing event - a large presentation of these projects - were to be published on the Internet and in 'Le Soir', Belgium's answer to the Irish Times.

On Thursday morning we visited the buildings of Focus Research where we were briefed on the plans for Saturday's events, and we got an opportunity to meet with the French and Italian students, along with their teachers. Here we learned a lot about their various projects and how each of them tied in together. Some of the



James Stratford, extreme right, pictured in Brussels with fellow Europe students. (photo courtesy of James Stratford)

projects had a lot in common such as, how two groups of French and Italian students both studied the effects of air pollution from different aspects. In the evening we got the chance to visit some of the sights in Brussels such as the Atomium. We all spent the evening getting to know the French and Italian students better. I found the multi-cultural and multi-lingual conversations fascinating and surprised myself, as I understood most of what was said. Florian enjoyed talking with the Italian students in their own language, which we found useful when we were interviewing them.

On Friday we visited the Faculty of Agronomic Sciences at Gembloux, 45 km from Brussels. It was nice to get out of the city for a while. We had more opportunities for interviewing the students on the coach, but we spent most of the trip looking at what we had gathered and trying to make a start on the Y.R.E. articles. The Faculty was interesting from the point of view that it was an agricultural college, so in a way it tied in with what we were doing. The teachers introduced us to some of the work they did at the college, which included the land management, the management of forests (which had a particular significance), plant and animal biology amongst other research. A fair amount of it was difficult to identify as relevant to the project, but as it was an ecological college, it was still interesting. The Faculty was a partner in the Global (Ex)Change project as almost thirty scientists at this Faculty had been in constant contact with students involved in the project within Belgium.

Saturday was the closing day of the Global (Ex)Change project. We took a short trip by metro to the Belgian Royal Institute of Natural Sciences. The opening presentation was hosted by Daniel Cahne, Director of the Institute, and was introduced by Sophie Rotiers of Focus Research. Contributions were made by Phillipe Jacques, President of Focus Research; Sylvie Coiteaux, Project Manager of the 'Espace Mendes France' (Poitiers); Anne-Marie Bruyas of the 'Fondazione Idis' (Naples) and Francisco Fernandes, head of the 'Innovation Program' of the European Commission (DGXII). These brief speeches were mainly focused on congratulating the students for all their hard work and success. Mr. Fernandes reflected on the lessons that can be learned for the whole of Europe - how our attitudes need to change. He looked at how people need to forget the "every man for himself" attitude, to promote education, to use science as a means of prevention and not only as a recovery (in the context of global problems). More



generally to change our habits.

It was fascinating to see the amount of work that had gone into compiling their projects. One group in France even got into trouble with the local politicians regarding levels of pollution in their rivers. A group in Italy endured twelve months of surveying car and other vehicle emissions resulting from the transportation of students to their Benevento school.

Behind the scenes of all this work, there was a greater element to this whole mission - the social aspect. The opportunity to meet fellow Europeans, to work with them, to share jokes, opinions etc. This was the objective of the F.E.E.E., to realise that here in

Europe we must work together to achieve a better future.

We had a lot of fun on this trip and for me, it means that I now have more friends across the Continent. We did not work merely as a foursome, but amongst the fifty or more students from Italy and France who were involved in the Global (Ex)Change. I hope many more people have the opportunity to participate in these Y.R.E. missions as they have a great importance 'pour l'avenir d'Europe.'

I'd like to thank all the teachers at the school who were involved, especially Anthony Finnerty and also my fellow students especially Lisa Tighe whose help was greatly appreciated.

## Ballyhaunis Golf Club

*Kay Buckley P.R.O.*

Ballyhaunis Golf Club enjoyed a very successful year in 1999 under the leadership of: Captain: Mr. Tadhg Buckley, Lady Captain: Mrs. Jenny Glynn, President: Mr. Rory O'Connor.

This year proved to be a very fruitful one for the Club with regard to Society Outings and most Saturdays were booked since early in the year. Many thanks to all our sponsors who generously contributed to our Sunday competitions and indeed to our Open Week which proved to be an outstanding success. It is with this sponsorship that we can endeavour to run such a great club.

Our course is one of the best in the West of Ireland and great credit must be given to our Greenskeeper - Mr. Liam Devaney - for the immaculate condition of the greens and fairways.

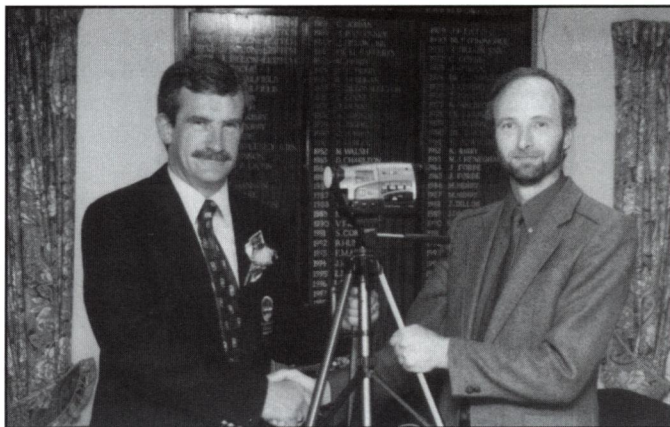
The following are the winners of the three major competitions during 1999: The Captain's Prize (Mr. Tadhg Buckley) won by Kevin Henry, Lady Captain's Prize (Mrs. Jenny Glynn) won by Siobhan Herr, President's Prize (Mr. Rory O'Connor) won by Liam Lynskey.

The highlight of the year was indeed the winning of the Jack O'Sullivan Trophy. Ballyhaunis beat Gort in the final round held in Gort. Great credit must be given to all the team members who

played in this and who worked so hard to bring the trophy to Ballyhaunis.

The Ladies also had a very successful year and reached the semi-finals in the Connacht Shield Foursomes, but unfortunately were knocked out by Oughterard. Better luck next year ladies!

The club looks forward to the year 2000 under the leadership of: Ivan Freeley (Captain), Joan Flynn (Lady Captain) and Tony Flynn (President). Every good luck is wished to them for the Millennium year and we are sure they will be great ambassadors for the Club.



Club President Rory O'Connor (left) presents the President's Prize to Liam Lynskey.



Tadhg Buckley, Captain (left) presents the Captain's Prize to the 1999 winner Kevin Henry.



Lady Captain Jenny Glynn (right) presents her Lady Captain's Prize to the 1999 winner Siobhán Herr.





January 1972. Front l-r: Mary Freeley, Mollie Concannon, Hannah O'Dwyer, unidentified, John Morley, Teresa Conway, Maura Herr, Heather Conway. Back l-r: Paddy Freeley and Maria Cribbin.



Arslan Afzal, St. Mary's National School, prize winner in a Western Health Board Art Competition for Primary Schools, June 1999



Alan Fitzpatrick, Aisling Drive, who played on the Irish Junior Pool team in the World Pool Championships in Morecambe, England in July 1999. The Irish team came second.



# 'He's In The Kitchen' Main Street In The Forties

*Kieran Waldron*

I wonder if today's children sense the freedom which we shared as children. 'The world was truly our oyster'; we had an innocent sense of ownership of our town, its streets, the hills behind the streets and the 'backways' and there was a gamelike spirit that told us we could wander, almost as we liked, into any house in the street, and not even be noticed. So, when I was looking for William Byrne, John Lyons or Bernie, I asked the mother or father in the shop: "Is John in, please." The answer was always the same: "he's in the kitchen", meaning 'go in to him.'

And this freedom was not restricted to the houses where there were school pals. In fact, there were few houses in the length of Main Street in which I had not visited at least the kitchen, if not the inner recesses of the house as well and, at a time when there was no television, no external distractions, the wonderworlds that were in the back yards and outoffices. As the poet says: "Tá Tír na n-óg ar chúl an tí."

In previous issues of 'Annagh', Joe Kenny of Knox Street and Anthony Robinson of Clare Street captured the spirit of the times in these streets during the forties and fifties, so somebody or other should do the same for Main Street. Lest what we patriots considered to be the premier street should go by default, here I go, though I am conscious there is 'none so poor to do them reverence.' For Main Street too was full of characters - engaging, eccentric and loveable people.

My father, James Waldron, a native of Devlis, spent some years in business in Birmingham and, in 1916, returned to take over the grocery shop and bakery (the present Spar premises) from a Mr. Pat McConville. In 1919 he married my mother, Rita Freeley, who lived just across the street. They had eleven children, two of whom died in infancy. I was the second youngest, born in 1936. I left for boarding school in Tuam in 1949, so I have special memories of Main St. in the forties.

For those lean and scanty days, the business did well both in wholesale as well as retail. It was, however, the 'Steam and Machine Bakery', as it was heralded in the

rather pretentious bill-heads of the day, which made it possible for my parents to give an education to a large family. In the bakehouse at the rear of the shop, I especially remember two burly bakers: a Mick O'Brien, who had some history in the Old I.R.A., and a Michael Lyons. Their deft hands in shaping, cutting and weighing the two-pound pan loaves, and Mick, with his hairy arms, lifting an armful of dough from the troughs to the cutting table, are engraved in my memory. Harder to describe was the aroma of the freshly baked 'batch' that filled the air of Lower Main Street and Knox Street when the huge black oven was cranked open and the wheels, carrying the baking plate, were yanked along the guide rails. The old Reo breadvan, driven by Broddie Benson, supplied the town and the country shops. I remember just a few spins in that van before it was grounded because of the outbreak of the war in 1939, and the consequent rationing of petrol. My memories of the same van, with its distinctive smell, was of it sitting on blocks in the old warehouse under 'Waldron's Hall', in Clare Street (now the proposed MWR premises). There it rested, silently, with Pat O'Dwyer's 'Perfect' car as a companion, for the duration of the war and, in fact, was never to run again. In 1946/47, my father took the view that small local bakeries would be outclassed by Bolands and other Dublin bakeries which were then making inroads into towns like Ballyhaunis. So he sold off the plant to our marriage relation, Tommy Garvey of Tuam.

Mention of Waldron's Hall, which my father bought in 1933, revives many memories for me. I was too young to remember the pictures there, as Michael Caslin, the film entrepreneur from Strokestown was also petrol-starved after the war started. The arrival of the Parochial Hall which opened in 1940 had, in any case, made a second cinema redundant. I remember, rather, some concerts and plays mounted there, mostly by Fr. Mansfield of the Friary. Many happy hours I spent, trudging around after a handyman/stage carpenter, Tommy O'Malley of Devlis, who gave me a life-long fondness for the mystique of backstage and the theatre. Above all, I remember a boxing ring there, the training in the Boxing Club and some boxing tournaments organised there by my uncle, Larry Freeley, who was later involved, with others, in



Main Street, Ballyhaunis. Postcard photo taken in 1933.



two International Boxing tournaments, one against the French, in the Friary Grounds on 15th August 1946, and later an Irish/English contest in the Star Cinema in the 1950s.

## Kilroy's

I am rambling a little from Main Street. However, Joe Kenny rambled into Main Street a bit because he could not resist writing of that great place of all congregations - Kilroy's - or, as it was later known, Pat Keane's (where the Webb family now have their private house) when a strong G.A.A. ethos was added. As this notable gathering place of solicitors, sailors, war veterans, bankers and underworked local philosophers was next door to our shop, it was a happy hunting ground for our family. In my earliest years it was occupied by Larry and Sabina Kilroy and their elderly sons, Laurence and Paddy. Paddy was a born seanachie who could hold forth in any court, and he regaled us with exaggerated versions of battles and characters of yore. Though the place was set out as a shop, with counters and shelves, I do not remember ever seeing a customer there during the forties. But the shop was thronged, nevertheless. The counters were useful as seats, and, on summer days, Laurence provided deck facilities for all the busy men of Ballyhaunis, who came there to partake of the fountains of wisdom and local gossip. The shutters were taken down, as if for business, from the double window on the north side, which never boasted any glass. The space provided could cater for three seated adults, or maybe four young persons, always of the male sex, who sat in the window, their legs dangling into Main St. From there, they saw all that was coming, and commented as appropriate. I remember the edge of the sills, smoothed and greasy from generations of observers' bottoms. Only seldom did I sit there myself, for the facility was strictly controlled, on seniority grounds, and - especially in the afternoons - was booked out.

Main Street itself suffered many hours, and even days, of very little movement. Business was slack, if for no other reason than that times were hard and every farming family was practically self-sufficient. Even the biggest grocers had to carry only thirty or forty lines: just the essentials like tea, sugar, bextartar, washing soda, bran, pollard, tobacco, flour and, perhaps, Indian meal. Only on Tuesdays (market day), on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, did the carts and traps of the country come into town, so the roadway was largely bereft of vehicular traffic; and in the evenings, especially and on Sundays, full scale football matches were made possible, and were not uncommon. And in those frosty winters, the absence of traffic made the downhill slope of the street, especially opposite the Barracks and at Curley's, an ideal skating slide for us young fellows, until we were chased off by one of the eight Guards or Sergeant Pat Nally.

## Main Street Businesses

Mention of Curley's brings me to a certain fact of commercial life. Business families, unlike farming families, come and go. Nowadays, I think only the Curley's themselves, the McGarry, Gallagher, Dillon, Webb, O'Brien, Lyons, Halpin (Caulfield), Murphy, Phillips and Green families operate a business concern in the same locations in Lower Main Street, out of the forty shops of fifty years ago. Writing from memory, and starting from the Square, on the South side, I recall the shops in the mid to late forties were: Higgins' (closed), P. J. McGarry's, John Gallagher's, Thos. O'Boyle's, Albert Madden's (Eaton's), Miss Stella Waldron's Central Hotel, Doyle's (closed); Tom Concannon's,



Jimmy Noone, pictured outside Dillon's, Main St. (Courtesy of Mrs. Anne O'Shaughnessy)

Conor Flynn's, Pat Morley's, Pat O'Brien's, Miss Grogan's, Miss Morley's, Miss Greally's, Mickie Curley's, Alec Green's and Miss Annie Freeley's. On the North side the shops were Jack Dillon's, Mick Webb's, Kilroy's (closed), James Waldron's, Paddy Smyth's, Tommy Lyons', Michael Fahey's, Lynch's (closed), Pat Phillips', Joe Flatley's, Kate Flatley's, B. T. Lynch's Garage, John Byrne's, Pakie Caulfield's, Lyons' (closed), Walsh's (closed), Laurence O'Reilly's (closed), Tom Murphy's, William Neary's, Flanagan's ('Cape of Good Hope'), Phillips', Dominick Byrne's ('The London Tailor') and Pat Tighe's. Of these, no less than nineteen had a bar at the rear of the shop with a six-day licence at least. I believe we had fifty three pubs in the entire town in those days. Ballyhaunis, however, was no more a town of drinkers than the next. Most bars depended on the fair day in the month for a livelihood and ordinarily the bar closed, with the rest of the shop, about eight o'clock each evening.

## Sounds Of The Past

The sounds of the street were few enough, few enough for a child, still in bed in the morning air, to hear distinctly even a dog's bark from the remote distance of Clare Street or Knox Street. On Pig Fair Day (twice a month) there was the endless screeching of banbhs in their carts which were upended and reversed into the footpath. There were the equivalent sounds from the monthly Cattle and Sheep Fairs, or the Horse Fairs twice a year. On other days, there was just the trundle of an occasional cart, the clip-clop of the pony under Martin Murphy's milk-trap, and, occasionally, a herd of cattle, mooing aloud, on their way to the river for a drink. And then there was that alerting thud of the cleaver on the butcher's table in Webb's or Smyth's, or the final cry of a beast as it was led to one of the two slaughter-houses virtually next door.

## The Egglers

Three premises in Main St. were especially worth visiting. These were the stores of the two 'egglers' - Byrnes and Caulfields - and that of Pat Tighe, the shoemaker. The eggs were collected from all over the district, and in the stores at the rear of the premises, with the mysterious black curtain cutting off the alcove, somebody



examined the eggs under artificial light, and we watched endlessly the fascinating egg carousel moving the eggs to the packer at the end of the line. The timber packing-boxes, counted mysteriously in 'hundreds', which in fact amounted to one hundred and twenty eggs, were transported to the railway station, and from thence, exported to all corners of Britain. Each egg was stamped with the weekly code-number, as announced after the News on radio each Sunday evening. Byrnes' enterprise, especially, was always worth inspecting as we made our way to the Lochán for a game of Soccer, or Gaelic, or rounders. The eggglers had by then graduated from a horse-cart to a lorry and the 'run' to the country in the morning was often subject to long delays due to a lorry unwilling to start. This routine was even longer in the war years, when on a cold Winter morning, the black gas producer (or 'gastitutor' as we pronounced it), mounted to the front of the radiator, was nursed into firing. It was fuelled, I believe, by charcoal. At Christmas time, the eggs seemed to give way to squawking turkeys and much slaughter and plucking. So these premises were always full of bustling life and activity.

### Tighe's

The other minor 'industry' in the Main Street was that of Tighe's Shoemakers, near the Fairgreen, where Pat Tighe Senior occupied the first of four benches, and his three sons, Larry, Paddy and Joe, each with his own last, brought up the rear. Shoemaking was a booming trade then. New shoes were rare, so whatever one had, shoes, boots or clogs, had to be repaired, until they fell asunder.

### 'Speak not of the songs of Spring: we had our music too'.

If the piano upstairs in our house was not being thumped in the mandatory child's 'practising', the elderly Miss Monica Flynn, across the street, might be playing to herself something like 'Plaisir d'Amour' on the piano, or rehearsing Paddy Kilroy or one of the Friary choir for a solo performance in a local concert. And then there were the piano exercises drifting through the air from Eaton's sitting room, where Miss Dill Eaton, or Jo, was teaching piano to some young children. This was one upstairs room in the street which I too visited, for it was there we had choral rehearsals for one of a series of children's operettas, from 1940 - 1950, which Miss Dill Eaton, single handedly, produced. And we struggled with the difficult airs, and the even more difficult words, from 'Il Trovatore' or 'Maritana'. In other years, she had produced 'The Bohemian Girl' (which opened the Parochial Hall in 1940), 'Zurika, the Gypsy Maiden', and many more. The arrival of the costumes from Ging's of Dublin and the operettas themselves were major highlights of our youth. Those were wonderful achievements and added a lot of colour to these supposedly drab days of wartime Ireland.

Two sobering sights which I witnessed in my boyhood, near the Square, are embedded in my memory. The first was a raging fire which I could see through the open doorway of Forde's, in the Square, on 27th March 1941 when the temporary Vocational School at the rear of that premises was gutted by fire. The second was the unforgettable sight of a coffin of a Michael Hurley, Clooncan, arriving via Knox Street, on its way to Ballyhaunis cemetery on 27th February 1947, draagged on a sleigh from Gorthaganny Church over the snow drifts of the famous blizzard of that year.

### Local Characters

I have mentioned the 'characters' of Ballyhaunis. The sadness is that, so often, local characters were by-products of near-poverty or penury. So much of their innate talent and ingenuity was exercised eking out a bare existence that they truly lived 'at their wit's end.' Certainly such 'characters' are notably absent in these days of the "Celtic Tiger." No more can a Sean O'Casey find such natural characters to people one's plays. There was almost no State assistance, and if a business family or, indeed any town family, fell on evil days, when their merchandise or business approach no longer suited, these families reverted into themselves, as they tried to uphold their dignity before the World. In such circumstances, any little eccentricity or make-believe they possessed became more pronounced.

Fortunately, most families, at least in Main Street, had the grass of a cow, or a few fields, to add to whatever income they could get from meagre sales. But every shop had to be kept open and the air of business had to be promulgated. And many well-dressed 'merchants' of Ballyhaunis, who stood at the door looking out, presided over a quiet premises, with many of the boxes on the shelves long since emptied of their merchandise. And if the proprietor reverted into the kitchen, the hanging bell over the door would always signal the welcome arrival of a possible customer. And if an item requested was not available, the customer could be assured that it was 'at the Station', or they were 'waiting for the traveller.'

Sadly, the most notable of all the 'characters' were from among the poorest in the town. Some of these lived in the Fairgreen, or the lane at its rear, Moran's Terrace, more often called by the pejorative title of 'the Dardanelles' because of some long forgotten brawl in the laneway which some unkind judge or other had likened to the slaughter in Turkey during the First World War. So we had Pat Killeen, who played the tin whistle for a living; Ellen Finnegan who was always ready to sing 'Little Sirecco' for a charity; we had Biddy Devaney who sold holy pictures; and Tawdy, who seemed to depend on local charity or selling colours for the match, and his brothers Sherrill and Sharkey, a part-time jockey. There was Michael Joyce, with the bag on his back, full of empty bottles which he had collected from here and there, for possible re-sale. There was Tommy Hopkins who mended trousers; there was Jimmy Noone who got an odd day on a farm or at a fair. The bellman, Martin Deignan, got a few shillings from roaring his advertisement along the length of the street, for a Whist Drive or an 'All-Night Dance' in McGarry's Hall. Each of these loveable souls gave us many a memorable moment but they, themselves, barely lived, in those not-so-rosy days before Social Welfare. There were kind people in the Street who made life a little more bearable for them. May they welcome them to Heaven!

There is so much more to tell, but I hope I have pleasantly jogged the memory of my contemporaries, and perhaps, given others a flavour of Main Street just fifty years ago, incidentally, the last time the street was dug up, for the ultra-modern sewerage scheme of the time. I notice I have hardly mentioned the Parochial Hall at all, and said nothing about the glory of St. Patrick's Church, or all the happy memories these two buildings signify. I realise I have only scratched the surface of life in a vibrant community that was Lower Main St. of a country town fifty years ago.



# A Gold Sovereign For The New Spire

In the vaults of the Bank of Ireland, Ballyhaunis, the present Manager Mr. Donal Shanaghy recently located a record of a gold sovereign deposited there in May 1953 with an unusual instruction. According to the inscription, the sovereign was to be held "until a block floor and a spire in the Parish Church be satisfactorily completed, when the coin is to be handed to the Parish Priest of the time being." The discovery has naturally aroused interest in the life and character of the donor of such an unusual bequest.

The donor was Michael F. Waldron, LLD, formerly of Knox St., Ballyhaunis, who died on 30 January 1954. He was an exceptional scholar, certainly one of the one of the finest scholars Ballyhaunis ever produced. He was born in Knox Street on the 24th of February 1876, son of Thomas Waldron and Sarah Fitzmaurice. His father came from Brackloon South and was a tailor by profession, like his father – Myles Waldron - before him. His mother was one of the Fitzmaurices of Togher. After leaving Ballyhaunis National School, Michael F. was appointed for a time as Monitor or Assistant Teacher in Derrylea School. About 1896, at a time when second level schooling for anybody from Ballyhaunis could have been no more than a dream, entirely unassisted, he

began the study of Latin, French and other subjects with a view to matriculating to the old Royal University in Dublin. This he achieved in 1898. He passed First Arts the following year, also through private study, and later studied in the Catholic University College, the Civil Service Academy and the London School of Economics. He graduated with BA and LLB degrees, eventually rising to gain the prestigious degree of Doctor of Laws which was conferred on him by the newly created National University in 1911.

A prolific writer, from 1896 to his death in 1954 he contributed lengthy articles, almost weekly, to the provincial and national papers on all manners of subjects, but most notably on matters of historical interest. As a community builder, he enormously enriched the life of his native town in the first half of the present century. He lived quietly in Knox St for most of his life with his sister, Katie, and his well-known raconteur brother, the noted P. A. Waldron, who was Principal teacher in the Boys' Primary school, Ballyhaunis, prior to his death in 1942.

Michael F. was, in fact, better known as 'Michael P.A.' to distinguish him from many other Michael Waldrons in the Ballyhaunis vicinity. As a young man, Michael was present at the momentous meeting held after Mass on May 27th 1900, the Feast of Corpus Christi, in the old church, Ballyhaunis which was called to inaugurate the project of the proposed new church of St. Patrick. Fortunately, Michael was himself appointed as Joint Honorary Secretary of the Church Committee on that day, for it is on his meticulous notes and subsequent publications which we depend for almost all of our



Dr. Michael F. Waldron, Ballyhaunis (on left with pipe), the donor of the gold sovereign, inspecting a souterrain with James Waldron discovered on his lands at Devlis in 1931. Also in the picture is Ned Maguire, late of Devlis with spade.



knowledge of the Ballyhaunis Church project.

It was fitting then on that almost on the very day in October 1999, ninety years after the new Church was dedicated, and the magnificent seventy foot structure of the spire was hoisted into place on the unfinished tower of the Church of Ballyhaunis, that the discovery was made of "Michael P.A.'s gold sovereign" and the inscription of the bequest. The discovery came about as a result of an enquiry from Fr. Kieran Waldron, a native of Ballyhaunis, who had a hazy memory of hearing of the bequest. After doing some research, he wrote to the Manager of the Bank of Ireland. The bequest was subsequently confirmed by Joe Waldron of Knox St. Ballyhaunis, a neighbour and friend of Dr. Michael F. Waldron. It was a fortuitous link with the faith and hope of the Church builders of 1900 - 1909 and the dream of one of its founders who, the year before he died, deposited the unusual bequest in the vaults of a local Bank, then 'The National Bank' at Ballyhaunis.

Many of the older residents of Ballyhaunis have vivid memories of Dr. Waldron as a distinguished-looking, slightly remote gentleman, with the hat and watch-chain, perhaps on his way to Mass or Evening Devotions in the Parish Church. Some of them would have criticised him because, for all his learning, he had never held, at least in their memory, any permanent teaching post or any important position. In fact, Michael lived largely on his income from writings - especially the many newspaper articles published over the years, and on royalties from his sixteen plays which were frequently performed on radio or on stage.

For many Ballyhaunis people, Michael had the aura of a recluse. This was not so; for he did serve in the small family business and he loved to regale all who came there or whom he met on the street. Certainly he had a reserved nature but in former years he had been deeply involved with local drama, the G.A.A., the Gaelic League, and later as the Secretary of

the committee set up to build the Parochial Hall. He was the mainstay of a brave group who formed the 'Ballyhaunis Literary and Archaeological Society' founded in 1929. In fact, it can be said he devoted his whole life to Ballyhaunis.

In his younger days, he had taken an active part in the Anti-Conscription Campaign in 1918. He also held the position of President of the Dáil District Court for South Mayo from 1921 until the suppression of these courts in October 1922. The Dáil Eireann Courts were set up by the first and second Dáil to administer justice throughout Ireland in preference to the official British courts of the day. On several occasions, he declined offers to run for election to the Dáil and Seanad. As an acknowledged expert on archaeology, he was a voluntary local guardian and searcher for items of archaeological interest. A noted antiquarian, he was regularly consulted by the National Museum and other institutions. His valuable scrap-books and many of his papers he donated to the National Museum and these have now been documented by Anthony Jordan in Annagh '96.

Michael had a special talent for inspiring children who might be interested in local history and, as a true teacher, he introduced them to many of the finer things of the spirit. True to his character, he donated an inscribed Missal to the youngest member of several families throughout Ballyhaunis to commemorate the Holy Year of 1950.

So when the gold sovereign, bequeathed by Dr. Michael F. Waldron is handed over formally to the present Parish Priest of Annagh, Canon Joe Cooney, it will mark the end of a century-long wait for a Church spire which was necessary to complete and enhance such a glorious building. Though its monetary value may be insignificant enough, its meaning and symbolism is rich with all that was good in those people of faith and vision who, on 27th May 1900, embarked on the project of building St. Patrick's Church, almost one hundred years ago.

## Ballyhaunis Cemetery Committee

A new committee was set up in Ballyhaunis Parish to look after the upkeep of the local cemetery. The condition of the cemetery had deteriorated greatly and it was felt that work just had to be done on it to make it a fitting resting place for the deceased of the parish. It was decided to fund-raise by asking each house in the parish to contribute £10 and to employ a person to cut the grass, on a regular basis, and to keep it in a good condition generally. The work was a great success and the committee would like to thank all who contributed to the cemetery collection, and all who helped out in any way. It is hoped to have a collection early next year in order to fund next year's work.

## Ballyhaunis Brass Band

There was a Brass Band in Ballyhaunis around the time the Old Racecourse in Tooraree started in 1866, and again it was mentioned as performing at public functions in 1879 and 1880. It appears to have continued up to the turn of the century. It is said to have been founded by Rev. J. A. Anderson, O.S.A., with possible support by M. M. Waldron, and others.

It was known variously as the "St. Nicholas of Tolentine Band" or "The Ballyhaunis Temperance Band." Some members of its members were: Bandmaster: Michael Short, Leader: T. Waldron, Pat Waldron, Michael Melia, Dan Freeley, Michael Kenny, Derry Kenny, Pat Daly, Davy McHale, Pat Joe Devine, Peter Devine, Tommy Flatley, Michael Lyons, Johnny Flanagan, Pat Eagney and Mike Waldron. All were tradesmen except Pat Eagney and Mike Waldron.



# Mr. Thornton Retires

*Maura Griffin*

In 1969, Mr. Eddie Thornton arrived in Ballyhaunis as the new Headmaster in the Vocational School. The name "Headmaster" always conjures up, for me, the English Public School system where the 'Head' sat in his comfortable study and Murphy Minor and Kelly Junior found themselves trembling when they were sent there to be biffed. Now, that was not Eddie's approach. He was in the Assembly Area morning after morning advising here and admonishing there, but always among the students and supervising the smooth running of the Community School.

Mr. Thornton was, from 1969 - 1977, in charge of the Vocational School where he carried out his work efficiently and successfully. Next came the great challenge of combining the three Post-primary Schools into the new Community School. Forward planning was the name of the game and through the vision and talent of the heads of the three schools and the co-operation of their staff, the change came about. Eddie became the Principal - a more

acceptable title - of the new school. Here he was to really prove his worth because it was a Herculean task to take on, quite a big number of staff and pupils coming from the different schools. All his work was done well and thoroughly and I'm sure, he often needed the tact and diplomacy of Kofi Annan. In his dealings with the Department of Education he cajoled and pushed in getting the best facilities and equipment for Ballyhaunis.

After twenty-two years of use the physical condition of the building is first class. This is something that Mr. Thornton always saw as a priority. He considered that a clean and well-kept environment would generate a respect for their school in the student body and encourage them to live that out in their adult lives.

Eddie would be first to recognise that behind every good man stands a good woman and I know that he would be the first to appreciate the strength and calm that his wife, Maureen has given to his life. Nobody values his wife and family more than he.

The baton has been handed to Mr. Jarlath Fahey. Jarlath has been Vice-Principal for many years and we all know how competently he has handled organisation in the school. May I wish him every success in this arduous task and I wish Mr. Thornton many years of happy retirement.



Ballyhaunis Community School Parents Association make presentations to Mr. Eddie Thornton and other retired members of the staff of Ballyhaunis Community School. Seated: Frankie O'Malley, on behalf of her late husband Anton O'Malley, Pat Biesty, Sr. Assumpta, Eddie Thornton, Maura Griffin, Sr. Dolores. Second row: Diarmuid Murray, Seamus Mulrennan, Mary Freeley, Phil Glynn, on behalf of her late husband Michael Glynn, Ann Biesty for Vera O'Connell, Micheál Smyth, Sr. Evelyn, Sally Higgins for Patricia Waldron, Anne Hosty, Vincent Healy. Back: Alocque McManus, Margaret Byrne, Kay Buckley, Anna Butler, John Halpin and Aiden Kelly.





*St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy 1975. Back l-r: Catherine Kenny, Angela Greene, Mary Garvey, Helen Greene, Helena Jennings, Bridie Greally, Ann Cribbin. Front l-r: Bernie Cribbin, Siobhan Dee, Riona Hughes, Mary Allen, Ann Hopkins, Christina Finn, Mary Boyle, Kathleen Eaton, Martha Swords, Ann Waldron, Margaret Kearns.*



*L-R: Ita McDonald, Bridie Webb, Kittie Early, Fr. J.J. Cribbin, Maria Cribbin, Dolores Jordan, Phyllis Phillips at the 80th birthday Mass for Mrs. Cribbin*



*Four generations of Biestys of Carrowkeel. Monica (great-grandmother), Kevin (son), Glenn (grandson), Hannah and Olivia (great-grandchildren)*



# Smyth Family Gathering

September 3rd to 5th 1999

*J. T. Smyth*

In September 1997 when my aunt Cáit died, our thoughts as usual went to the perennial question of why families only meet at weddings and funerals. The idea of a family gathering had been thrown about for many years and we finally made the decision. We set the date for September 1999, when the family would be in Ireland for 290 years. The venue was to be either the Hodson Bay Hotel in Athlone or Breaffy House Hotel. It was finally decided that the Hodson bay would be more suitable because it is more accessible from Airports and Ferry Ports.

The schedule for the gathering was that we would meet on Friday night from 6 p.m. and we were all to have dinner together at 8 p.m. I had a family tree prepared with a resumé of the family history in Ballyhaunis and this was displayed in the foyer of the hotel. Each member of a particular branch was given a name-tag with a colour code on it to signify which branch the person was from. This meant that some people were going around looking for others with the same blue square or dot. It made it easier to identify the relationships.

There were members from Canada and the U. S., as well as from this side of the Atlantic: a total of 150 attended the banquet on the Saturday night. Almost all branches of the family, descended from the original John Smyth, through the five generations, were represented. Some branches were better represented than others but there was a good crowd all the same. It would be difficult to name all of them at this point but, suffice it to say that many people who originated in Ballyhaunis and the environs were there.

On the Saturday the group split up into three with one playing golf, another took a trip on the lake and a third came with me to Ballyhaunis. Anybody who was in town on that day must have



Left: Mary Mullaney, daughter of Maeve Smyth, granddaughter of J.T. Smyth. Right: Nan Smyth, daughter of Dr. Andy Smyth.

been wondering what was going on. We started at the Friary, walked down the town and up to the parish church taking in the various houses where some Smyth had lived at one time or another. Some of those who were on the trip remembered a lot of happy times and told stories about their childhood in the town. We met Mrs. Cribbin on Main Street and Mrs. Connell on Abbey Street and those who knew each other renewed old acquaintances and shared stories. Doris Conaty, daughter of Paddy Smyth of Main Street, was happy to see the portraits of her father on the walls of the Abbey as well as other members of the family who posed for the paintings, executed by Fr. Foran many years ago.



Terri Smyth, Abbey St., who attended the Smyth Family Reunion. Terry was a nurse at a London Hospital in 1940 when it caught a German bomb and she dropped through two floors. Thankfully, she survived to smile and talk about her experience.

Dr. Andy's daughters Terri and Ann (Nan) were glad to see their old house on Abbey Street and Molly Paul's Medical Hall where they visited regularly as children. We had a very pleasant lunch in the Hazel Bar and I'd like to thank the staff for the service they gave us and the friendliness they showed to us. Everyone was very complimentary towards them afterwards.

## Carnaluggaun

The highlight of the visit to the town was the walk to the "Pile of Stones" as it was described by some of my droll cousins. This of course was the old house in Carnaluggaun where John Smyth lived when he first arrived from Wicklow in 1836/7. There is not much of it left now but everyone wanted to see it. Even those of three score and ten braved the nettles and briars, not to mention the thistles, to see the place where the family originated. The sense of "going home" was very evident in all who were there and, of course, a multitude of photographs were taken to remember the event. This could not have been possible were it not for the kind permission of the Healy family of Ballindrehid who now own the property. As we left the old place many of us felt sad that it is no longer in the family so that we could restore it.

No family sojourn to Ballyhaunis would be complete without a visit to the dead centre of the family, that is the Cemetery. Many of the group had never been there before. Some of the gravestones are in need of repair, as the immediate family have graves in other cemeteries to look after and some did not know of the existence of these graves where their great-grandparents and grandparents lie. It is unfortunate that we do not know where the grave of the original John Smyth is. I know he was buried on January 31st 1904 in the new cemetery, but I do not know where. We would like to place a marker to his memory on





Back l-r: Fr. Vincent Smyth, Willie Smyth, Mollie (Paul) Waldron, Jimmy Smyth, Dr. Andy Smyth. Middle: Mrs. Andy Smyth, Tom Smyth, Mrs Jimmy Smyth. Front: Mrs. Edmond Kelly

it. All the family members that I had mentioned in my brief history were buried there in the New Cemetery and it gave the visitors a sense of meeting their ancestors, especially the Americans and Canadians.

We arrived back in Hodson Bay at 6 p.m. on the dot and went to freshen up for the Banquet. Apparently the other outings had not gone as well as the trip to Ballyhaunis.

Other cousins who had not been there for the Friday night came for this Banquet. As the hotel had a wedding that day, it was necessary for us to have the banquet in the Golf Club which caused a little hassle in the arrangements but my brother Eamonn managed to smooth things over. The meal was very tasty and we had good fun socialising and dancing and not a little drinking. In short, a great time was had by all.

On Sunday after a lazy breakfast taken by some in bed, we attended Mass - which was celebrated by former Archbishop Joseph Cassidy - for all the members of the clan both living and dead. It was a lovely ceremony and thanks to Archbishop Joe for that. The Archbishop was always a friend of the family and it was appropriate that he should say the Mass.

After the lunch there was a mad scramble for the check-out as people had to race for ports to catch boats and planes. Some of us stayed on a little longer to chat with people about the next gathering. It was mooted that it should be on the other side of the Atlantic in 2005, but we'll wait and see.



Back l-r: Micheál Smyth, Tony Smyth, Vincent Smyth. Front l-r: Rita Looby, Pat Ryder, Bridie Meehan, Sylvia Gallagher. (Micheál is Willie Smyth's son. Tony & Rita are Tommy Smyth's children. Vincent, Pat & Sylvia are Joe Smyth's children and Bridie is Jimmy Smyth's daughter)

## Forgive Me When I Whine

*Agnes Heaney*

Today upon a bus, I saw a lovely girl with golden hair  
I envied her, she seemed so gay, and I wished I were as fair  
When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the  
aisle. She had one foot and wore a crutch, but as she passed she  
smiled

Oh God, forgive me when I whine  
I have two feet, the world is mine

Then I stopped to buy some sweets  
The man who served them had such charm  
I talked with him; he said, It's nice to talk to folks like you  
"You see", he said, I'm blind

Oh God forgive me when I whine  
I have two eyes, the world is mine

While walking down the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue  
He stood and watched the others play  
It seemed he knew not what to do  
I stopped a moment; then I said "why don't you join the others  
dear?"

He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew, he could not  
hear

Oh God forgive me when I whine  
I have two ears, the world is mine

With feet to take me where I go  
With eyes to see the sunsets glow  
With ears to hear what I would know

Oh God forgive me when I whine  
I'm blessed indeed, the world is mine.



# Memories Of Father Mansfield O.S.A.

*Tony Boyle*



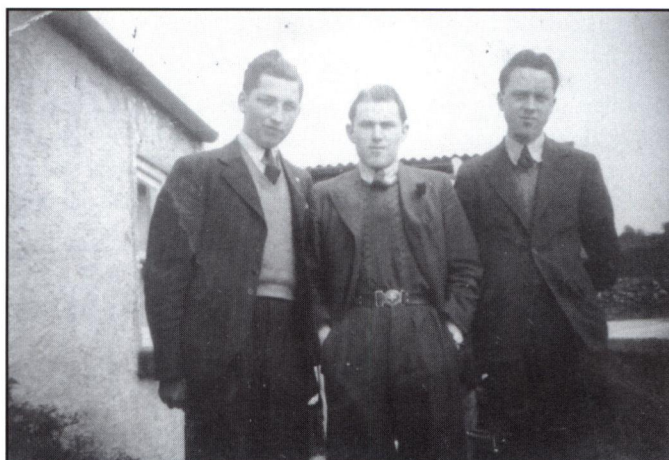
Fr. E. A. Mansfield O.S.A.

Rev. E. A. Mansfield, O.S.A. was one of the most popular and best loved priests ever to serve in the Augustinian Friary in Ballyhaunis. In 1930 he was appointed Prior in St. Mary's Abbey, an office which he held for three successive triennial periods. After an interval he became Prior again for a fourth time. Father Edward Anthony Mansfield was born on October 21st, 1893 in Old Parish near Dungarvan and he received his secondary education in St. Augustine's College. The first twelve years of his priesthood were spent in Galway, London and New Ross. He served as Prior in Galway and also served as Definitor of the Irish Province.

The Augustinians remember Fr. Mansfield as a great priest; dignified and reverent at the altar; kind, patient and untiring in the confessional; a dynamo of energy when a call came to help a soul in trouble, and constantly in demand at the bedside of the sick. But Fr. Mansfield will also be remembered as a fine community man, with his jokes and stories. They will never forget in his long final illness when there was no word of complaint, no seeking of relief, save in the constantly held rosary beads. It was towards the end especially that his priestliness shone with radiant billioney, as then, no doubt, he was receiving the fruits of the prayers of these troubled souls for whom he always had compassion. His memory rests secure in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Fr. Mansfield was a man of many parts, but his priestly duties were always paramount. He was known for his great holiness not only in the Ballyhaunis district, but throughout much of South and East Mayo, Roscommon and Galway. People who suffered from mental or physical illness came from near and far to the Augustinian House to request him to pray over them. Needless to say, no request was ever refused. We have not heard of any miraculous cures, but the strength of the people's faith in him never wavered, which suggested that they got some consolation from their visits.

A great lover and promoter of sport, Fr. Mansfield believed that it was good for the youth, both physically and mentally, and that it helped to keep them out of mischief. In this regard, amateur boxing was his first love, as he claimed it created great discipline in young boys. He played a major role in bringing European boxers to Ballyhaunis and, in 1946, an International Tournament was staged there, held in the Friary Grounds on August 15th. During this decade, Ballyhaunis Boxing Club was very active and this was due in no small way to the inspiration of Fr. Mansfield. When Paddy Walsh of Barrack St., (who himself had achieved international fame as a boxer) held training sessions in Lynch's Hall in Abbey St., Fr. Mansfield called in almost every night. When Paddy finished the nightly training, Fr. Mansfield would give a short talk to the boys, always ending with the advice ".....and remember boys, inside and outside the ring, always be a



This photo was taken in the early forties: Paddy Henry (Devlis) in centre, flanked by Tony Boyle and Michael Feeney both of whom worked in Gallaghers of Main Street

gentleman."

Fr. Mansfield often taught drama at night in the Boys' School and Scout Den, and he produced a number of plays. I had the honour of being one of the cast in "Cupboard Love" by T. C. Murray, which was the first production of the newly-formed St. Mary's Dramatic Society in late 1946 and early '47. It was a privilege and a pleasure to have been directed by Fr. Mansfield. The play went on to be a huge success. Others in the cast on that occasion were Vera Biesty, 'Baby' Johnston, Bernadine Geraghty, Teresa Caulfield, Tom Coppinger, Paddy O'Connell, Jim Grennan and Jack Gibbons.

## Stories

All the foregoing were serious matters, but there was another side to the extremely popular Fr. Mansfield, as he had an unusual sense of humour and could be funny and entertaining at times. He was capable of telling tall stories when the occasion merited it. On one occasion, during the Annual Carnival in Ballyhaunis, there was a substantial monetary prize for target shooting; the winner was none other than our esteemed Fr. Mansfield and he was inundated with congratulation from all and sundry. He had difficulty in walking through the town for days afterwards as everybody wanted to talk to him about his achievement. As always, he never rushed away, but responded by recalling many of his outlandish shooting feats of his day, including the occasion when he spotted a rabbit in a field over a half a mile away as he looked out his window in the Friary one morning. He loaded his rifle, and after taking careful aim, he shot the rabbit which he later collected, having cycled out to the spot. This was checked out by two men who proved that the place of the fallen rabbit was not visible at all from the Friary.

Fr. Mansfield's most often told and tallest story of all must be about his journey by motor cycle to Castlebar, via Breaffy, before the village was by-passed and the legendary Delia McTigue's pub protruded on the main road. As one approached, the road was straight but, on reaching the pub, it went right around it and then continued on again towards Castlebar. Anyway, as Fr. Mansfield approached the pub, he was doing his usual excessive speed, his mind was wandering and didn't realise where he was until he was within a few yards of the pub door. Not having time to slow down and finding it just impossible to swerve, he drove straight through the front door and out the back one, leaving the proprietor and customers in shock. It might have been believable only that some



of his listeners checked to find there was just a solid wall where he claimed there was a rear door!

However, just forty years ago last November, I happened to be in Limerick and I rambled into the Augustinian Church to say a prayer one evening. As I entered, I immediately thought of Fr. Mansfield, wondering where he was then. Just as I came out from

the church I bought an evening paper from a young lad on the street, and there I read that Fr. Mansfield had died that morning in the Hospital of Saints John and Elizabeth, London, at the age of sixty-five. One of the best loved members of the Augustinian fathers had passed away and was deeply mourned over a wide area, especially in the West of Ireland where he spent most of his priestly life.

## Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club

The National Association of Regional Game Councils each year awards the prestigious title "Gun Club Conservation Award" to one of its affiliated clubs which, in the opinion of the judging panel, best reflects the qualities to which all gun clubs should aspire. In other words, the gun club that in practical terms strives to ensure the propagation and conservation of game and habitat while at the same time maintaining a responsible role in the local and wider community.

In adopting the motto "The wildlife and habitat of our countryside are not ours to dispose of as we wish; we are but guardians for future generations", Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club, with membership of thirty-five, won the 1998/99 award from strong competition from the 875 affiliated clubs throughout the land. Indeed, the aims and objectives of the clubs, which have remained unchanged since its reformation in 1969, reflect the clubs' Raison D'être. This is as follows:

1. To open its membership at a reasonable cost to each and every person, born, working or residing in the district, interested in clay-shooting, game-shooting, game-preservation and vermin control.
2. To foster and promote a good image of field sports.
3. To carry out a firm control of opportunistic species.
4. To carry out a comprehensive game-release programme.
5. To be ever mindful of the farmers' wishes on whose land we shoot over, and to at all times abide by these wishes or requests.
6. To affiliate to the County Body and to conform to their rules/guidelines and also those of the National Association.
7. Any member found involved in the commercial exploitation of game/pest species will be expelled immediately for life.
8. Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club's membership is open, provided one has a proposer and seconder within the existing club membership.

**Club Officers 1998/99:** President: Liam Lyons; Chairman: Eamon Burke; Vice-Chairman: Tom Concannon; Secretary: Tom Waldron; Treasurer: Gerry O'Connell; Safety Officer: Joe Fitzharris; Shoot Organiser: Paul Sykes.



Mr. Sean Clarke President of Mayo I.F.A. presenting Eamon Burke, Chairman of Ballyhaunis Gun Club, with Top Award for Vermin control in Mayo. Front l-r: Tom Concannon, Brendan Hoban (R.I.P.), Martin Cunnane and Tom Waldron. Back l-r: Jack Lannon, Eamon Burke, Sean Clarke and John Robinson.



# RoMa Plays A Blinder In Ballyhaunis

Mary Frances Fahy

from the Western People 11th August 1999

*Ballyhaunis has been placed firmly on the international map thanks to the introduction of the local currency, RoMa which is proving very popular with business people and also helps voluntary organisations in the town.*

The new currency featured on R.T.E.'s 'Nationwide' and in a number of publications. Gerry McGarry of Enterprise Connacht/Ulster, the organisation who are introducing the currency on a pilot basis, said that they have received queries from international websites and were expecting a number of international visitors to the town to investigate the project.

Mr. McGarry explained that the European Commission had given them a research contract to see how a local currency could help a local economy and assist voluntary organisations. This research was carried out in four countries: Scotland, Holland, Spain and Ireland. Ballyhaunis was selected as the Irish town to try out the new currency. The letters RoMa represent the first two letters in Roscommon and Mayo and it is envisaged that the scheme be extended to all of Mayo and Roscommon.

Gerry approached eighty-five business people in Ballyhaunis, spoke to them about the new currency and asked them to participate in the pilot project. Two voluntary organisations were selected to benefit: Western Care and Ballyhaunis G.A.A. club. Each local shop, business or industry in the town sponsored RoMa notes and selected the voluntary organisation of its choice. The G.A.A. Club and Western Care, which received the RoMa notes, can only spend them on local labour, goods or services. They can't be spent outside the town. They are accepted by all shops and businesses in Ballyhaunis who display the RoMa sign. They will trade in and may also give change in RoMa notes.

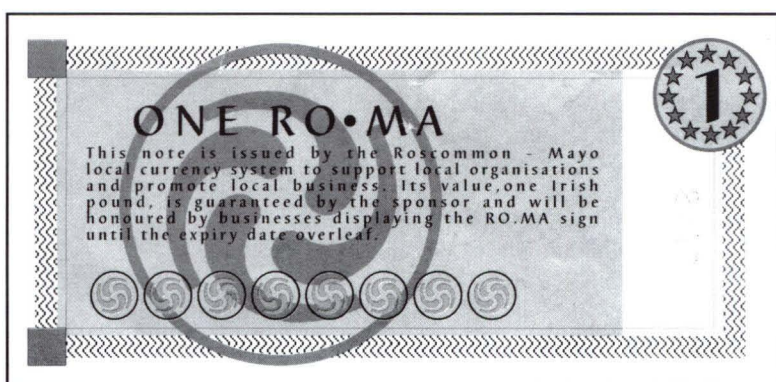
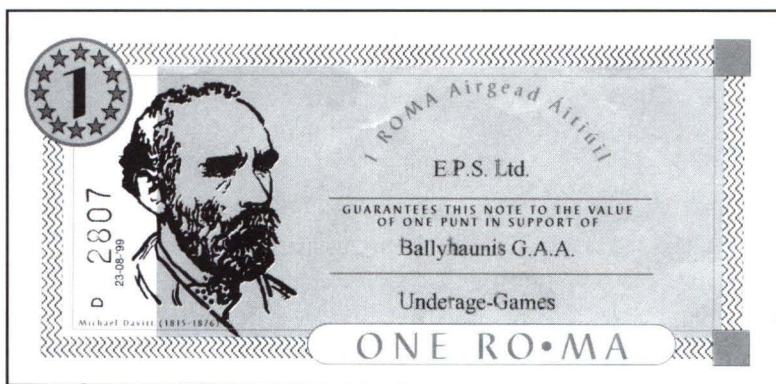
Because the RoMa can't leave the area, there are many benefits for the local economy. Sponsors benefit from the greater public awareness of their donation. Local organisations have a new source of funds. Local businesses and services gain because outside competitors are not able to trade in RoMa and there is increased business in local shops because the currency can't be spent outside the area. Mr. McGarry said: "So far it is a great success and the amount of international queries about it is phenomenal. We are far busier sending out information than we expected to be. It has been tried in a number of other places in the world including Switzerland and Canada. There are a few local currencies in Ireland but they are all different to the RoMa". "I am glad that the traders in the town gave it a chance. They have shown that a local currency can operate successfully and can do a lot of good for the

economy of Ballyhaunis and voluntary organisations. We hope to continue to experiment and make Ballyhaunis a research centre for local currency. It will put us on the map. We have something here that the world is interested in," Mr. McGarry added.

## Views Of Local Business People

Eddie Murphy runs a Menswear business in the town and trades in the RoMa: "I think it's a great idea and I'm very enthusiastic about it. I often give people a RoMa for luck when they are leaving the shop. People are very keen on having them as collectors' items and I think they will take a lot of the notes out of circulation. Even people from Ballyhaunis living abroad are looking for them. I think only about 50% of the currency will come back in the end which is unfortunate." However, Eddie would like to see larger denominations of currency in operation. One RoMa is equivalent to £1. "You can't buy anything in here for one RoMa. I think it would be used more frequently if there were larger notes. It's a great conversation point and, of course the G.A.A. and Western Care benefit as well. It should be expanded," he concluded.

Customer Eileen Judge also thought it was a great idea: "When you get a RoMa, there is only one place you can spend it and that is in the town. It is good for Ballyhaunis," she said. Seamus Caulfield, another local businessman, was also enthusiastic about RoMa: "I think everyone is willing to give it a try and it is great publicity for the town to be taking part in the pilot project. I am looking forward to hearing the results of how it is going and people's reaction to it," he said. Eugene Carney of "The Gem" newsagents said it was a great idea: "Just think about all the money leaving this town. If breadmen etc., coming to do deliveries, only spent a fraction of the money they receive in the town; it will benefit Ballyhaunis. RoMa could encourage them to do this. I has great potential. It is only on trial at the moment but it would be great if it took off. I don't think people realise the potential of it and I would urge everyone to support it."





# Noel Lawlor American Rally Hero



Noel Lawlor (Driver)

Ballyhaunis man Noel Lawlor and his Donegal born colleague Charlie Bradley, who are leading the U.S. ProRally

Championship, returned to their homeland to challenge the roads at the Donegal Harvest

Rally October 9th, 1999, part of the Red Mills National Rally Championship. The team competed in a Group A Subaru Impreza prepared by Derek McGarrity of R Sport. He explained that rallying in the U.S. requires very different driving techniques for the gravel roads, snow, ice, mud, dust and water crossings. In addition, courses are kept secret until the event so teams do not have a chance to prepare pace notes or practice.

A line-up of international companies sponsored Noel Lawlor Motorsports for the Donegal event. The include: Valtra, makers of the high-horsepower, technically-advanced Valmet tractor; Snap-on Tools, one of the largest manufacturers of hand tools and equipment in the world; Snap-on Sun Tech Systems, offering analytical equipment; Ballinlough Refrigeration Ltd., offering temperature control products including Thermo King refrigeration and heating units; and Mac Transport Ltd., providing international refrigerated cargo transport.

The rally took place on the wild, windswept roads along the rocky Atlantic coastline of northwest Ireland. There were eight stages and a total of seventy-five stage miles. The twisty narrow roads typically lined with stone walls requiring tight, accurate driving.

The team's success this season includes wins in Washington and Minnesota, a second place finish in Pennsylvania, a third in Maine and a fourth in California. They compete in a factory-backed Hyundai Tiburon prepared by Libra Racing, owned by John Buffum, 11 time U.S. rally champion. Their U.S. sponsors include Pirelli Tire North America; Snap-on Tools; Cargotec, a heavy equipment manufacturer; Hyundai Motor America; Hansen's Beverage, makers of Energy Drink; and Hella International. Last season, the team finished second overall in the Michelin SCCA ProRally Championship, helping to secure the Manufacturer's Cup for Hyundai in an Elantra. They also competed in Ireland and Jamaica.

The pair have rallied together over the past nine years in the U.S. and internationally, and recently earned their FIA seeding. Lawlor has varied experience in gravel rallying, road racing, hill climbing and endurance racing in the U.S.

Noel Lawlor and Charlie Bradley started rallying together in 1990.

In their first rally season, they won more than half of the eighteen rallies they entered in Production GT (Group N spec) driving a Mazda 323, including five top three finishes overall. They took second in the 1990 Northeast Production GT Championship. In 1991, they were leading the class overall when their car burned. They ended up with first place in the 1991 divisional Production GT Championship, and third in the National Production GT Rally Championship.

The team's best season to date was in 1998 - they took second place overall in the U.S. PRO Rally Championship and secured the Manufacturer's Cup for Hyundai. They accomplished this while entering only half of the eight national events. They posted a win in Arizona, two second place finishes overall in Maine and Michigan, and a third in Pennsylvania.

They also competed internationally in 1998 in Ireland and Jamaica. They took third in Group N and eleventh place overall in the Donegal Harvest Rally, part of the Red Mills National Championship. They entered but did not finish the competitive Shell Donegal International Rally, part of the Irish Tarmac Championship, and an international rally in Jamaica.

Noel started competing in rally in Ireland in 1987. In road racing he placed first in Sedan Class in the One Lap of America in 1990; competed in the IMSA Firehawk Series from 1990-93; entered the Sebring twelve hour event from 1992-94; and competed in the IMSA Super Car Series in 1994-95. Second overall in the 1998 PRO Rally National Driver's Championship. Noel is a native of Ballyhaunis where his parents, Luke and Kathleen, and sister Marie Cribbin still live. Thirty-six years old, he works as a Project Manager for one of the biggest Construction Companies in Vermont. He and his wife Darcey, have three children and live in Manchester, Vermont.

## Ballyhaunis Apostolic Work

*Bridie Brennan*

Ballyhaunis Apostolic Work is in its thirty-seventh year and thank God some of its founder workers are still with us. Although we are small in number a lot has been achieved by our Branch during the year.

We held our Annual Exhibition in June and quite a number of people called at the Parochial Hall to view our work and give us encouragement.

A mini Vigil for the Tuam Archdiocese was held at the end of June. The Vigil was conducted by Fr. Buggy. Most of our members attended the Vigil which was most enlightening.

This year Mrs. Kathleen Ryan has retired as President of the Archdiocese and to mark the occasion she was presented with the Bene Merenti Medal for her outstanding service to the missions.

The Ballyhaunis Branch wish to thank the priests of the parish and Augustinian priests and Sisters of Mercy for their support during the year. A special thanks to the Golf and Bridge Clubs for their financial help, our branch appreciates their generosity very much





*Taken outside Sr. Carmel's room in 1949. Front l-r: unidentified, unidentified, Margaret Cassidy (Upr. Main St.), unidentified, Aggie Molloy (Barrack St.), Alacoque Moran (Tooraree), - - - Hynes (Abbey St.), unidentified, Frances Morley (Knox St.), Helena Rattigan (Knox St.), Ann Curley (Upr. Main St.), Joan Dillon (The Square), unidentified, Mona McGarry (Abbey St.). Second row l-r: Petie O'Malley (Upr. Main St.), Gerry Culliney (Upr. Main St.), Dermot Waldron (Cherryfield), unidentified, unidentified, Seamus O'Boyle (Carrowreagh), John Joe Phillbin (Tooraree), Tommy Grealley (Drimbane), Seamus Rattigan (Knox St.), unidentified, unidentified, Christina O'Boyle (Carrowreagh), unidentified. Third row l-r: unidentified, unidentified, unidentified, John P. Melley (Upr. Main St.), unidentified, unidentified, Bernie Keane (Annagh), Pdraig Waldron (Abbey St.), unidentified. Back l-r: unidentified, unidentified, Ian Wilson (Devlis), Sean Mulhern (Upr. Main St.), unidentified.*



*Front: Rita Barry and Mary Regan. Back: Gertrude McGuire and Phyllis Regan.*



*Congratulations to John and Delia Brennan, Gurteen, who celebrated the Golden Jubilee of their wedding in June of this year.*



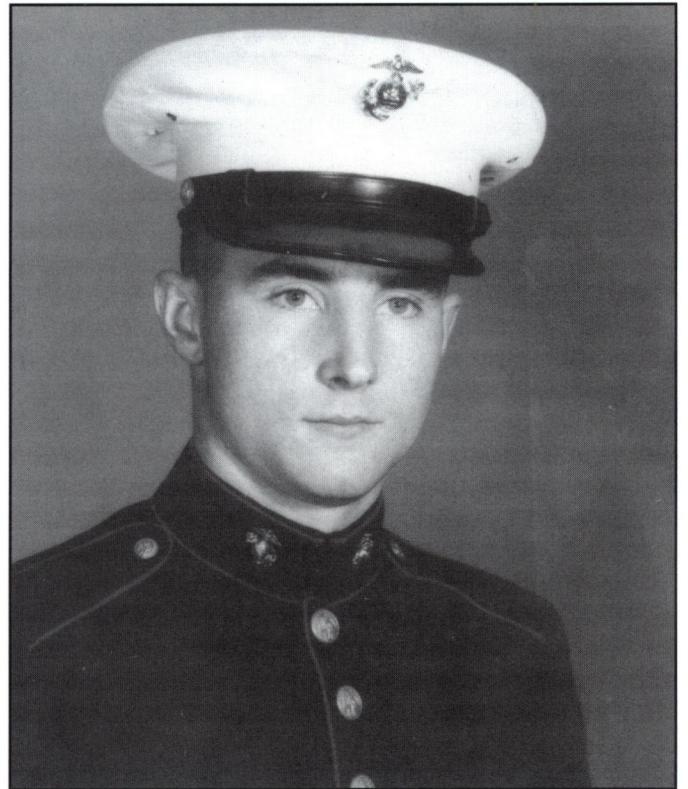
# Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Tours Ireland

from the Western People 28th April 1999

*A Vietnam Veterans' War Memorial Wall, listing the names of 58,214 American war dead, toured Ireland this Spring. The half-size replica of the original Vietnam Veteran War Memorial Wall in Washington was commissioned by the U.S. Congress to honour and recognise the men and women who served and lost their lives in the Vietnam War.*

The names of fourteen Irish citizens who died in Vietnam are inscribed on the wall. They include Sergeant Patrick Christopher Nevin, native of Claremorris (February 23rd, 1966, South Vietnam); L/Cpl. Bernard Anthony Freyne, Marine Corps, native of Ballaghaderreen (March 10th, 1967, da Nang), and Cpl. Patrick Gallagher, Marine Corps, native of Derrintogher, Ballyhaunis (March 30th, 1967, Quang Nam).

The wall's visit to Ireland brought the relatives of the Irish families together for the first time and reunited Irish Vietnam Veterans in Dublin. The wall inspires reflection - sometimes grieving and painful memories - for the relatives who have lost their loved ones, and, for others, it raises disturbing questions on why wars are fought in the first place: who decides? who benefits? and who dies? U.S. journalist and author of "Vietnam: A History," Stanley Karnow, visiting Dublin with the Vietnam Veterans' War Memorial, estimates that three million Vietnamese died in the Vietnam War. Information on



Corporal Patrick Gallagher, U.S. Marine Corps.

the Vietnam War and the wall is available on the war memorial's web site at: [www.vvmf.org](http://www.vvmf.org).

The Minister for Defence, Michael Smith; U.S. Ambassador, Michael Sullivan; Australian Ambassador, Bob Halverson, and Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alderman Doyle, laid a wreath at the wall in recognition of the those who were killed in the Vietnam War.



Sisters Pauline Gallagher (left) and Theresa Gallagher-Keegan (right) pictured with the Memorial Wall



## Former Resident On Brief Visit

*Mick O'Connell*

Enjoying a brief visit to his native Ballyhaunis earlier this year was Patsy Cunningham, who was accompanied by his wife Eileen and they paid me the compliment of calling to see me at my home. Being in poor health at the time, and living alone as I am, I was very glad of the company. Patsy and I spent a pleasant hour or so recalling past events recounting many long forgotten episodes and reviving old memories.

For those of the younger generation who wish to know, Patsy Cunningham is a native of Bridge St., Ballyhaunis and resided in the premises now occupied by Niall Delaney opposite the Post Office. In his early days he gained a long standing and far reaching reputation as a poet, raconteur humourist and wit, and over the years some very fine works have emanated from his pen. These include a moving tribute to the late Rev. E. A. Mansfield O.S.A. who was Prior of St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey for many years, who took on the onerous task of the reconstruction of the Abbey and who was instrumental in having international boxing tournaments located in Ballyhaunis in the thirties.

Another concerned an election address supposedly given by a fine old Ballyhaunis character of yesteryear, Pat Killeen, in

which one of his promises included "building a tramway out to Knock"! "The Carpenter's Arms" in London of which Patsy was the landlord for many years was a mecca for Ballyhaunis people, and I, along with many others enjoyed the lavish hospitality of Eileen and Patsy from time to time over the years.

Later he was proprietor of a pub in Brighton, before returning to Ireland where he carried on a thriving Bed & Breakfast business in Killarney for several years. He is now enjoying a well earned retirement in Killarney, and I am sure that many others will join with me in wishing Patsy, his wife Eileen and family many years of health and happiness.



Patsy Cunningham pictured with Mick O'Connell during his visit to Ballyhaunis earlier this year.

## Twenty-Five Years One Day At A Time

Alcoholics Anonymous celebrates twenty-five years this year in Ballyhaunis. There has been a meeting every Sunday night come hail, rain and shine: that's over 1,300 meetings. It was started at an Open Public Meeting in the Parochial Hall in October 1974. Two local men then dared to approach the Principal of the then Vocational School about a permanent meeting place. The weekly meeting started and continued down through the years. Many people, both men and women get help and in turn make themselves available to help others.

We hold an Annual Public Meeting to inform the public of what AA is all about, and once a year AA members hold an informal meeting for the students of the Community School.

Today we are still growing strong and we owe a great debt to the founders. Lets hope we can carry on the great work that they started.

*I am responsible  
When anyone, anywhere  
Reaches out for help,  
I want the hand of AA  
Always to be there.  
And for that I am responsible*

## Neighbourhood Watch

*Maura Griffin*

In April '98 the first attempt to set up a 'Neighbourhood Watch' began. Canon Joe Cooney saw that there are quite a few old people living alone in the parish who could benefit from this scheme. The idea was to give these people a sense of safety and security in their own homes. A committee was assembled at a public meeting and co-ordinator were appointed in each station area to visit older people and explain the scheme to them. Garda Stephen Gaughan agreed to act as liaison officer for the Gardaí.

Since a grant of 90% of the cost was available from Dept. of Social Welfare the cost would not be excessive but this grant would not be given to an individual applicant, it had to come through a local committee. A personal alarm would be provided for each person: this would be a phone and a pendant to be worn around the neck, the pendant to have an alarm button which would alert help in the event of illness or accident. A collection was made and this money was used to put Neighbourhood Watch signs on roads leading into the parish.

About forty personal alarm systems have been supplied and installed at an initial cost of approximately £80 to each person and a monitoring cost of about £50 per annum thereafter. Hopefully this development will provide a feeling of security for older people.





## Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair

*Margaret Owens*

1999 was yet another busy year for the officers, delegates and members of Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair. Great delight was expressed at winning two of the four seats on Mayo County Council and particularly with John Carty being elected at the head of the poll on his first attempt. Congratulations were also extended to Paddy Joe McHugh on his re-election. This was augmented by announcements on water and sewerage allocations for the Ballyhaunis and Knock areas respectively. There was however, some sadness engendered by the passing of a former party leader, and Taoiseach on two occasions, Jack Lynch. The practice of rotating the meetings around the Comhairle Ceanntair area continued and resulted in very good attendances at a considerable number of these gatherings.

The first meeting of 1999 took place in Tooreen Hall. All those interested in running for the County Council election were invited to address the meeting. This particular segment was chaired by John O'Dwyer, Constituency Director of Elections. A number of them then decided to put their names before convention in the Belmont Hotel, Knock on Sunday 24th January. John Carty emerged decisively as the party standard-bearer while the convention decided to support Pat "The Cope" Gallagher M.E.P., and Noel Treacy T.D., Minister of State for Commerce, Science and Technology for the European Elections to be held on the same day in June. Michael Kitt T.D., chaired the convention at which many tributes were paid to P.J. Morley, who had earlier indicated his intention not to seek re-election following his thirty-two year tenure on the local authority. Meetings were subsequently held on a frequent basis from February until polling day, June 11th. After the election, John Carty thanked the Comhairle Ceanntair officers and members for their commitment and dedication throughout the campaign, ensuring that the party took two of the four seats. John topped the poll and was first elected. Outgoing Councillor, Paddy Joe McHugh was re-elected and thanked the organisation for their assistance. A special word of thanks was tendered to the Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair Director of Elections, Seán Egan for his leadership throughout the campaign.

Comhairle Ceanntair delegates wished Senator Frank Chambers the very best of luck with the opening of his new political office in Westport on Saturday 27th February. Frank invited delegates to attend the opening ceremony to be performed by Mr. Eamon O'Cuív T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.

At the March meeting delegates were loud in their praise of Environment Minister, Noel Dempsey T.D. for his announcement of substantial investment in water and sewerage schemes from national exchequer and EU funds. Particular

welcome was given to the following allocations: Ballyhaunis Sewerage £5.5 million; Knock Sewerage £4.7 million; Ballyhaunis town water £6.5 million and Knock/Ballyhaunis as part of the Lough Mask Regional Water supply, £15 million. Sincere thanks was issued to Dr. Tom Moffatt T.D., Minister for State, for Health Beverly Cooper Flynn T.D., and Senator Frank Chambers for their strong representations to Minister Dempsey, which had proved very successful.

Many of the gatherings during the year called for balanced regional development with particular cognizance being taken of the West region. It was hoped that the National Development plan would make it a major priority. Delegates were of the view that the emphasis must be place on (1) Industrial, (2) Agricultural and (3) Rural development within the West region. Significant attention must also be devoted to small indigenous industries. In addition, investment in infrastructure, particularly the road and rail network was also called for. Other members felt that Social Housing must be treated more seriously with a significant funding allocation. Last but not least, there must be a greater concentration on improving our Health Services.

The first meeting of the Autumnal session devoted some time to discussing partnership for peace (PFP) and whether or not a referendum should be held on it. Some delegates were of the view that were Ireland to join, it would entail partnership with NATO and consequently and undermining of Ireland's neutrality in addition to the remit of Irish Army personnel being extended beyond peace-keeping and humanitarian missions. Others argued that the Government was right not to hold a referendum which would cost a staggering £3 million: money that could be spent on other vital services, moreover, it should be noted that of the forty-three countries that are members of PFP, twenty-four are not members of NATO. These include Sweden, Finland and Austria, which, like Ireland, are also neutral countries. The PFP concept is a flexible one, it does not assume any alliance commitments. In conclusion, there is nothing in the 'framework



Councillor John Carty (right) pictured with an Taoiseach Bertie Ahern



document' which entails any international commitments of a legally binding nature. The meeting ended by congratulating Beverly Cooper Flynn T.D., on her recent appointment to the Chairmanship of the Western Health Board.

The November meeting was adjourned as a mark of respect to the party's former leader and Taoiseach Jack Lynch who passed away on the 20th October. Prior to the adjournment, however, many delegates paid magnanimous tributes to his inspiring leadership, integrity, dedication and steadiness, especially during the difficult period of the Northern troubles. Many described him as a man of vision who was instrumental in leading Ireland into the then European Economic Community. Ballyhaunis delegates were delighted to witness the presence of its Minister

of State for Health, Dr. Tom Moffatt T.D., present at his Funeral Mass and subsequent interment in Cork. Go raibh dheis Dé ar an anam dhílis.

Comhairle Ceanntair officers, Delegates and members would like to render sincere sympathy to John O'Dwyer, Director of Elections for Mayo, on the passing of his mother, Hannah, during the year. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dhílis.

**Officers:** Chairman: Eugene Delaney; Hon. Sec: Margaret Owens; Treasurer: Marion Maloney; Asst. Treasurer: Seamus O'Boyle; Youth Officer: Patricia Hunt.

**Delegates to Comhairle Dáil Ceanntair:** Brian Hunt, Pat Molloy, Seamus O'Boyle, Margaret Owens, Eugene Delaney.

## Pioneers Celebrate Eighty Years In Ballyhaunis

*Joseph Byrne*

P.T.A.A. members from Ballyhaunis District assembled on Friday night, August 6th, to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Pioneer movement in the town.

Mass was celebrated by Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P., and Fr. John O'Gorman, Diocesan Spiritual Director. Canon Cooney paid tribute to the people from Ballyhaunis who back in 1919 had the vision and foresight to establish the P.T.A.A. in the town. He commended all those who had remained loyal to the organisation over the years, particularly in the present time when alcohol plays such a central role in our society.

Fr. O'Gorman conveyed to those present every blessing and good wish on behalf of the Archbishop of Tuam, Dr. Michael Neary.

Later, at a Social to mark the 80th anniversary, a presentation was made to Sr. Assumpta for her outstanding contribution to the local Pioneer movement.

### 40,000 Pioneers in Croke Park

Some 40,000 members of Ballyhaunis Pioneers travelled to Dublin on May 30th 1999 to take part in the Pioneer Centenary Rally, the biggest religious event in Dublin since the Papal visit. The occasion marked the Centenary celebrations of the Association founded in December 1898.

Members travelled from the four corners of the globe: Bolivia,

Kenya, Uganda, Urlingford, Birmingham and Kerry. Black and white walked together from Parnell Square to Croke Park where Mass of thanksgiving was concelebrated by numeral Priests and Bishops. President Mary McAlleese and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern were also present. It was a memorable day for all of us and a great privilege to be present on such a historic occasion.



Presentation to Sr. Assumpta. Back l-r: Canon Cooney, Sr. Assumpta, Frances Maye and Frank Leonard. Seated: Patsy Flanagan and Joseph Byrne



Ballyhaunis P.T.A.A. members walking to Croke Park on 30th May 1999. Included are l-r: Tom Waldron, Tim Byrne, Liam Walsh, Helen Byrne, Eileen Lyons and Anne Murphy



# The Emergency

*1999 sees the sixtieth anniversary of the beginning of the emergency (as World War Two was known in Ireland). This is the first in a series of excerpts taken from "A Connacht Man's Ramble" by Willie Costello. Reprinted with the permission of the Author and Publishers.*

## War Declared

On September 3rd 1939 the British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, in a wireless broadcast following the German invasion of Poland, announced the Britain was now at war with Germany.

For practically all of the next five years the news in the newspapers and over the radio was almost entirely related to the war situation. We were constantly reading or hearing of ships being torpedoed, cities bombed, battles fought and soldiers killed; the early successes of the Nazi forces, and then the invasion of France following the breaking of what had been believed to be the impregnable Maginot Line. Later we had the entry of Italy to the war on the German side and later still the entrance of America on the side of the Allies. Over the years we became as familiar with the pictures of Hitler, Mussolini, Daladier, Petain, Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt as we are now with those of current world leaders. The question was often posed as to what could be found to report on when the war would end. In order to conserve newsprint, the newspapers were reduced to about six pages by Government order.

## Lord Haw Haw

The radio news was enlivened regularly by William Joyce who was better known as Lord Haw Haw and who made live broadcasts in English from Germany. Almost as essential to the Big Powers as winning battles on the field, the air or the sea was the winning of the propaganda war. Each side worried about what the negative effects might be on their own people and armies if they thought that they were losing, so it was important to keep up the pretence of constantly winning if at all possible. Haw Haw was a master propagandist on behalf of Germany and his job was not to maintain morale at home but rather to try to destroy it in enemy countries and especially in England. Night after night his distinctive voice could be heard... "Germany calling, Germany calling", and then going on to describe the latest war news always emphasising German gains. He had a huge listenership in Ireland and, while some listened because they had a certain amount of sympathy with Germany or rather antipathy towards England, most people tuned in because of the wit and entertainment of his broadcasts.

## Censorship

All news items broadcast by Radio Éireann and printed in our newspapers had to be passed by an official censor appointed by the Government. Thus it was ensured that nothing was published that could be used by one or other of the belligerents in their war efforts. Each side had spies planted about the country and all were trying to pick up any kind of information that might be of use to their respective Governments. Some spies were dropped from the air by parachutes but all were picked up by the gardaí within a short time and interned for the duration of the war.

They were not the only ones who were interned at that time. A number of young men who were known to be members of an illegal organisation and who were therefore regarded as a threat to the State spent most of the war years in The Curragh as "guests of the government."

Road signs indicating directions and distances to towns and villages were taken down, and those on buildings like schools or halls which would indicate the name of the area had to be removed or obliterated. The importance of that decision can be appreciated when one considers how disadvantaged parachuted spies were when they landed in territory unknown to them. Although they had friends or contacts in some towns or villages it would be impossible to find them without asking directions from somebody. And everybody was alert when approached by a stranger and especially a foreigner looking for directions. The matter would be reported to the gardaí immediately and an arrest was a certainty.

Every letter entering the country was opened, read and censored when considered necessary. Recipients often found a line or two neatly cut out of their letters. In the same way correspondence addressed to people outside the country was censored. There was a story in circulation at that time which may or may not be true, that a woman living in the West of Ireland when writing to her seasonal migrant husband in England mentioned that she intended to have the lower garden dug and prepared for sowing vegetables. In his reply he stated "For God's sake do not dig the lower garden as it is there the guns are hidden." However the garden was dug within a few days but the digging was done by the gardaí.

## Emergency Powers Legislation

The Emergency Powers Legislation gave the Government almost unlimited power to interfere with what had been rights of the people. But naturally, when there was a threat to the State or when the common good demanded it, those rights ceased. So in order to ensure that enough food was grown to keep the population from going hungry it was decided to put under tillage a certain percentage of all the arable land in the country. Tillage inspectors were appointed nationwide whose job was to ensure that this particular directive was honoured.

The inspectors had very few problems in counties along the western seaboard because the farms were small, less than half the land was arable, and as mixed farming was the norm, by and large more than the quota was tilled. It was different in the midlands, south and east where many farms were extensive and machinery and labour were scarce. Big farmers lost money when they were unable to save some of the crops. They also resented the intrusion of the State into their affairs so their welcome for the tillage inspectors was, to say the least, somewhat restrained. The Government also directed the owners of turbary to rent out banks of turf to people who required them. At first this interference was strongly resented although it was not resisted by the owners who in the main were farmers. However, they soon appreciated the substantial income from a source which they had never considered tapping and the scheme continued long after the Emergency Powers Legislation had ceased to operate.

## Rationing

A ration book was supplied to every person in the country, within



which was a page of coupons for each item that was rationed. The consumer handed the book to the retailer who cut out the appropriate amount of coupons for the items supplied and then handed back the book. The retailer sent the coupons to the Department of Supplies at the end of each month, which in turn sent back a form of credit note to be used when ordering fresh supplies from wholesalers or manufacturers. Rationing ensured that every person in the country got a fair share of the goods available.

Cigarettes and such like non-essential goods were not included in ration books but they were very scarce. Manufacturers and wholesalers did their best to divide them fairly among their customers whom they supplied on the basis of their purchases in the year 1939 before any scarcity began. However some unscrupulous traders then sold them to complete strangers at black market prices.

As smoking and drinking often went hand in hand publicans tried to have a supply of cigarettes continually in stock. To achieve this they sometimes found it necessary to buy them from the black marketeers but they sold them to their customers at the controlled price. A customer was defined as anybody who bought a drink on the premises. Therefore if one wanted to buy cigarettes in a pub it was necessary to order a bottle of stout or beer first and this usually merited five cigarettes. Beer and stout were among the very few items of which there was an abundance. As smoking is an addiction many teetotallers began to drink in order to get cigarettes.

Hardware merchants also attempted a rationing system of their own for items not included in the ration book. For example in one hardware shop there was a regulation that no single customer would get more than half a pound of wire nails at any one time. But some people found a way to circumvent this effort at fair distribution. A group of young people, of whom three were of the same family, entered one morning and each in turn asked for a pound of two-inch wire nails. Getting stock answer "sorry but we can give only half a pound to each customer" they accepted the amounts and made the appropriate payments. during lunch time when different assistants were on duty, each of the group entered again and went through the same procedure.

Scarcity and rationing did not mean that people were gloomy. There were a number of songs composed about The Emergency in general, but in particular about rationing. The following are just two of the lines of a humorous ditty sung to the air of "Bless them all": "Bless de Valera and Sean McEntee - Bless Sean Lemass and his half ounce of tea."

## Light From Brasso

Candles were unprocurable for some of the war years. Paraffin oil was also very scarce and rural households at one stage were allotted only half a gallon per month. This would be less than one third of the amount required to keep a single-wick lamp lighting for a reasonable number of hours in Winter. When it was discovered that "Brasso" polish contained either paraffin oil or a similar substance people got a certain amount of light from putting a thin wick in through a small hole in the lid or cap of the tin and leaving out a tiny portion which they lit in the same way as if it was a lamp. I often did my school homework while using

such a light. Needless to say, all the Brasso in the shops was soon snapped up and it was not used for polishing brass.

As the war progressed the manufacturers of Brasso, finding it impossible to obtain the inflammable ingredient they had been using, substituted a noninflammable liquid which worked quite well for polishing. Hardware merchants however were unaware of the alteration and they ordered large consignments which were greedily purchased by their customers, who intended to use it as a replacement for the candle or oil lamp. Because the substitute element was useless for the provision of light, many tins of unused Brasso could be seen in rural home long after the war was over.

## No Jars, No Jam

A customer wishing to purchase a pot of marmalade or jam in a grocery shop was automatically asked "Have you got a jar?" The goods were supplied if the answer was in the affirmative but not otherwise. In most grocery shops a sign was prominently displayed announcing "No Jars, No Jam."

In similar fashion, when customers required linseed oil or turpentine which were used for mixing and thinning paint, they were asked if they had brought a bottle. Usually they did not have one but most hardware merchants had a quantity of old bottles which had originally contained sauce, castor oil, vinegar and such like and were thus in a position to accommodate the customer, who as a token of gratitude often brought in a bag of old bottles on a later visit. Bottles were also collected by vagrants and offered to traders for a small monetary consideration.

## Smuggling of Bacon

The only meat to fall into the scarce category was bacon. One reason was that some retailers sold it on the black market to smugglers who brought it across the border where it fetched outlandish prices. As bacon was salt cured its shelf-life was considerably longer than that of fresh meat, which was not viable for smuggling purposes.

Apart from that there was a scarcity of pigs in the country due in part to lack of feeding matter. The Management of Claremorris Bacon Company found it impossible to get enough pigs for slaughter in order to keep their staff working. To their lasting credit, instead of making many redundant, they decided on various methods of diversification. Under their far-seeing and efficient manager, Jack O'Brien, a sawmill was set up within the factory grounds and trees were purchased throughout Connacht. A number of their employees were transferred to this new department. The Company also rented banks of turf and they sent other workers to cut, harvest and sell the finished product. Their biggest adventure was to establish a woollen mill within their building. This was a daring undertaking as nobody among them had any experience in this area. They took a chance and sent some employees on a crash course to a mill in England where they studied production methods after which machinery was purchased, and fortunately the venture was a great success.

## The Arrival Of Bord na Móna

The tranquillity of the nine hundred acre unit of largely undisturbed moorland in Garryedmond (between Brickens and Claremorris) which had lain dormant for thousands of years was disrupted when Bord na Móna personnel moved in with their turf-



cutting equipment during the Emergency. Known locally as Mary Anne Curley's bog (because she owned a large portion of it) and stretching from her house as far as Koilmore and Rannaghard it was a vast blanket of unspoilt heather-clad plain. It was a haven for wildlife because practically none of it was suitable for domestic animal grazing or cultivation and therefore the only humans to stroll across that springy marsh and disturb the customary quietude were the infrequent fowlers.

On arrival in Garryedmond the Board erected large Nissen huts which served as accommodation for the workers while they were partaking of their meals and sheltering from rain showers as well as providing storage space, which was their primary purpose. Within a short time they built a sand road through the bog which exited on to the main road near Koilmore crossroads where it still survives. Inspecting the new road was for a short time a novelty among locals and passers-by, but when this wore off it was used only by the employees until subsequently it also became a small-time lovers' walk in late Summer evenings.

The introduction of the machinery was a milestone in the evolution of turf cutting as up to that time the only implements used were the slane, the graip and the wheelbarrow. Under the new semi-automated method a number of men were engaged in digging the raw peat in rough chunks with spades, and throwing them into the well of each machine where they were intermixed,

compressed and then forced out through tubes in sausage-like formation. A revolving blade then slit the product into lengths of about twelve inches and they were mechanically moved away from the source on a long, narrow conveyor belt. Four men, equipped with forks, were assigned to each machine to take the sods off the belt and spread them on the ground. Because of the compression there was very little moisture in them but they still needed a few days of reasonably good weather to dry out. When ready, the turf was gathered, ricked and later taken away in lorries to give heat in hospitals, hotels and private houses, and to provide energy in factories and driving power for trains. The machine-won product was much heavier and longer lasting than that which was produced by hand and it also provided more intense heat.

When compared with the modern appliance wherewith one operator on a machine digs, compresses and spreads the sods, the machinery of the forties was elementary, but at that time it was revolutionary. Bord na Móna left the district after a number of years. During their sojourn in Garryedmond they gave good employment locally, harvested thousands of tons of turf and thereby made an important contribution towards the provision of heat and energy during that crucial time. After their departure the Land Commission took over most of the remaining virgin bog and distributed it in plots among applicants whom they considered suitable, and the cutaway portions were used for afforestation.

*Continued in next issue.*

## I.C.A.

*Veronica Freyne*

Our guild continues to work and uphold our traditions for the local community and charitable causes which for us is the "Hospice Movement." Under the leadership of our President Mrs. Angela Waldron we meet each other each month to discover new interests and discuss new ideas which members bring back from their travels and various courses.

Our Federation meetings are a focal point of our year and are held on a quarterly basis in various venues in the county. Our national President Mrs. Eva Coyle visited us in Mayo during the year to address the issues of the day and our agenda for the year 2000.

We welcome new members who will make friends and have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills in arts and crafts. Discussing and visiting new countries is an ongoing aspect of the I.C.A. educational programme which broadens our horizons.

There really is more to I.C.A. than meets the eye, so, ladies, please come along to one of our meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month at 8 pm in the Parochial Hall. Once again we thank most sincerely all the good friends who so generously support craft and cake sales and look forward to meeting you all in the Millennium year 2000.

President: Mrs. Angela Waldron, Secretary; Mrs. Veronica Freyne; Treasurer: Mrs. Maura Fitzmaurice; P.R.O.: Mrs Margaret Kenny.



Mrs. Veronica Freyne giving a demonstration on Lace-making at the college "An Grianán"





*Ballyhaunis G.A.A. team and officials 1989 before their trip to Coventry. Front l-r: Eamon Murren, John Durkan, Brian Murray, Gerry Lyons, Tom McGuire, Ray Folliard. Back l-r: Jimmy Walsh, Brian Phillips, Eamon Cunnane, Tommy Moran, Tony Waldron, Seamus Caulfield, Johnny Cribbin and Gerry Winston.*



*Edward Mulhern pictured at the top of the newly erected spire on St. Patrick's Church*



*Graduation Mass for Leaving Cert. students in 1999. L-R: Rachel Cleary, Claire Butler, Christy Ruane (Teacher) and Patricia Gaffney.*



# My Memories Of Our Trip To Bishopstown Co. Cork

*Alan Lucey*

We departed Ballyhaunis on October 22nd to fulfill our invitation at Bishopstown G.A.A. Club. Our crew consisted of twenty-six of our underage footballers and hurlers. They had the bags packed, gear ready and mobile phones charged and ready for off in the capable hands of bus driver John Joe Philbin. On the way we stopped in Croom at a well-known spot called Superbites for refreshments. We arrived in Bishopstown after a few detours at 10.30 pm. We were welcomed very warmly by Bishopstown club and the host families. Refreshments were laid on for the children and adults, and the children were introduced to their host families for a much-needed sleep.

Saturday morning held more excitement for the panel as they prepared to take on the Bishopstown and Douglas hurlers in a well prepared clash for the ash. The Ballyhaunis lads put up a gallant performance in both matches and were narrowly beaten on both occasions by two points and one point. The mentors were very proud of our young lads and it shows great promise to see a Mayo team put up such a score against such tough opposition.

Mr. John Crowley then arrived at the club with a surprise for the lads in the form of the McCarthy Cup. Most of the film was used as all the lads were anxious for photographs, but they were finding it difficult to prise it away from the grasp of Ray Lucey. After the games all the teams and adults were treated to a meal in the club and a presentation was made to Ballyhaunis Club by the Chairman of Bishopstown club, Mr. Padraic O'Donoghue. He thanked us all

## Sister Evelyn Retires

Sister Evelyn Fahey has spent many years as Career Counsellor in the Community School. She had a tremendous knowledge of the various courses and options open to students and was always on hand to advise them and to suggest openings that they had never considered. She invariably tried to suggest courses that were suited to each student's ability and talent. Career counselling is a difficult and demanding job as new Diploma and Degree courses are constantly being developed and the teacher must keep up to date on entry conditions and must always read the small print. The filling up of C.A.O. and C.A.S. forms is a particularly anxious time for students and Sr. Evelyn was always ready to lend a helping hand.

In the past few years Sr. Evelyn was the Assistant Chaplain. Sympathy and confidentiality are two qualities needed here and she exuded both, earning the trust and respect of the pupils. They gave her the supreme accolade of describing her as "sound". We thank her and wish her every success in her new mission.



Ray Lucey and Liz Kilbride with the McCarthy Cup. "Wait your turn!" says Cork man to Tipperary woman, "Your turn will come, in twenty years time!"

for travelling and praised the lads very highly, not just in their hurling skills, but also in their overall behaviour. Ray Lucey also took the floor and gave a few bars of "The Banks" before he presented Bishopstown Club with a plaque in appreciation of the invitation.

Night was approaching and time to head back to the host families as we now had to prepare for our football match on Sunday morning. The adults were treated to a night of music, song and light refreshments in the club lounge and it was a most enjoyable night. Sunday morning brought plenty of rain but it didn't interfere with a great game of football between Bishopstown and Ballyhaunis. Bishopstown proved the stronger in the first half, Ballyhaunis fought back well in the second half but the final result proved favourable for Bishopstown. On such a bad day our lads once again proved to be a very proud and dedicated bunch of young people.

Hopefully we all have learned something from our trip to Cork, but we have also learned something in Cork in the form of determination and their 'never give up' attitude. Well done lads! Our players were a credit to their club and their performance both on and off the pitch. Our thanks to Ballyhaunis club and the Bishopstown club for a weekend that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## Mrs. Ger Donnellan Retires

Mrs. Donnellan served as a typing teacher in the Secretarial Class in the Community School. She worked hard and earnestly helping students to achieve speed and accuracy in typewriting and I'm sure many of them surprised themselves by reaching high degrees of skill. Most of Mrs. Donnellan's pupils were girls who had just completed their Leaving Certificate, but in later years many mature students flocked to her class to begin or to improve their typing skills.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Donnellan has a heavy workload in the family business and she has found it necessary to resign from her work in the school. We thank her and wish her health and happiness.



# Pte. Billy Kedian

*A tribute by his colleagues Donal McGovern,*

*Darren Cooley, Seamus Gannon*

Pte. Billy Kedian was born in Moneymore, son of Bill and Doris Kedian, on 20th July 1977. An only son, he had two sisters, Ann and Mary, to whom he was especially close throughout his short but action-packed life. He proudly gave his sister Anne away at her wedding when he was only nineteen years old. He doted on his nephew Conor. He went to school in the Community School where he was a popular and well regarded student; seen as a "sound man" by his peers and teaching staff alike. His easy going, almost casual manner belying a considerate and "gutsy" nature of the most solid kind. He was a gem.

He joined the Defence Forces in December 1996. We got to know Billy on the 30th December, 1996 on the first day of our recruit training. All strangers at that time, we were united by a mixture of fear and excitement at what lay ahead of us as we set off on this great big adventure. We all wanted to be soldiers. We formed an immediate bond as tends to happen during recruit training. Billy was always a quiet guy but could always be relied upon to throw in a witty comment which would make everyone laugh even at the lowest points. He had a rare maturity. He took to army life like the proverbial 'duck to water.' It offered him a whole new life. He thrived during his training and thereafter. Billy never said too much about anything or anyone but he had always plenty to say about the Army and things military. This was his life - his dream come true. He carried his uniform and all that it stood for with huge pride. His potential was obvious to all of us.

Ask anyone what they remember especially about Billy and they will say: "I remember his Smile," for Billy smiled brightly and often, lighting up the sky and brightening your day. He met you every morning with the greeting "alright bud." Anyone who knew him knew that no matter what was going to happen in the course of that day, Billy would be one-hundred percent supportive. He was that kind of guy.

Billy lost his life on Peace-keeping duty in the Lebanon on 31st May while alerting his colleagues of an impending Mortar

attack. We are deeply shocked by Billy's death. Our friend, our "buddy" who was so vibrant and so full of life is now dead. In many respects, it could be anyone of us. It was Billy's second tour of duty in South Lebanon, he having served previously with the 82nd Irish Battalion. Our strong chain has lost a link.



Pte. Billy Kedian

Our loss is great - we have lost a friend, a brother, a colleague in arms, a part of ourselves and the dream we shared. The Army has lost a fine soldier for they don't come any finer than our Billy.

## *Final Year Recital*

*Anthony Jordan*

*The pianist paused at the piano,  
The audience clapped courteously;  
She did not sit and compose herself  
But remained standing, purposively.*

*Her Father said she intended to speak  
Though he questioned her execution;  
Her Mother was certain she would,  
Knowing her determination.*

*The piece, by Sergei Prokofiev,  
Sonata number eight, opus eighty four,  
Had a war theme, appropriate,  
Played andante dolce, sognado, vivace.*

*The small but select audience hushed,  
It was most unusual, so pressurised,  
In the old Parliament building  
On Dublin's College Green.*

*A clear, crisp and egalitarian message;  
A symphony in my mind,  
A grieving father, mother, sisters,  
A whole people on the street.*

*"I would like to dedicate this next piece  
To the memory of my classmate,  
Private Billy Kedian from Ballyhaunis,  
A peacemaker, killed in the Lebanon last week".*



The funeral cortege of Pte. Billy Kedian at the Square, Ballyhaunis



# St. Joseph's National School 1999

Yet again, 1999 has been a very busy and eventful year for St. Joseph's.

## Board of Management

The members of the Board of Management are: Chairperson: Fr. James O'Grady; Secretary: Sr. Bridie Fagan, Treasurer/Parents' Reps: Mary Donnelly, Joe Byrne; Committee: Caitlín Jennings, Maria Campbell (Principal), Mike Byrne, Robert Potter-Coogan.

## Parents' Association

We would like to welcome the newly elected members of the Parents' Association. They are as follows: Chairperson: Liam Lynskey; Secretary: Christina Concannon; Treasurer: Gabrielle Lyons; Reps. of Board of Management: Joe Byrne, Mary Donnelly; Committee: Ciaran Byrne, Laurence Freyne, Kay Buckley, Bernie Lyons.

## Write Here, Write Now

Earlier this year, the fifth class took part in the 'Write Here Write Now' project. They were asked to write about life in the year 1999 for the people in the year 3000. All the entries picked will be bound together in a book that will be kept in the National Library in Dublin for all to read. The people picked will go to meet President Mary McAleese in Dublin in December to launch the book.

## Special Activities

On Sunday, April the 18th last, our school choir went to Mullingar to compete in the All-Ireland three-part choir finals. The standards were exceptionally high, but despite this, our choir's three songs - Báisteach ag Titim ar mo Cheann, Bog Braon and Beidh Aonach Amarach brought us through with flying colours. The girls in fourth, fifth and sixth class sang their hearts out, and we are very proud with our All-Ireland achievement!

In 1998 our principal Ms. Campbell arranged with a school in Belgium for a pen pal project. We also took part in a teddy-bear project with the school from Belgium, in which they sent a teddy bear with a notebook. One person took the teddy bear home each

day and wrote about their day with the teddy bear.

On the 31st of January last our choir sung at the Parish Church Mass, which was broadcast by Mid-West Radio. On April the 4th, the pupils from our school took part in the Easter Parade. Unfortunately, the weather was very bad, but on a brighter note, The Chamber of Commerce announced that we were the best turned out school. We received a trophy and a cheque for fifty pounds.

The school soccer team had an outstanding year. They defeated all the opposing teams and brought home the winning trophy. The second level was a little more difficult but they managed an excellent second place! The team consisted of six players and two subs. Our players were: Joanne Hoban, Kimberley Moran, Sinead Mulrennan, Maura O'Dwyer, Cindy Ward, Eilish Nevin, Catherine Nestor and Brenda Kilcourse. All the girls played exceptionally well on both days. Their fantastic goalkeeper, Joanne Hoban made a terrific catch of the ball when the opposing team were granted a penalty. Pat O'Connor, their trainer and their coaches hard work and effort certainly paid off. Our teachers Mrs. Cosgrove and Ms. Campbell were very supportive and proud to see us bringing home the winning trophy!

## Medieval Weekend

Last June, in conjunction with the medieval weekend, there was an art competition held. One person from each class in St. Joseph's received a trophy for their artwork. The artwork was displayed in windows of various businesses around the town. The winners were: Bernadette McGowan (6th class), Cheryl Walsh (5th class), Maria Connelly (4th class), Louise Kellegher (3rd class), Vanessa Morley (Mixed Infants), Robyn Moran



Sixth Class Confirmation. Front l-r: Fr. Timmy Walsh O.S.A., Catherine Nestor, Sarah Buckley, Brenda Kilcourse, Marie Kirrane, Moira Kilbane, Michelle Folliard, Martina Cunnane, Deirdre Kelly, Johannah Burke Rowlands, Rita Rochford. Middle l-r: Joseph Canon Cooney P.P., Eilish Nevin, Elaine Cregg, Bernadette McGowan, Joanne Hoban, Archbishop Neary, Aileen Burke, Karen Higgins, Leanne Murphy, Máire O'Dwyer, Fr. James O'Grady C.C., Fr. Michael Collendar O.S.A. Back l-r: Katie O'Connor, Venetia Powers, Ruth Dillon-Leetch, Roisin Flanagan, Georgina O'Boyle, Patricia Quinn, Sinead Mulrennan, Cindy Ward, Maeve Lynskey and Niamh Gildea.





Fifth Class Confirmation: Front l-r: Fr. Timmy Walsh O.S.A., Charlene Nolan, Tara McGuire, Glenda McCabe, Elaine Donnelly, Lorna Kirrane, Derna Collum, Eithne Tighe. Middle l-r: Canon Joseph Cooney P.P., Carol Quinn, Kimberley Moran, Louise Kilcourse, Janice Brogan, Archbishop Neary, Claire Kilcourse, Aine Hunt, Fr. James O'Grady C.C., Fr. Collendar O.S.A. Back l-r: Christina Lawrence, Cheryl Walsh, Alma Broderick, Sandra Hora and Nicola Kilbride.

(Senior Infants) and Patrick Kellegher (Junior Infants).

## Readoirí

In 1998, St. Joseph's N.S. Ballad Group took part in Readoirí and they got through to the Connaught finals. They did extremely well but unfortunately lost. The members of the Ballad Groups were: Roisín Flanagan, Karen Higgins, Niamh Gildea, Sarah Buckley, Katie O'Connor, Maeve Lynskey and Janice Brogan.

Sarah Buckley, Catherine Nestor, Niamh Gildea, Eilish Nevin, Elaine Cregg and Sinead Mulrennan took part in the school's 1998 Drama Group. They put on an excellent show, but sadly lost in the Readoirí competition.

## Quizzes

Earlier this year some of our school's quiz teams took part in the quiz, hosted by, Slógadh. One of our teams came second place and they each received a plaque. The members of the team were: Maeve Linskey, Elaine Donnelly, Leanne Murphy and Maura O'Dwyer.

Two teams from our school were entered into the Cadbury's Quiz in Castlebar. Aine Hunt, Catherine Nestor, Sandra Hora and Elaine Cregg each won pencil-cases. They did very well, but unfortunately did not make it through to the next round.

## French

The pupils in sixth and fifth class are being taught French because of a new pilot scheme being introduced. Mrs. Geraldine O'Dwyer is the teacher.

## Babaro

On October the 14th last, the students of sixth class visited the Babaro Children's Art Festival in Galway to hear a talk by Mrs. Minijean Browne Trickey about being rejected because of her

colour in her youth. A woman came to visit us to teach us Latin dancing.

## Elocution

For the past few weeks, all classes have been taking part in speech and drama classes which are given by Sr. Josephine Parke.

## Kenny-Naughton

In the recent Kenny-Naughton poetry and short story competition, Áine Hunt from sixth class came first in the twelve years and under category for poetry with her entry "The T.V. Freak."

## Congratulations!

Congratulations are certainly in order for Phelim Webb in Junior Infants for receiving an Indigo National Children's Day Bravery

Certificate and Award for outstanding courage and determination in the recent Children's Day Awards on October the third 1999.

We would like to thank all the staff at St. Joseph's National School: Mrs. Maria Campbell, Mrs. Sally Fahy, Sr. Teresa, Sr. Geraldine, Mrs. Marie Byrne, Mrs. Caitlín Jennings, Mrs. Connie Cosgrove, Mrs. Carol Horkan and Ms. Denise Campbell. Also our Secretary Patricia Gibbons and Caretaker Martin Killeen.

# Pat Higgins

## Adult Education Officer, Co. Mayo

Mr. Pat Higgins resigned from his position of teaching in the Community School to take on the task of Adult Education Officer for County Mayo and I'm sure this challenge will be just up his alley.

For the past twenty years Pat has been thinking towards the twenty-first century while most of us were firmly stuck in the present century. Throughout his teaching career, Pat has planned and initiated new courses. He saw that the introduction of Technology as a school subject would be useful and he pushed to have it on the curriculum. He was proved right and it has become a popular and useful subject. Pat also played an important part in the development of the Leaving Certificate Applied which has been a boost for many students.

Pat will bring the same innovative and enthusiastic approach to adult education and we all wish him every success. Adult Education in the county is lucky!



## ANNAGH WEDDINGS



*Kevin Walsh (Charlestown) & Michelle Daly (Ballyhaunis).  
Married in Knock Church.*



*Robert Traves (Yorkshire) & Sharon Walsh (Ballyglass).  
Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*



*Thomas Horan (Charlestown) & Anna McKermitt  
(Ballyhaunis). Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*



*Gerard Concannon (Claremorris) & Colette Dyer  
(Brackloon South).  
Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*



*Michael McHale (Killala) & Bridget Kelly (Ballyhaunis &  
Dublin). Married in St. Patrick's Church*



*Michael Duffy (Ballyhaunis) & Mary McGann (Knock).  
Married in Knock Church*



## ANNAGH WEDDINGS



*James Molloy (Birmingham) & Michelle Keane (Ballyhaunis). Married in St. Patrick's Church*



*Tom Colleran (Ballyhaunis & Charlestown) & Celine Devaney (Coolnaha, Ballyhaunis). Married in St. Mary's Augustinian Friary*



*Tony Morley (Knox St., Ballyhaunis) & Maeve McGrath (Larganboy). Married in St. Patrick's Church*



*Neil Cruise (Knockbrack, Ballyhaunis) & Carmel Kelly (Letterkenny). Married in St. Eunan's Cathedral, Letterkenny*



*Jonathan Cleary (Clare St., Ballyhaunis) & Erni Yusnita (BTE, Hi Juman). Married in Singapore*



*Paul McGroddy (Donegal) & Anne Coen (Clagnagh, Ballyhaunis). Married in St. Patrick's Church*



## ANNAGH WEDDINGS



*John Forde (Clare St., Ballyhaunis) & Anne Marie Fortune (Wexford) Married in the Caribbean (included: parents of groom, John & Sighe Forde)*



*Alan Rattigan (Pollnacraoaghy) & Fleur McCabe (Monaghan). Married in Australia*



*Barry Kerrigan (Tyrone) & Ann Regan (Gurrane). Married in St. Patrick's Church*



*William Frayne (Bargarrieff) & Laurie Griffin (Philadelphia). Married in St. Patrick's Church*



*Paul Cooney (Thurles) & Letitia Mulleaghe (Upr Main St., Ballyhaunis). Married in Thurles*



*Tommy Caulfield (Upr Main St., Ballyhaunis) & Eavan Webb (Devlis). Married in St. Patrick's Church*



## ANNAGH WEDDINGS



*Jason Morley (Knox St., Ballyhaunis) & Rebecca Ganley (Larganboy). Married in Began Church*



*John Fleming (Cloonfad) & Caroline Murphy (Knockbrack). Married in St. Patrick's Church*



*Padraic McHugh (Main St., Ballyhaunis) & Mary Carney (Abbey St., Ballyhaunis). Married in the Augustinian Abbey*



*Joseph Curry (Knock) & Sinead Cribbin (Drimbane). Married in St. Patrick's Church*



*Shaun Murphy (Galway) & Josephine Cribbin (Drimbane). Married in Rome*



*Vincent Salmon (Knock) & Marie Gallagher (Derrintogher). Married in St. Patrick's Church*



## ANNAGH WEDDINGS



*Tobias Dreher (Geneva) & Maeve McManus (Holywell).  
Married in St. Patrick's Church*



*Liam Molloy (Offaly) & Cliona Cribbin (Bridge St.,  
Ballyhaunis). Married in the Augustinian Friary*



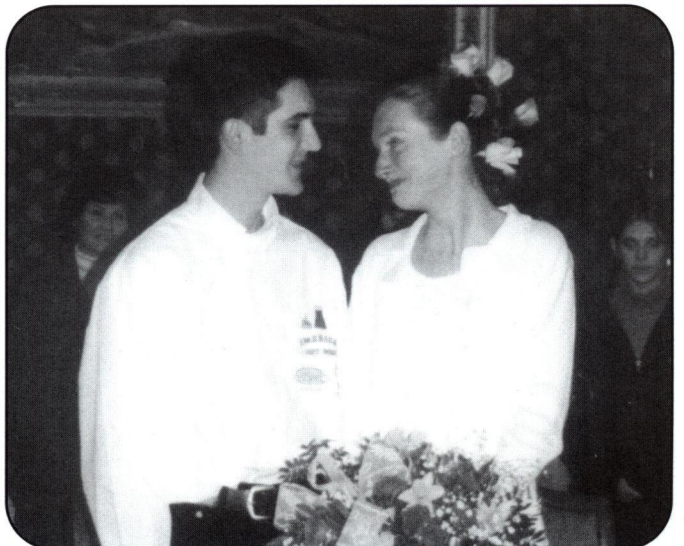
*Sean Coffey (Tullaghane) & Stephanie Murphy (Brackloon).  
Married in St. Patrick's Church*



*Tomás Burke (Foxford) & Kathleen Connell (Redford,  
Ballyhaunis). Married in Knock Church*



*Brian Kelly (Roundfort) & Elaine Conroy (Larganboy).  
Married in Began Church*



*Sebastien Carton (Corsica) & Martina Freeley (Hazelhill).  
Married in Corsica*



# Escape To Ballyhaunis

*Tony & June Duffy*

After coming to Ireland on several occasions, looking for property and attempting to have a holiday, June and I decided the only way to "house hunt" was from a base in Ireland.

Replying to an advertisement in an English newspaper, we decided to rent in Ballyhaunis. As we had two dogs - a terrier and an Irish Red Setter - we said the country might be best. So after our wedding (another story) and a long delay in Holyhead, we arrived in Ballyhaunis. Bridie Levins met us and, in the dark, took us out to Annagh. The next morning was a revelation, Annagh in the rain and mist; a few words with Martin 'Sam' Lyons and we came in to town. The first shop we stopped at for bread had two ladies from Manchester serving! Where had we come to? Had we really left England?

We started to look for property right away, and, after several months Sylvester McBride pointed out one that met most of our criteria, and near to Ballyhaunis, if you enjoy trekking! By then we had been completely won over by the friendliness of the people. This, coupled with the fact that my father John Duffy came to England in the early thirties from Kilcolman, Ballaghaderreen, made me feel more at home. The house deal took about a year to complete and by then we were involved with the local community to some tune.

Being strict 'townies', it was just as well we have terrific neighbours like the Hunts, Foliards and McBrides to see us through the intricate stages of turf cutting, footing and reeking, not to say training at sheep, cattle and horse herding! We felt like true country folk, especially when we had twenty-five square bales of hay cut on our front lawn. In addition, Lizzie McNamara, who was born in our three-roomed cottage some years ago keeps us up-to-date on the historical facts and family links associated with our property, so we feel as though we are an integral part of Cartron South history.

In late 1998 we came into contact with "Mac Tague Rua", a Re-enactment and Living History Group based in Mannin. Consequently, we finished third in our section at Kiltimagh on St. Patrick's Day, first in the Ballyhaunis Easter Parade and wound up helping to organise the Medieval Weekend in Ballyhaunis in June. We have also touched lightly on the Musical Society production 'Hearts of Wonder.' With my singing voice, I can only be a crowd extra. To date our extra curricular activities have included Set Dancing, Flower Arranging, an I.T. course, Bridge, Choir, Golf, Irish Musical Soirees and I am slowly and expensively being shown how to play '25' and '110' whilst sampling the porter at one or two hostleries. In addition, with our combined expertise and knowledge in hurling, we were invited by the G.A.A. to assist with the junior training, which we duly did and feel confident that the juniors can now tie their shoe laces and adjust their helmets! In June we joined the Abbey Pattern Team, ran a 'Tug-o-war' and assisted at the track events at the Pattern in August.



Tony and June Duffy.

This is just in a twenty month period since we have come back 'home.' As you can probably appreciate, we have both met and made so many friends and contacts it would be impossible to name all without an extra edition of this magazine. But we both thank you all for your welcome and friendship.

When we left England, friends of ours in London said "the West of Ireland?: you will be both bored, there is nothing to do there." When we met them in October at a reunion in Coventry they were exhausted "listening" to our agenda in Ballyhaunis. June is now back teaching and I am trying to convert an acre field into a garden and do the general odd jobs.

If you are thinking of coming back or coming here for the first time, do it now! No hiding behind papers on the tube, no traffic jams, no fighting for a place on public transport, just a quality of life that has been forgotten in the cities of the world, surrounded by the friendliest people in the world who can still make a joke out of getting your foot wet in a bog. On second thoughts stay where you are, we are doing very nicely thanks!

To be continued ....

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

*Matt O'Dwyer (Hon. Sec.)*

The society carried on with its usual work in 1999. We supplied food, fuel, clothes and furniture to those in need. We got a grant from our National Organisation for a third level student.

We also helped fund the Resource Centre in Tooraree. We would like to congratulate Canon Cooney and his committee on the completion of the spire.

Finally thanks again to all of you who contributed during the year. The people we help greatly appreciate your generosity.





*Stations in Gildea's of Johnstown. L-R: Niamh Gildea, Maeve Lynskey, Maire Gildea, Celia Lyons, Aileen Burke, Padraig Gildea, Canon Joe Cooney, Liam Gildea, Pat Gildea, Connie Gildea, Seamus Molloy, Ann Molloy, Nancy Jordan, Eileen Jordan, Helen Byrne, Mary Gildea, Teresa Healy, Kathleen Waldron, Helen Gilmore, Sheila Byrne, Maureen Lilly, Claire Byrne, Mary Cleary and Vona Walsh.*



*Above: Graduation Mass for Leaving Cert. 1999. L-R: Sean Cunnane, James Mulrennan, Adrian Leonard, Chris Freyne, Paul Hickey and Enda Lyons.*



*Above: New Year's Eve Ball 1998. Front l-r: Barbara Gallagher, Patricia and Nuala Fitzgerald. Back l-r: Pauline Henry, Eamon Gallagher and friends.*



*Right: Gaelic League Dancers 1944. Back l-r: Carmel Smyth, Maureen Dillon, Mary Waldron, Eileen Durkan, Kathleen Campbell. Front l-r: Gemma Smyth, Bridie Smyth, Geraldine Durkan.*



# Yvonne Byrne - A Profile

*Mike Finnerty*

It was midway through the second half and Mayo was being reeled in. Close on forty-five minutes had flown by in the All-Ireland Ladies Senior Football Final and Waterford were storming back. In front of the Railway goal, a Mayo attack broke down and the ball was fly-kicked clear, dropping slowly in front of the Hogan Stand. It would fall on the fifty yard line between two players, and what happened next defined the Summer.

Sprinting and leaping in the one movement, Mayo's centre-half back, Yvonne Byrne, soared into the air, arched her back and one-handed, retrieved the liathróid. She tucked it under her arm, delivered a pass, and jogged back to her position. It was that simple.

## Welcome to the world of Yvonne Byrne

It was the first Sunday of October and fifteen minutes later, Mayo rejoiced like never before. The scoreboard in Hill 16 swore to the history - 0-12 to 0-8 - it read in green luminous letters and things would never be the same again for Mayo's sixteen year old centre-half back.

The next morning her image adorned the nation's sports pages, and in typical fashion, she was captured storming upfield. The ball was held closely to her chest and a blue knee bandage illuminated the frame. Unsurprisingly, she took it all in her stride. If proof were needed that this woman was destined for greatness, a look at the statistics makes interesting reading. At the age of six, the youngest daughter of Pat and Margaret (née McGuire) Byrne injured knee ligaments at the Community Games on the local pitch, and ever since has needed the aid of a knee support to play through the pain. It did little to dampen the enthusiasm however, and next on the list came hurling. By the age of fourteen, Yvonne Byrne had caught her first headlines, captaining the boy's team to win the County Féile title. Ballyhaunis had never seen the like of it, and there was more to come. Later that Summer she became the Community Games U-14 Poc Fada Champion and twelve months later went on to win All-Ireland silver in the same event. Her timetable was understandably full to overflowing.

In tandem with a burgeoning career with the camán and sliothar, Yvonne also made time to play soccer and Lough Harps in the Roscommon League benefitted most from her undoubted ability. Knock United and Ballyhaunis Community School also siphoned off a little of her time and talents and in return, league, cup and individual accolades were won at ease. Her greatest calling was yet to come.

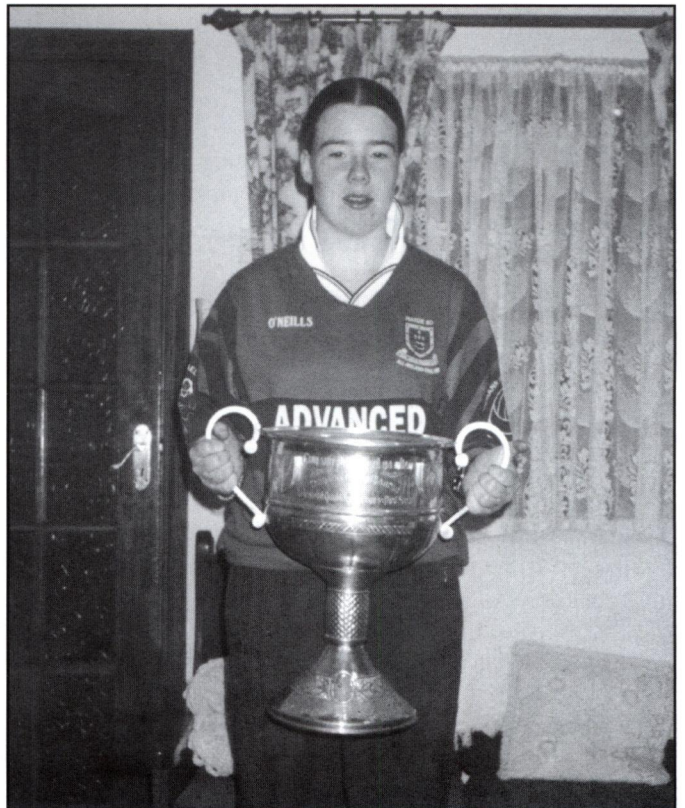
A desire to try her hand at gaelic football meant that Yvonne Byrne found herself at the door of the Hollymount Ladies. After the customary red tape had been dealt with, her athleticism dictated the results and so began a journey that would bring

unparalleled success. Her progress in the past twelve months has been startling according to Mayo coach, Jonathan Mullin. "She hadn't played a whole lot of football and we tried her at corner-back in a few league games at the end of 1998, she did nothing wrong and we decided to move her to centre-back to try and steady things up. Her progress was amazing and she's improving all the time. In truth, we had little option but to play her at centre-half back' she was playing so well there for the minors," he said.

Throughout Mayo's run to Croke Park this Summer, Yvonne Byrne has been a constant source of imagination and inspiration at centre-back. It was only the day after the All-Ireland, in the town square that her composure was threatened. The enormity of the win had finally begun to dawn as she stood amongst her own in the twilight. Just months before, in similarly fading light, Knox Street could be heard reverberating to the sound of a football. Kicking, catching and embarking on imaginary runs, Yvonne Byrne was dreaming of the big day. Dreaming of the day when everything would come together. Right now it all seems like a distant memory as the future unfurls before her.

She has just turned seventeen and will sit her Leaving Cert next June. All things going to plan, her career will not be far removed from the world of sport and will provide even more opportunities for inter-county football. Jonathan Mullin believes that her footballing prospects know no bounds. "She's very determined and I think the big occasion suits her. I can see her getting better and better," he said.

In that case, only one argument needs settling. Where did she get her football from? Whether it was Tom McGuire or Johnny Biesty we'll never know, but both were proud men on the 3rd of October 1999, the day the famine ended!



Yvonne Byrne holding the Brendan Martin Cup.



## Ballyhaunis Parent And Toddler Group

In an age where most mothers now join the paid work force, the mother that stays at home to rear the family is sometimes forgotten about. Five days a week, eight to eight with sometimes only the baby to talk to can take it's toll. With this in mind parent and toddler groups started to spring up around the country.

A parent and toddler group is where a group of parents come together one or two mornings a week to meet other parents with similar interests: mothers can have a coffee and chat while the children can play together in a safe environment. Not having this facility in the town, a few mothers got together and arranged a meeting to discuss setting up a group. From the turn-out at the first meeting it was obvious something in this line was needed in the town.

We set about looking for a suitable premises and the Parochial Hall Committee decided to rent a room to us. Next, we had to get insurance so that the children would be covered should, God forbid, an accident occur. Also, we needed a vast amount of toys suitable for all ages. We appealed to families with grown up children to clean out the attic - this generated a lot of toys. A number of businesses in the town gave money which enabled us to pay for the insurance and to buy one or two big toys which the children would have to share: a valuable lesson for the future. And of course the all important kettle, mugs and coffee for the mums.

### Official Opening

So, on October 11th, the official opening of the Ballyhaunis Parent And Toddler Group took place.

Canon Cooney attended this opening and said he was delighted to be associated with the group. He praised the organisers of the group for having the courage to start something new in the town, which, judging on the turn-out, was badly needed. Due to the large numbers attending, the group have moved from a room to the main hall. This means the children have more space to play.

From visiting other groups we have learned that grant aid is available and hope to apply for funding in the new year. This we will use to buy proper floor mats, safety barriers and other equipment which will, as far as possible, be bought. Six weeks into our existence we have come through the major teething problems. I'm sure there will be a few more hurdles to cross but then again, as mother's, we all know you have to crawl before you can walk. At the moment we are enjoying our mornings and both mother and toddler are looking forward to Santa!

The group would like to thank: Mike Byrne, Mary Smith, Canon Cooney, A. Grogan & Sons, Red Square, Eagney Insurance, Deluxe Carpet Cleaning, Curley's Chemist, Ryan's Supervalu, Caulfield's shop, Newsround, The Gem, Sparkey's and Moran's for their support.



The Ballyhaunis Parent & Toddler Group on their first morning together.

## Waldron Clan Gathering

The second Waldron Clan Gathering takes place over the last weekend of April, 2000 - coinciding with the May Bank Holiday Weekend - from Friday 28th to Sunday 30th of April in Ballyhaunis and Knock, County Mayo, Ireland. Huge interest has been expressed in the event and delegates are expected from all over the World. The first Gathering, which took place in Ballyhaunis in August 1997, was well attended and was generally enjoyed by all who attended. Waldrons, and those with Waldron connections, who were born within a few miles of Ballyhaunis, returned to visit their families and friends. Many of those enjoying their first trip to the general Ballyhaunis area were successful in locating their ancestral homesteads and some

managed to meet their relatives for the first time. Old friendships were renewed; people who had corresponded for years finally met 'in the flesh', and many new friendships were forged. Even those who didn't manage to establish a family link, or who failed to discover where exactly their Waldrons had lived, said the Gathering was a most enlightening and enjoyable experience.

To those who have not yet planned on attending the Gathering, the Waldron Clan Association Organising Committee extends a hearty invitation; to those who have their plans already made, we look forward to meeting you and your families here next April. Full details are available in the sixth issue of the Waldron Journal published in November 1999 (already posted to paid-up members; for sale in newsagents in Ballyhaunis; or available from the secretary Ursula Waldron, Logboy, Tulrahan, Claremorris, Co. Mayo) or on the Waldron Clan Association website at:

[www.mayo-ireland.ie/Geneal/FamNews/clans/Waldron.htm](http://www.mayo-ireland.ie/Geneal/FamNews/clans/Waldron.htm)



# Around The World On A Shoe String

*Mark McCafferty*

With heads still spinning from the farewell party, the breakfast was welcome on the short flight to Heathrow. A ten hour flight to Bangkok gave us (Hugh Martin, Kevin Calvey and myself) time to ponder on what was ahead of us and a chance to read the Lonely Planet's guide to South East Asia, the back-packer's bible!

On arrival, we were greeted by dozens of taxi drivers all knowing where we wanted to go before we knew ourselves. On advice from the guide book, we headed to Khao San Road, an area in the city well known to back-packers. For the next few days we ventured out and took in the sights: the Wat Sai floating market, the Golden Buddha and the Mountain Temple, one of the many ancient Hindu temples scattered throughout the bustling city. The vibrancy and varied night life for which Bangkok has become famous (or infamous!) certainly lives up to its reputation!

Leaving the bedlam of Bangkok behind, we made our way south to Koh Sarui, a postcard island with a coconut-crammed tree line. A week of pre-breakfast swims, spectacular sunsets and mouth watering delicacies, was just what we needed while our Vietnamese visas were being sorted in Bangkok. Forty-eight hours after partying in the moon-filled waters of the Gulf of Thailand, we were touching down in Ho Chi Minh airport, Southern Vietnam.

## Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, was the final conquest of the North Vietnamese army as they pushed out the Americans back in the sixties. As expected in communist countries, the wealth is shared with the few, while the average person gets by on very little. Having said that, Vietnam boasted some of the most breathtaking, unspoilt landscapes we were to see, with tropical rain forests and step-like rice paddies set against a background of dark green mountains. Outside the cities the beaches have remained relatively untouched by tourism and the turquoise waters of the South China sea produce some of the best seafoods on offer. Probably the most under-developed country we visited, we were still sorry to have to move on.

The next stop was the ancient city of Chiang Mai in North West Thailand. The former capital of Thailand, it is located in the reknowned Golden Triangle of Burma, Laos and Thailand. Not nearly as busy as Bangkok, but steeped in just as much history, Chiang Mai was the starting block for our three day jungle trek into the mountains. Staying with hill tribes, learning their ways and living off the land were among the many highlights, but one that comes to the forefront was the elephant trek and bamboo rafting down the mountain. Worn out and still not tanned, we flew back to pick up a fourth passenger: Maura Birmingham (Granlahan) - who was out on holiday. Another brief stop in Bangkok and we were off again, this time heading south down the peninsula.

First port of call was a little town called Krabi, lying on the west



Hugh Martin, Mark McCafferty and Kevin Calvey in Koh Samui, Thailand.

coast close to the borders of Thailand and Malaysia. Off its shores were a collection of beautiful islands with fascinating beaches, waterfalls and rainforests ... ideal for total relaxation! Next up, and just across the border, was the small but lush island of Penang with its miles of soft sand beaches. Having one of the largest 'Chinatowns' in South East Asia, Georgetown, the major town was a great place for bargains.

After an interesting bus journey down through the Malaysian peninsula, we eventually reached Kuala Lumpur, the capital. Boasting the tallest building in the world, the Petrona Towers and many magnificent Mosques and temples, this city is an architect's dream. Even with such a diverse mix of cultures and religions - the Moarish, Malays, Indians and Chinese - the people were always helpful and obliging and, with twenty-four hour shopping malls, Maura was in her element!

## Singapore

It was only a short bus trip to Singapore, the island city hanging from the Southern most tip of the Malaysian peninsula. Eventhough the most expensive city by far in South East Asia, Singapore's crimeless, clean streets and cosmopolitan attitudes make it one of the most vibrant cities. A super place for a holiday ... if you're travelling on a platinum card! This was the final destination for Maura, but for myself and the lads, Bali beckoned!

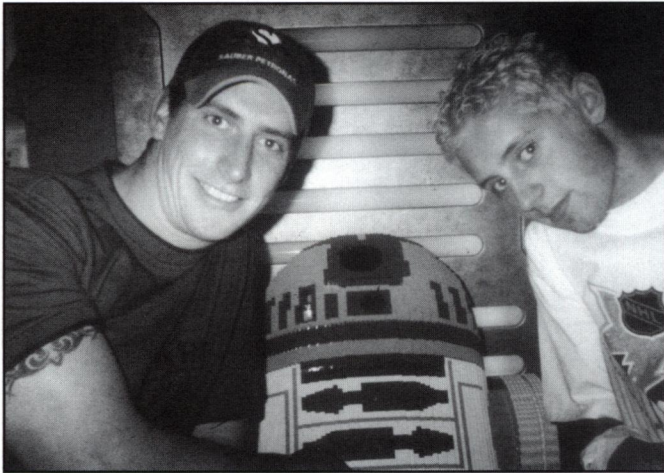
Living up to its reputation as a party island, Bali is full of honeymoon couples and Australian tourists. With funds running low, most of our time was spent on the palm lined beaches or sharing stories with fellow back-packers.

## Australia

A short flight to Darwin for a couple of days of exceptionally hot weather and then on the Alice Springs, right in the heart of Australia. Here we took on a two day trip to Ayers Rock and its surroundings. One of the most famous landmarks in the world, Ayers Rock - or Muru as known by the Aborigines: was an inspirational sight, especially at sunset. It was, however, a nightmare to climb at six in the morning!

Host to the 2000 Olympic Games, Sydney is a city full of life and energy and work. With its many marvels including the Opera House, the Harbour Bridge and the Centre Point Tower, not to mention a thriving entertainment scene with pubs, casinos, music





Simon McCafferty and Nathan Murphy in Florida, U.S.A.

and nightclubs, I found myself staying here for eight weeks. While Hugh headed to New Zealand and the Pacific islands, I managed to catch up with family friends like Mercy and Mary Flatley (natives of Ballyhaunis) and not forgetting Andy, who have lived in Sydney for over thirty years. After a quick trip up to Brisbane and some part-time work, I was able to move on the next stage of the trip, Mexico.

## We'll soon say goodbye to this Century

*Michael Godfrey*

*We'll soon say goodbye to this century  
When this decade we live in is gone  
When the annals of fate will be written  
You'll be featured in story and song*

*You gave us the wars and the conflicts  
And the horrors this world came through  
We saw the injustice and famine  
And the debt by so many, to so few*

*But we had many bright days of glory  
It wasn't all doom and regret  
Like the day that the Pope came to Ireland  
That's a day we will never forget*

*We saw too, the millions divided  
By that wall that made this world frown  
But thank God the cruel hearts relented  
And the barriers to freedom came down*

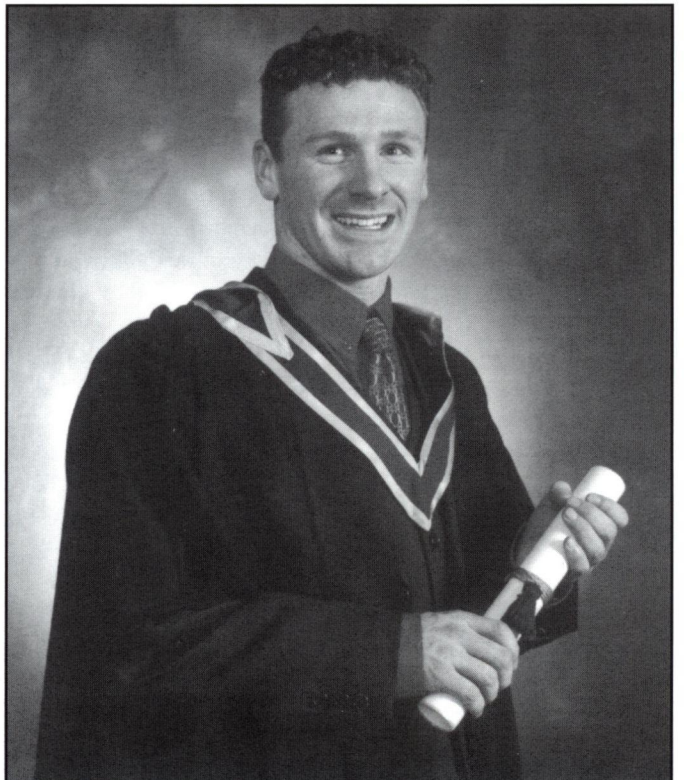
*I pray in the few months remaining  
That the Lord will this world appease  
And when the bells will ring out this century  
May well all be united in peace*

## Mexico

Being one of the cheapest places I visited, Mexico provided the perfect back-pack atmosphere before hitting the more expensive U.S. Seeking sun and sand and cheap accommodation we headed for a little Caribbean island off the Mexican coast. Famous among the back-packing community and rightly known as "The island of Women", this island was to be home for four weeks. With beautiful weather, crystal blue waters and white, silky sands, we made the most of our time there!

Like every American city with its big roads, big cars and big people, Miami is no exception. Here, I met up with my brother Simon and cousin Nathan, who had come out on holidays. They weren't long getting into the back-packer vibe! After a short trip up to Tampa to visit Frankie Mulligan and his family, we were waltzing along Fifth Avenue in New York City. Having great guides in Julie Birmingham (Granlahan) and her boyfriend Seán, we managed to see all the major sights in Manhattan and its surroundings and had it not been for hurricane Floyd, we might have got some shopping done!

Six months had now passed since the sore heads left Dublin Airport; it was time to come home. A final night out with my Aunt Wyn and Uncle Pat in London before flying back to Dublin with a ruck-sack full of dirty clothes and not a penny in my pocket. I suppose some things never change no matter how long you're gone!



## Mayo Footballer joins Leo Laboratories

Congratulations and best wishes to Ballyhaunis and Mayo Senior Gaelic footballer, David Nestor B.Sc., who has been appointed as a Sales Representative with Leo Laboratories Ltd., one of the country's top pharmaceutical companies. A former student of Ballyhaunis Community School, David is son of Billy and Eileen (née Lyons) Nestor, The Corner Bar, Ballyhaunis.



## Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool

*Agatha Higgins*

The pool opened again this year with Canon Cooney blessing all its swimmers. We would like to thank our lifeguards, Patricia Mulhern and Damian Byrne, with help from assistant lifeguards, for the smooth and safe running of the pool. This year we had to employ office staff: Carol Donnelly filled this position, keeping control on the day to day monies and dressing room area.

Without the work that Marie Jordan puts into organising the water/safety courses our youngsters wouldn't have the opportunity to swim with ease and become our up-and-coming lifeguards. Thanks must be given to Siobhán Byrne for examining our courses. We also ran Adult Evening Courses, watched over by our helpful lifeguards, Patricia, Damian and Carol: thank you for your time and dedication.

The pool ended its year by having a swimming gala. Everyone had a fantastic day; it was a great success.

Looking forward to seeing you all next year.



Children who received certificates for water safety at Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool.

## A Cut Above The Rest

*Samantha Tidy*

Earlier this year, Josephine Cribbin daughter of Seamus and Angela Cribbin, Lecarrow, was announced the Galway Winner of the Young Business Woman of the Year Award.

The competition, which is organised every year by the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW), and sponsored by Irish Permanent, focuses on the skill and success of competitors in both setting up and running their own business. Josephine set up the Connaught College of Hairdressing in 1993, based in Kiltartan House, Galway and among others, in her role of Principal, trains students in hairdressing. The college boasts a 100% employment rate on graduating, and caters for around one hundred and fifty students per year.

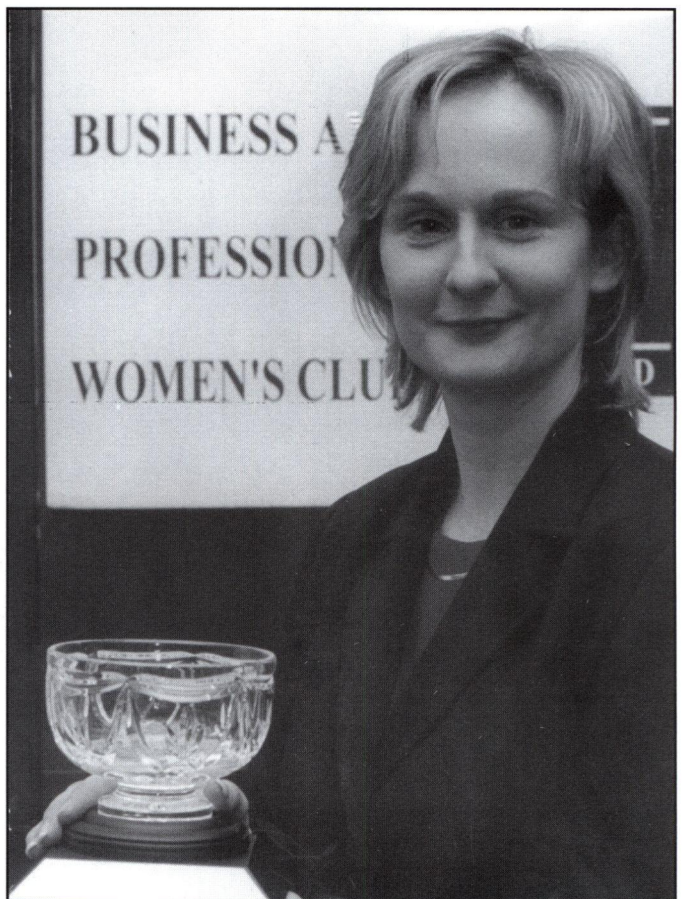
In 1997, Josephine also took up the opportunity of becoming editor of Ireland's only hair and beauty magazine, "The Irish Hair and Beauty Journal". Since then, it has gone from strength to strength, increasing its distribution to five-thousand salons across Ireland.

The finals of the competition were held at the Ardilaun Hotel in Galway in March. The competition for Galway's Young Business Woman of the Year was strong, with many impressive entries, resulting in eight finalists. All finalists were interviewed by a panel of independent adjudicators who assessed their business acumen. They then had to make a presentation to a large audience made up of BPW members, friends and families of the contestants and members of the general public.

Josephine was presented with the Breda Ryan Trophy by Anne Ryan of BPW and with the Irish Permanent Trophy by Niall Keating of Irish Permanent. Later in April, she went into the

National Final in Dublin, to compete against finalists from throughout the country.

Accepting her award, Josephine said: "I am thrilled to be rewarded for starting my own business and bringing success to the West Coast community. I think awards like this are needed to encourage more young women into putting their ideas into fruition and aiming high. There really is nothing standing in your way to success. I am grateful to Irish Permanent and BPW for making it all possible."





# Chernobyl Children Holidaying In Ballyhaunis

*Breedge Nolan*

On June 26th, Seamus Comer, Michael J. Lyons and I, left for Dublin Airport to meet our very special guests. The plane arrived on time and when formalities were over we proceeded to the Posthouse Hotel for complimentary refreshments.

Director Ernan Menan welcomed the group of ninety who would be staying in Clones, Donegal and twelve in Ballyhaunis. We set out on our journey home where our arrival was eagerly awaited.

Two host families are needed for every two children, each having them for two weeks; this system also applies to the

interpreter. There were two main outings - visiting an open farm and a day's bowling.

This year the children benefited in a unique way by being able to avail of a special pilot detox programme devised by Rosaleen Kelly, and her two friends Patricia and Bernadette. The children suffer from thyroid and parathyroid problems and lack of bone growth and development. They used kinesiology as a testing technique to discover what nutrients they needed most. This completed, they put the children on vitamins and supplements and a detox programme to combat the effects of radiation. One boy suffered from seventy percent radiation in his thyroid. The benefits of this programme were evident in a few short weeks. The children were given two months supply of the relevant treatment to take home.

The group would like to thank all who supported their different fundraising events during the year, also the businesses in Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas for their continued support. We could not continue this worthwhile and rewarding job without their support.

Chairman: Seamus Comer; Secretary: Breedge Nolan; Treasurer: Ann Shanaghy; P.R.O.: Ann Lyons.

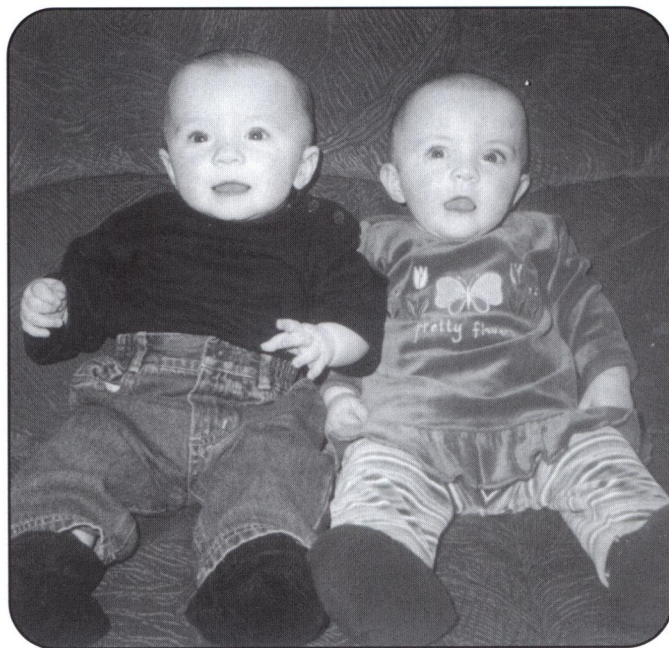


Chernobyl children being met at Dublin Airport. Included are Seamus Comer, Breedge Nolan and M.J. Lyons. Also featured is Máire Ní Braonán of "Clannad".





*The Dyer family, Brackloon. Back l-r: Adrienne, Kieran, Caroline, Gerard Concannon, Colette, Barbara, Jacinta, Marion, Carmel, Loretto. Front l-r: Charlotte, Linda, Marion, John and Regina.*



*Above: The Herr twins - 7 months old - Liam and Aibheann. Their parents are Robbie and Mona Herr, Devlis*

*Above Right: 'New checkout girl at Londis'!, Kaitlyn Clarke, daughter of Olive and James Clarke, Abbeyquarter.*



*Right: Rita's Playgroup 1998-99 end of year party. Front l-r: Ultan Griffin, Diarmuid Byrne, Kevin Kilbride, Claire Moran, Edel Fitzmaurice, Zeenat Javaid. Back l-r: David Bance, Michael O'Rourke, Michael Lyons, Haseeb Arshad, James Cribbin, Conor Nolan.*





# French Mission

*Lisa Tighe*

Lisa Tighe, a Transition Year student in the Community School, Ballyhaunis, won a trip to France in 1998 in connection with YRE (Young Reporters for the Environment). The project work took place in St. Etienne in France with ten other Europeans, four from Greece, three from Turkey, and one each from France, Italy and Denmark. Lisa entered the competition by writing an article about Mannin Lake which is situated on the borders of Beken and Aghamore parishes. She was the only Irish person to participate in this certain 'mission'. The theme of the mission was 'Water management in the St. Etienne region.' These are Lisa's diary entries and impressions. Well done and congrats Lisa!!

**Sunday:** After a pleasant flight and meeting of the team on Saturday, we all spent Sunday together sight-seeing in the St. Etienne region. Sophie Croquette and Jean Claude Laine, who were our mission leaders, introduced us to our translators, Bruno, Claudine and Jeremy. They would translate the French interviews into English for us all as English was the common language. The region is beautiful and is surrounded by some very quaint towns which overlook mountains and lakes.

**Monday:** On our first day we visited an environmental centre where we were brought on a tour of a peatbog in formation. Following that, we saw some dams in the Pilat Mountain (the local water source) and we learnt about water catchments and how they worked.

**Tuesday:** We were divided into two groups. Our group went on a tour of a mine and an underground mining museum where we discovered how water was a necessity in the extracting and purifying of coal. Afterwards, we met a 'Platineur', a man who shapes scythes using a large water-powered hammer called a 'Martinet' which made an awful lot of noise. At the moment he is now the last 'Platineur' in France.

**Wednesday:** All the group took a trip to see the 'Grangent Dam' which provides electricity for 30,000 people in a nearby village. We toured their power station and saw how water operates the machinery to produce electricity. Next we met a representative for the local fishermen and also a biologist who studies fish food. They explained to us the importance of good water quality for fish. After that we were greeted at a formal reception with the Mayor of St. Etienne. In the evening, we were given a talk about the problems of collecting waste water. Following this discussion he showed us the process of treating water in a treatment plant.

**Thursday:** Our morning was spent visiting a laboratory in which we heard a lengthy speech about the quality of St. Etienne's water. After this we divided into four groups. Our group interviewed a representative from the town's water supply. At one o'clock we had some time to shop for presents. Following dinner, we returned for a second reception, but this time it was with the Mayor of the town we were situated in, called Firming.

**Friday:** This day was very technical: it involved interviews with technicians and scientists who had very precise details about the water and its quality.

**Saturday:** On this final day as YRE's we wrote and edited the final report of the week's discoveries. This final report also included a thank-you speech written by two of the YRE's, our opinions of the mission, as well as the written report.

**Sunday:** Didn't sleep all night because we left for Lyons Airport at 3.30 am. My flight left at 1.30 pm. I was second last to leave, the goodbyes were hard to say.

## My Impressions

I have learned so much in such a small length of time it is unbelievable. I chose to write diary entries for this so as to give you a taste of my experiences and encourage people to be aware of the environment around them. The people in the mission were really kind and we never had any communication problems. That week has to have been the best of my life. I have some really good memories including eating frogs. I made loads of friends and we were like a big family for eight days, working and co-operating like a team. I would like to thank everybody who helped me in my project work and all my friends, family, teachers and classmates who wished me luck and encouraged me. Special thanks to Mr. Finnerty and Mr. Ford.



Transition Year 1997 - 98. Back l-r: Colin Jordan, Lorraine Moroney, Jason Cunningham, Bridann Halpin, Stephen Carney. Middle l-r: Caroline Egan, Lisa Tighe, John Doherty, Louise Cleary, Joanne Butler, Denise Warde, James Stratford, Aileen Gallagher. Front l-r: Ann Marie Goulding, Kathy Fitzgerald, Catriona Fahey, Catriona Naughton, Anna Grogan, Maria Rochford, Michelle Cregg.



# Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club 1999

*James Reidy (Sec.)*

## Under 8 Football

Under 8 Football training is held on Sunday mornings to give boys and girls an opportunity to pick up the basics of the game. The training season starts in March and runs up to October, but the emphasis is on enjoyment and newcomers are welcome at any time. Ages range from 6 to 8 years, and as far as possible care is taken to see that younger players, and beginners, are not overwhelmed.

This year average attendance at Under 8 training was twelve to fourteen players, and numbers were added to during the Summer by visitors, cousins etc. from outside Ballyhaunis. Competition at this level is kept to a minimum, but occasional challenge matches are arranged with other clubs. This year Ballyhaunis again took part in the Charlestown Under 8 Blitz on Saturday 4th September and played nine matches in the course of the day. This is a non-competitive event in which scores are not recorded, but it provided a lot of excitement and good practice for all our players. On Saturday 25th September all our players were in action again in the Under 8 section of the Mick O'Connell Cup. Kevin Moran's team were the winners in a very good match against David McNamara's team.

Mentors: Barry Butler, Sean McNamara, Peter Worden. The Under 8 Panel is: David McNamara, Kevin Moran, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Paul Freeley, Paul Carney, Joseph Flynn, Ryan Worden, Mohammad Cherbatji, Pdraig Waldron, Rory Collins, Eoin Collins, Sean O'Rourke, Liam McDermott, Jarlath Carney, Patrick Freeley, Conor Freeley, John Flynn and Niall Asilia.

## Under 10 Football

Every Sunday morning from mid-March until October the Under 10 footballers have been training. At the start of the year we played a number of successful challenge games against Éire Óg, Claremorris, Michael Glaveys and Charlestown. The first blitz of the year was in Aghamore. We won against Kiltimagh and Charlestown but were beaten in the final by Charlestown.

The next competition was our own blitz held on the August Bank Holiday Monday. The teams taking part were Claremorris, Aghamore, Castlerea, Éire Óg, Michael Glaveys, Kilmovee and Charlestown. This year we had an A and B section. In the first round the winners went into section A. We qualified for this by beating Castlerea, along with Michael Glaveys, Aghamore and Claremorris. In the first game we beat Michael Glaveys. In the next two games Aghamore and Claremorris. In the Final, Claremorris defeated Aghamore. In the B section Éire Óg beat Castlerea. The next blitz was in Castlerea. In this we won two of our games but failed to progress any further. Michael Glaveys hosted the last blitz of the year. In this we beat Michael Glaveys, Éire Óg, Castlerea and drew with Dunmore.

In the Mick O'Connell Cup, a Club competition for our Under 8

and Under 10 teams. In the Under 10 game the team captains were Niall Prenty and John Jordan. In an enthralling game Niall's team won out. In the Community Games we played Balla in our first game coming out on top. Our next game against Castlebar we proved unlucky on the day with Castlebar going on to win Mayo and Connacht.

The panel for this year was John Jordan, Seamus O'Dwyer, John Gallagher, Niall Prenty, Stephen Hoban, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Declan Murphy, Kevin Nestor, Paul Walsh, Robert Lilly, Brian Hunt, Brian Waldron, James Quinn, Robert Freyne, Enda Griffin,



1999 U-10 Mick O'Connell Cup winners. Back l-r: Manager Michael Gallagher and Mick O'Connell. Middle: Kevin Moran, Paul Carney, Mohammed Cherbatji, Robert Freyne, Paul Walsh, James Quinn, Robert Lilly and Nadeem Cherbatji. Front: Cameron Afzal, Paul Freeley, Kenneth Murphy, Niall Prenty (Capt.), Kevin Nestor, Seamus O'Dwyer and John Gallagher.

Rurai Finan, David McNamara, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Paul Higgins, Kenneth Murphy, Kevin Moran, Ciaran Turner, Paul Carney, Mohammad Cherbatji, Nadeem Cherbatji, Cameron Afzal and Zahire Javid.

## Under 11 Football

This age group plays in a blitz that was held in Charlestown this year. In this we played Kiltimagh, Swinford, Moy Davitts,



U-11 Runners-up in East Mayo 'A' Blitz. Back l-r: Managers: Martin Finan and Michael Gallagher. Middle: Niall Prenty, Robert Freyne, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Declan Murphy, Seán O'Kane, Michael Waldron, David Healy, John Jordan, Kevin Gallagher, Ciaran Turner, Luke Cribben. Front: Ruairí Finan, Brian Hunt, Brian Gallagher, Adrian Brennan, John Gallagher and Kevin Nestor.



Aghamroe and Charlestown. We finished on level points with Charlestown and in the play-off Charlestown were eventual winners after a great effort by the Ballyhaunis team. The panel was Aiden Fitzmaurice, Kevin Nestor, Declan Murphy, Adrian Brennan, Niall Prenty, John Jordan, Stephen Hoban, David Healy, Robert Freyne, Kevin Gallagher, John Gallagher, Michael Waldron, Sean O'Kane, Luke Cribbin, Brian Hunt, Ruairí Finan and Enda Griffin.

## Under 12 Football

Training for Ballyhaunis National School and Under 12 commenced in mid March and finished in mid November. During that time the team had mixed fortunes, winning some and losing some.

We played in the Cumann na mBunscoil competition, the County Under 12 League, the East Mayo Blitz, the Joe Webb Memorial Cup, the East Mayo National School Blitz, and we also played several challenge matches. We were winners in our section of the County League, and we won the East Mayo Blitz which we hosted in June. The panel were: Lorcan Finan, Joseph Neenan, John C. Halpin, Austin Lyons, Conor Mulrennan, Kevin Higgins, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Mark Kelly, Padraig Cribbin, Michael Waldron, John Jordan, David Healy, Brian Gallagher, Niall Prenty, Daniel Glancy, Kevin Gallagher, Fergal Lyons, Seamus O'Dwyer, Stephen Hoban, Declan Murphy, Adrian Brennan, Luke Cribbin, Michael Cunningham, Robert Freyne, Rurá Finan, Sean O'Kane, Joseph Kelly, John Gallagher, Mohammed Cherbatji, David Herr, Brian Hunt, Mark Madden, Arslann Afzal, John Lyons, William Lyons, Fawaz Asilia. Mentors: John Halpin, Martin Finan and Michael Gallagher.



Lorcan Finan (Capt.) with the Joe Webb Memorial Cup 1999. Front l-r: Conor Mulrennan, Mohammed Cherbatji, Brian Gallagher, Adrian Brennan. Back: Mark Madden, Padraig Cribbin, Lorcan Finan, Fergal Lyons and Ruairí Finan.

## Under 12 Hurling

The Final of the Under 12 Challenge League was held recently in the Ballina Stephenites Club between Ballyhaunis and Ballina Stephenites.

With wins over Castlebar, Ballyheane and Tooreen, Ballyhaunis played the winners of the West group in Ballina. Ballyhaunis played well and had a fine win. The panel: Joseph Kelly, Mark Madden, Mark Kelly, Robert Freyne, Anthony Murphy, Jarlath

Mellet, Luke Cribbin, Anthony Lyons, Fergal Lyons, Stephen Hoban, Mark O'Connor, Brian Gallagher, Ciaran Lucey, Joanne Hoban, Brian Hunt, David Herr, Niall Feeneey, Patrick Kelly, Rizwal Alzal, Sean O'Kane, Khaleeg Nazir, Noel Byrne, Conor Mulrennan, William Lyons, Nicola Kilbride, John Lyons, Brian Waldron, Rodie Kilbride, Paul Carney.

## Under 14 Football

In the first League game played in April we overcame a strong Kiltimagh team by five points. This game was followed by a one-point defeat by Ardnaree and defeat by a strong Castlebar team. We followed this by victories against Kiltane, Balla, Louisberg and Knockmore. In our final League game we were defeated by Kilmerna and lost out on a play-off spot. In the Championship we faced Kilmovee but with a depleted team we failed to progress to the next round. The Under 14 Player Of The Year is Ian Prenty. Mentors: Vinnie Caulfield, Seamus Caulfield and Hugh Rudden.

## Under 14 Hurling

Training began in March in preparation for the County Championship and Féile na nGael. Two challenge games were played against Mountbellew and Moylough. We qualified directly into the County Féile na nGael Final against Tooreen. In a closely played game we won out on a score of 3-5 to 2-1. In the Championship we defeated Belmullet, Castlebar and Ballina to qualify for the Final against Tooreen. Again we won by a comfortable margin.

This year Féile was in Wexford. On the way the team went to the G.A.A. Museum at Croke Park for an enjoyable visit. Our first game was against Kilrush/Ashmore in which we were defeated after putting in a good second half effort. The next game was against London in which we were defeated by the narrowest of margins. Our final group game was against Buffers Alley who defeated us by a few points. The final part of Féile for us was the traditional parade led by the Artane Boys Band and reviewed by the President of the G.A.A. Joe McDonagh and President Mary McAleese. The panel was: Keith Higgins (Capt.), Joseph Kelly, Mark Kelly, Ciaran Griffin, Michael Maniagliano, Austin Lyons, Declan Ward, Eoin Nolan, Michael Conroy, Fergal Lyons, Christopher Morley, Fergal Walsh, Colm Gallagher, William



U-14 Hurling County Champions 1999. Back l-r: Frank Browne (Manager), Mark Madden, Jarlath Mellette, Christopher Morley, Michael Marriaghno, Owen Nolan, Joseph Kelly, Ciarán Griffin, Liam Lyons, Declan Warde, Michael Conroy, Peter Higgins (Selector). Front: David Herr, Colm Gallagher, Austin Lyons, Ciaran Lucey, Fergal Walsh, Keith Higgins, Anthony Murphy, Mark Kelly and William Nestor.



Nestor, Liam Lyons, David Herr, Jarlath Mellotte, Anthony Murphy and Ciaran Lucey.

## Under 16 Football

This has been a most successful year for Under 16 Football in Ballyhaunis with the very talented side taking three Titles during the year. East Mayo Championship, County Under 16 Championship and Division 3 League.

The year commenced with training in the local pitch in preparation for the County League. The ambition of the team at this early stage was to get a good start in the League in order to be in a position to challenge for promotion later on in the year. The League commenced with an away-game against East Mayo rivals, Charlestown. Following a closely contested game, for a long period we ran out convincing winners. Further victories followed against Breaffy, Ballinrobe, Balla, Islandeady, Lahardane and Kilfian before we suffered our first defeat against fellow table toppers, Kilmeena. This was a tough uncompromising game and although we led for long periods two goals, within a minute, in the last quarter saw Kilmeena take the initiative on a 2-10 to 0-10 scoreline. The final game in the League against Balla, was vital. A win for Balla would see them promoted with Kilmeena taking the Title, while a Ballyhaunis victory would bring promotion and a play-off with Kilmeena for the League Title. This was a great game of football with Ballyhaunis showing great character to hold on, despite intense pressure, for a five point victory.

In the East Mayo Championship we were pitted against Charlestown in the opening round and withstood tremendous pressure in the second half to win and qualify for the East Mayo Final. Eastern Gaels emerged from the other Semi-Final to set up a meeting with our neighbours in the Final. Our side displayed great discipline in this game to take the East Title on a 3-21 to 2-3 scoreline.

In the County Semi-Final played at Foxford we defeated Lahardane to qualify for the County Final.

In the other side of the draw, Kilmeena qualified for the County

Final and on the 31st August both sides met at McHale Park for a winner take all game. The winners would be crowned County U-16 Champions and Division 3 Title Winners. This was one of the best games of football seen all year. Ballyhaunis displayed great skill and determination and they led by four points going into the final ten minutes. Kilmeena threw everything into the final ten minutes but playing some excellent football we emerged victorious by 2-7 to 1-7 to record a famous victory. After the game the Under 16 Cup was presented to winning Captain Jason Powers while Man-Of-The-Match Award went to Keith Higgins.

The team showed great commitment all year and displayed a brand of football which was very simple and quite effective. Hopefully they can progress from here to bring more honours to both the Club and hopefully the County. The players who played in the County Final were: Padraig Carney, Stephen Shanaghy, Christy Burke, Eoin McManus, Paul Jordan, Andrew Shanaghy, Keith Higgins, Derek McConn, David Murphy, Patrick Waldron, Jason Powers (Capt.), Alan Healy, Hughie Carney, John Prenty, Ian Prenty. Other players who made a very valuable contribution during the year were: Shane Buckley, Brian Mulrennan, Alan Lyons, Declan Warde, Ciaran Griffin, Liam Lyons, William Nestor, Liam Gildea, Fergal Walsh. The team was managed by John Prenty, Tommy Waldron and Ann Shanaghy.

## Under 16 Hurling

This team has played in two competitions this year. The County Competition and the Connacht Shield. Training started in April on Monday evenings. In the Connacht Shield we came out of our Blitz group by default and are awaiting the next round. In the Championship we went directly into the Final against Tooreen. In this game we ran out easy winners. We are now through to the Connacht Club Championship. The panel is: Derek McConn, Declan Ward, Paul Lynch, Andrew Shanaghy, Peter Walsh, Hughie Carney, Patrick Waldron, Jason Powers, Paul Walsh, Brian Mulrennan, Stephen Gately, Keith Higgins, Michael Conroy, Alan Lucey, Fergal Walsh, Liam Lyons, Ciaran Higgins, Eoin Nolan, Christopher Morley and Padraig Carney. Mentors: Tom Phillips, Dave McConn and Jim McKermitt.



U-16 football County League & Championship Double winners. Back l-r: Paul Jordan, Patrick Waldron, David Murphy, John Prenty, Christy Burke, Padraig Carney, Derek McConn, Hughie Carney. Front: Alan Healy, Keith Higgins, Ian Prenty, Jason Powers (Capt.), Andrew Shanaghy, Stephen Shanaghy and Eoin McManus.



U-16 Hurling County Champions 1999. Back l-r: Christopher Morley, Declan Warde, Owen Nolan, Stephen Gately, Damien Lyons, Derek McConn, Jason Powers, Hugh Carney, Alan Lucey, Liam Lyons, Ciaran Griffin. Front: Paul Lynch, Paraic Carney, Patrick Waldron, Peter Walsh, Fergal Walsh, Brian Mulrennan, Michael Conroy, Paul Walsh, Keith Higgins, Mascot: Jordan



## Under 18 Hurling

The first game played by the minors this year was against Belmullet in Belmullet. In a one sided affair we were easy winners. The next game was against Tooreen in Charlestown. In a close fought first half we trailed by four points. In the second half two goals by substitutes Anthony Curley and Keith Higgins we were eventual winners by four points. The final was due to be played against Ballina in Charlestown. On the evening of the Final Ballina failed to field a team and we were awarded the trophy. The panel were: P. Lynch, D. Lyons, S. Hickey, S. Carney, J. Powers, A. Shanaghy, T. Buckley, D. McConn, H. Carney, S. Gatley, M. Walsh, A. Lucey, M. Kilbride, B. Mulrennan, A. Curley, A. Lyons, K. Higgins, E. Nolan, D. Warde, C. Morley, P. Carney. Mentors: G. Kilbride and T. Phillips.

## Minor Football

The Minor team started training in early March. Over the next two months they recorded some good victories against Aghamore, Davitts, St. Gerards and Tourmakeady. This was enough to qualify for a place in the County League Semi-Final. In the Semi-Final we played Burrishoole and were unfortunate to go down by two points. After the League the Championship commenced. The first outing was against Kiltimagh in the East Mayo Semi-Final in which we won 3-13 to 1-8. The East Mayo Final was played against Aghamore and we won on a scoreline of 2-13 to 0-6. The County Semi-Final was played against Crossmolina where we ran out winners on a score of 4-7 to 2-7. In the County Final we went down against a very strong Kilmaine team. The panel were: B. Rudden (Capt.), M. Walsh, P. Jordan, P. Carney, M. Hunt, D. Lyons, A. Shanaghy, J. Mulrennan, D. McConn, M. Webb, C. McCrudden, T. Murphy, H. Carney, P. Prenty, T. Buckley, P. Gildea, T. Idress, P. Waldron, J. Powers, A. Healy and A. Curley. Mentors: T. Moran, J. Fitzharris, P. McCafferty, S. McCrudden and P. Meenan.

Congratulations to Michael Webb and Paul Prenty on being selected on the Mayo Minor panel which contested this years All-Ireland Minor Final against Down. Also congrats to James Mulrennan on being selected Club Minor Player Of The Year for 1999.



Ballyhaunis Minor County Champions 1999. Back l-r: Hugh Carney, Andrew Shanaghy, Anthony Lyons, Alan Lucey, Stephen Carney, Christopher McCrudden, Tadgh Buckley, Martin Kilbride, Anthony Curley, Jason Powers, Damien Lyons, Derek McConn, Stephen Gatley, Michael Walsh. Front: Ciaran Griffin, Peter Walsh, Keith Higgins, Brian Mulrennan, Patrick Waldron, Paul Lynch, Eoin Nolan, Padraic Carney, Declan Ward, Paul Walsh



Ballyhaunis Minor County Finalists 1999. Back l-r: P. McCafferty (Sec.), T. Buckley, T. Idress, C. McCrudden, T. Murphy, M. Webb, D. Lyons, J. Mulrennan, M. Hunt, P. Gildea, S. McCrudden (Sec.), J. Fitzharris (Sec.). Front: P. Carney, P. Prenty, H. Carney, B. Rudden (Capt.), M. Walsh, P. Jordan, A. Shanaghy, D. McConn, T. Moran (Manager) and R. Moran (mascot)

## Senior Hurling

This year training started in January, indoors, with the senior footballers. The first game was in the Senior B Championship against Belmullet at the start of April. In this we were defeated by a point. In May we played Ballina defeating them 1-11 to 2-1 and Castlebar defeating them 3-1 to 2-3. The next game was the County Final against Westport.

The Senior A Championship, for the T.J. Tyrrell Cup, started in July with Castlebar defeating us 1-7 to 0-9. Next we beat Westport followed by victory against Belmullet on a scoreline of 1-11 to 0-13. In the County Semi-Final played in August we beat Ballina 0-7 to 0-6 in a tough encounter. We were confident going into the County Final played in September against our neighbours Tooreen. The game was played in Charlestown. At halt time this confidence was justified in that Ballyhaunis led 1-6 to 1-5 at in a closely fought game. This was a team effort with everybody giving it their all. In the second half, playing against the wind. Pierce Higgins scored a point followed by a four-point reply from Tooreen and two points from Frank Browne. Tooreen, then through their experience of having won twenty-one out of the last twenty-three



Senior Hurling team 1999, winners of Genfitt Cup. Back l-r: Michael Regan, Noel Reilly, Paul McConn, Hugh McKermitt, Gerry Kilbride, Christopher McCrudden, Billy McDonagh, Derek McConn, Peter Healy. Front: Michael Walsh, Don Regan, Frank Browne, Tom Phillips, John Burke, Pierce Higgins and John J. Hoban.





The Experts! L-R: Mick O'Connell, Jimmy Walsh, Tommy Moran, Fr. James O'Grady and John Prenty.

Titles edged in front and held this lead. This was one of the most memorable Finals seen in a long time.

The management was Dave McConn, Paddy Ryan, Peter Higgins, John-Joe Hoban and Gerry Kilbride. Panel: Tom Phillips, Gerry Kilbride, Billy McDonagh, Frank Browne, Johnny Burke, Noel O'Reilly, Michael Freeley, Damien Lyons, John-Joe Hoban, Don Regan, Pierce Higgins, Derek McConn, David Murphy, Jason Powers, Gareth Delaney, Michael Regan, Derek Walsh, Paul McConn, Christy McCrudden, J.P. Coen, Stephen Carney, Martin Kilbride, Peter Healy, Hugh McKermitt, Mike Phillips, Michael Walsh, Tadgh Buckley and Michael Curley.

## Under 21 Football

The Under 21 team, although very young, gave a very good account of themselves before going out in the Quarter Final stages. They beat Bonniclon in the first match in Ballyhaunis by a scoreline of 2-10 to 2-4.

Their next match was away to a very fancied Balla team, but in what was the finest display in many years by a Ballyhaunis team, we ran out nine point victors.

Our Quarter Final apponents were Ballaghaderreen and although the sides were level with ten minutes remaining, Ballaghaderreen made the most of their chances and won it with a scoreline of 1-11 to 1-7. The fact that all but two of the panel are young enough next year should see us putting in a serious challenge for honour in the Millennium year.

## Senior team

At the time of writing, Ballyhaunis are involved in a 'dog fight' at the bottom of Division 2. At present Ballyhaunis have a very young team and it is thought another year in this Division could see them come on in leaps and bounds. With the undoubted talent that is coming up from Minor and Under 21, and with a very capable management team, it is hoped that before long we will see long overdue silverware coming to town.

In the Championship, we drew Balla away. At half time, we were leading by three points, thanks to vintage displays by Tony Morley, Brendan Rudden and David Nestor, who had amassed 1-4. But, a

serious injury took the spirit out of Ballyhaunis and eventually went down by three points.

In the Goodfellowship Final, Ballyhaunis were beaten by neighbours Michael Glaveys after beating Aghamore in the Semi-Final. The panel were: John Vahey, Vincent Healy, Declan Doyle, Martin Regan, Jimmy O'Boyle, Pierce Higgins, Peter Meenan, James McGarry, Brendan Rudden, George O'Neill, Alan Egan, Brian Phillips, Karl Lyons, Brian Flanagan, Simon McCafferty, Pat McGarry, James McGarry, M.J. Nolan, Paul Nolan, John McQueeney, Niall Tighe, Hugh McKermitt, Mark Patterson, Tony Morley, Fergal Kelly, James Mulrennan, Karl McManus, Niall Tighe, David Nestor, Brian Kilcourse, Tony Cribben, John Burke, Edward Webb, Michael Webb, Michael Coen, Ray Sloyan, Sean Hunt, Murt Hunt, Alan Regan, Joe Freeley, Peter Healy, Jason Morley, Billy Lyons, Eamonn Monaghan, Paul Prenty, David Morley, Derek Walsh, Shay Walsh, Barry Regan, Michael Freeley and John Greal.

## Senior B

Ballyhaunis entered a team in the B League and at the time of writing are at the top of the table. Having won five of the six games played, Ballyhaunis under their Captain Ray Sloyan, showed great comradery and spirit and should go on and win the division.

In their Championship they recorded victories over Aghamore and Moy Davitts before losing in the East Mayo Final by a single point to Swinford.

The Reserve Division, although on a trial period, proved to be very successful, giving games to people who otherwise would not be playing football and consequently bringing on players to the first team. It was the Ballyhaunis Club who proposed this competition and it is hoped it will be a permanent fixture.

Senior, Junior and Under 21 management: Eamon Glancy, Tommy Prenty, Bernard Waldron and Tommy Grogan.

*Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club would like to thank all those who have supported the Club during the past year.*

*Officers: Chairman: Padraig Regan; Secretary: James Reidy; Treasurer: Gerry Lyons.*

# The Abbey Male Choir

1999 was a busy one again for our choir. The highlight was our performance during the Annual Novena in Knock.

We also performed at several weddings during the year. We sing at 11 a.m. Mass in the Abbey every Sunday. Practice takes place after Mass. We thank sincerely our conductress Moira Delaney and our organist Paula Donnellan for their help and commitment.

New members are needed and are most welcome.





L-R: Teresa and Pat Lyons (R.I.P.), Skeghard, Alice Lyons, Clare St. and Joe Finn, Hazelhill. Photo taken in 1964.



Peg Greene (née Webb), Ballyhaunis pictured with her Godmother Peggy Knight (née Levins), a native of Barrack St. Ballyhaunis.



Connacht Champion, three years in a row, Heather Noone, Ard Patrick, Hazelhill, Ballyhaunis. Heather took First place in the Solo Round and First place in the Championship in Leisureland, Galway on the 18th November. She dances with the Aodh Rua School of Dancing, Sligo. Her teacher is Anne Kerr. Heather attends Ballyhaunis Community School and like a true champion obtained 9 A's in her Junior Cert. this year.



# ***fine gael*** ★

## **Cribbin Cruises Home**

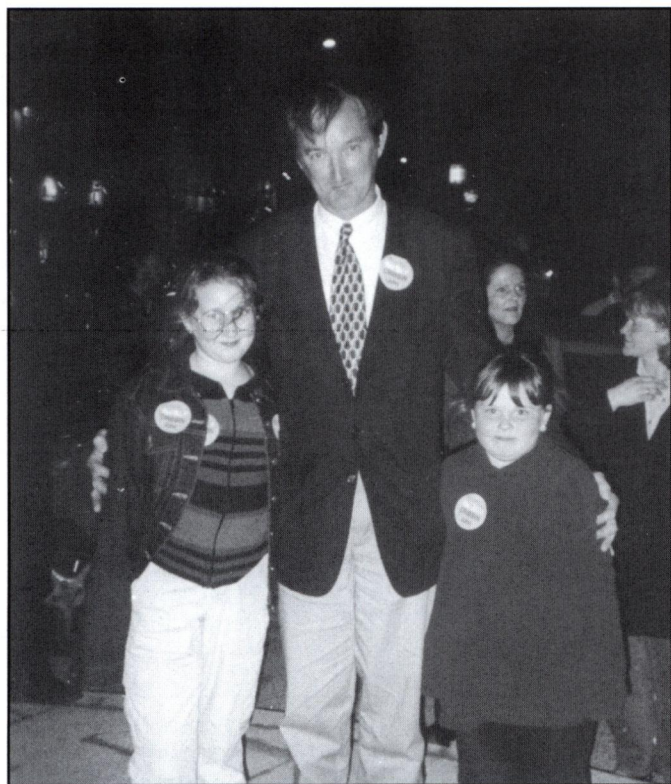
*Helen Lyons (Sec.)*

On Sunday the 14th of June, bonfires blazed and banners welcomed home the successful County Council candidate John Cribbin. The people of Ballyhaunis had given him 771 votes out of his impressive first preference total of 1,350. It was a good performance by any standards, but particularly so, as it was John's first time putting his name on the Ballot Paper.

But then again it was not unexpected. The Cribbin name had been synonymous with Ballyhaunis for many decades. His cousin Tony is Chairman of the Local Fine Gael Branch and was M.C. for the welcome home celebrations. The other speaker to address the large crowd of supporters in the Square was local Deputy and Fine Gael Justice, Equality and Law Reform Spokesman, Jim Higgins.

Being a Logboy man, John insisted on a tour of his native Parish. The newly elected Councillor and his large cavalcade were cheered loudly through Began, Brickens, Logboy, Cloonfad and Lavallyroe.

John is quickly finding his feet at County level. Already he has



Cllr. John Cribbin with Derna Collum (Niece) and Geraldine Clancy.

spoken at several meetings, has tabled a series of Motions, determined to ensure that he promotes the interests of and flies and the flag for the many people who voted their confidence in him. His Press Statements are a regular feature of M.W.R., the Western People and the Connaught Telegraph. We know that this is but the start of a long and successful political career.

Officers: President: Michael Webb; Vice President: Mary Buckley; Chairman: Tony Cribbin; Vice Chairman: John Mooney; Secretary: Helen Lyons; Recording Secretary: Tina Curran; Treasurer: Eamon Burke; Assistant Treasurer: Michael Moran; P.R.O.: Mary Buckley

## ***The Road*** *Lucie Kavanagh*

When I lost you I began to drive  
Sailing from busy, aching spaces into emptiness  
Again and again  
I hurtled over a million cliff edges to find reality  
And in every rear-view window  
I caught the final impression of your back  
And the absence of the face that once  
Turned my breath to stone in that first  
Stolen glimpse into your soul  
I drove so fast, the world became ice  
And roads scorched under my soul-searching fury  
Terrified of my thoughts my foot pressed down further  
And your voice floated through the radio  
Our songs wafted in ever breath of air  
Ever frozen face contained your anger  
I drove so fast I couldn't feel the controls  
The driver became the passenger  
Free and forgotten  
And in speed I couldn't see out the windows  
Until finally you were truly lost

Along with ever control I ever had  
And finally, unfueled the engine broke  
Choked and lay in a grave of dirt  
In the stillness I found the strength to sleep  
There was the escape  
But yet my body rose and walked  
Walked with the dawn from a fiery passion  
To a chilling fire  
And demons fought inside me until one  
Lifted my hand to wave down help  
Cars rushed on by  
Flung dirt on my grey stained hands  
And I walked so far and slowly  
I could breathe, I could think  
My heart evicted yours along the road  
And trapped you in my memory, not my head  
Memories tired and restless feet  
Lies tired and anxious love, setting free  
Every journey I have taken along that road  
Running away from things  
In hopes of finding them





## BALLYHAUNIS AND DISTRICT

Local Heart Charity, 'Croí', continues to be at the forefront in the fight against heart disease.

Just over eighteen months ago, the fund launched its 'Millennium Million fund' - being a pledge to raise £1 million towards the new Heart Surgery Unit for the West of Ireland. By the end of the year, the fund should exceed £700,000, which is well on target to support this important development, the commencement of work which is due to begin in early 2000. The new Heart Surgery Unit will be of tremendous benefit to local West of Ireland heart patients, who currently have to travel to Dublin for surgery.

As part of the foundation's commitment to the fight against heart disease in Mayo, a fundraising drive for a new Echo-Ultrasound machine at Mayo General Hospital, Castlebar will be launched in January 2000. This new piece of equipment will cost approximately £140,000 and 'Croí' has secured a commitment from the Western Health Board to match funds on

a fifty-fifty basis. The new machine will greatly enhance the cardiology service at Mayo General. In particular, it will be of tremendous benefit to the recently appointed cardiac technician at the hospital, whose post was initially established on a co-funding basis 'Croí' and the Western Health Board.

As part of the foundation's current fundraising efforts, 'Croí' is now selling its 1999 Christmas Card collection. Details are available from any member of the Ballyhaunis 'Croí' Committee or various local shops.

'Croí' won £1000 in the Better Ireland Community Awards which was sponsored by A.I.B.

The following fund-raising events took place during the year: Card game in Donnellan's Lounge, Ballinlough; Social in Coney Island; Church Gate Collection; Ladies' Mini-Marathon from Ballyhaunis to Coney Island in conjunction with the Dublin Mini-Marathon. Many Ballyhaunis natives participated in the Dublin Mini-Marathon.

We would like to thank all our sponsors and all those who supported our fund-raising events.

We would like to express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Brendan Hoban who died during the year. He was a committed and dedicated member of the Ballyhaunis Friends of Croí Committee. He will be sadly missed.



Back l-r: Beatrice Nolan, Geraldine Murphy, Gabriel Lyons, Peggy Henry, Yvonne Loughran, Teresa Griffin, Catherine Sloyan, Frances Mulhern, Maura Murphy, Tommy Nolan, Eddie Mulhern, Mary Nolan, Patricia Grogan, Maureen Comer, Ann Caulfield and Sr. Assumpta. Front l-r: Martina Gavin, Margaret Allen, Rosaleen Curley, Rita London, Helen Meehan, Mary Hannah O'Connor, Marie Nolan, Bernie Adams, Carmel Grady, Mary Kelly, Pauline Curley, Mary Teresa Griffin and Ina Freyne.



# I MEASC NA NDÚICHE FÁN

*Kevin Flanagan*

I left Ireland in 1948. I wanted to get married and saw no prospect of managing on the pittance being paid me at that time. I was also fed up with the tight organisation of Irish society and the grip on power then guarded so carefully by the few who held it.

The war had left many Englishmen determined to stay in England. They had had enough of Burma, Malaya, Ethiopia, North Africa and the rest, and so the first proper offer of a job to come my way was one in West Africa. In March 1950 I found myself on the MV "Tarkwa", a cargo ship that carried forty passengers, heading down the Mersey for the first of many such voyages.

Travel has now changed utterly. Lagos is one hop from London. At that time there was a weekly flying-boat service to South Africa from London and it took all of that week with overnight landings at lakes or bays in Italy, North Africa, the Canaries, Nigeria and so on. I happened to be driving past a couple of years later when the very last seaplane - were they Catalinas? - came down in Lagos Lagoon. She roared away next morning and, not long after that, the landing stage disappeared - wrecked by a tornado or eaten by termites. However, for my first journey to Africa, it was the "Tarkwa" that brought us most of the way.

Las Palmas was our first port of call. The Franco rebellion began in the Canaries and sanctions against Franco's regime meant that, for certain goods, the islands were boycotted by Britain and the U.S.A., though not for the fuel and victuals their ships needed on the Africa, India, Australia and South America runs. The main visual effect of the boycott was that alongside the wharf in

Las Palmas there paraded a magical display of 1920s and 1930s cars, mostly American - Cadillac, Chrysler, Oldsmobile Hupmobile, Terraplane, Buick, Willys-Knight, Lincoln - all were there, sedans, canvas tops, coupés, roadsters. A couple of us hired a gorgeous monster, a 6-cylinder job that must have swallowed a gallon a mile per pot. The city itself was as it had been in 1900. The lift to the top of St. Anna's Cathedral was like the cars - a noble monster of cast-iron grilles majestically slow and creaky.

Our next stop was Freetown, Sierra Leone and there we left the "Tarkwa" for a tiny liner, the "Calabar", which travelled Freetown, Takoradi, Lagos, Loanda, Cape Town and back. She had stored in Cape Town and the wines were 4/- a bottle and Cape Brandy 10/-. There was also Liqueur called Van Der Hum that took some of the rasp out of the brandy and otherwise lived up to its name. "Brandy-Hum" was a mighty combination. The "Calabar" got us to Lagos and the foot of the steps of the Anglican Cathedral there, sober on arrival.

That was March 1950. In December 1950 my wife and I embarked on life together with the blessing of Fr. Tommy Moran SMA, and spent our honeymoon in Jos, in what is now called, I think, Plateau Province. 3,000 feet above sea-level and a luxurious rest house made Jos the equivalent of an Indian hill-station and set us off to a good start. When we got back to our quarters in Lagos - an enormous old house overlooking the racecourse - we found that the thieves had been. We therefore had the contents of our honeymoon suitcases and a set of golf clubs - scorned by the thieves - as our equipment for married life. Luckily some of my heavy gear was still in transit.

Thieving apart, Lagos was a peaceful place until well after Independence in 1960. My work was in the Federal administration and our main business was with the pre-independence expansion in Education at all levels that began in the early fifties. One of my duties laterally was to get together an independent team of inspectors and spend three or four days at a secondary school to approve it for various kinds of grant-in-aid. My particular function was to collate the specialist reports - on the subject teaching, equipment, health and hygiene etc. - and to go through this draft with the headmaster and amend it in the light of his views. My happiest memory is of a school run by a man named Sam Cookey. Two years after that inspection Sam was appointed to the next post senior to me in the Federal Ministry of Education and his career went higher still with an international agency in London. Whilst he was still in Nigeria, he and I were next-door neighbours and our children played together. The expression "mutual respect" gained a stronger meaning - for us both, I believe.

Not every inspection had a happy ending and I forced one high-earning school to close down.

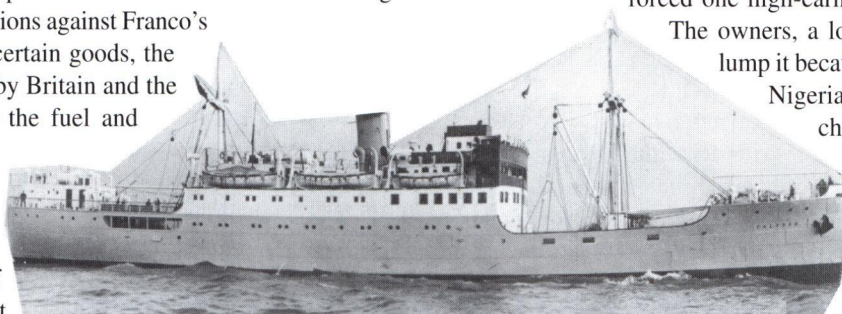
The owners, a local Golden Circle, had to lump it because the Chief Fire Officer, a Nigerian, said: "I can't have 200 children trying to get down a stairs three feet wide."

The feel of the community was comfortable. At 3 a.m. I went to a very noisy party to ask if they could face the

loud-speaker another way - we couldn't get the baby to sleep. A very large Yoruba lady came at me with a comb and said: "Make you put yo' hair proper so you look nice." Somebody else produced a mug of beer mixed with palm toddy. It did nothing for the baby but it cheered up the father and made a good story for the baby later on.

My boss at one stage was a Scot, a Highlander. Somewhere in the Secretariat archives there still will be the only minute written in the Gaelic language that those archives hold. A charming African clergyman had a fixation about certain plans for educational development. At a time when we were scratching for hundreds, he was talking millions. The minute said "Tá an duine seo as a chéill." I don't guarantee the spelling.

In early March 1963 we left Nigeria in a Dutch cargo vessel, the "Beninkust", my wife, two daughters and the younger of our two sons. I had pushed for this arrangement because the ship was due to call at ports we had never seen on the ships out of Liverpool. We had quite long visits not only to Takoradi - known to parents





but not to children - but also to Abidjan (Ivory Coast) and Monrovia (Liberia), places new to us all. It was interesting to notice that many of the Indian, Lebanese and Greek traders we had shopped with in Nigeria were also here; we later found the same firms in the Canary Islands. We were looking forward to a stop in Dakar when a summons from Rotterdam put us on course non-stop for Antwerp. It was still March when we crept up the Schelde in freezing fog and watched our Peugeot 404 being dumped on the quay. I had had it checked in Lagos and the Swiss mechanic had assured me (1) that "the battery O.K." and (2) "there is nothing wrong wiz ze heater." In Antwerp, (1) The battery was dead, and (2) the car had never had a heater. So my Swiss gent wasn't altogether untruthful - just economical with the truth.

By this time we had a house in St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, which town is just about in commuting distance from London. In common with the other south coast resorts - Eastbourne, Brighton, Bognor, Bournemouth etc., Hastings had gone to seed and was populated by elderly landladies from every shire of England, and not a few from Scotland, a ferocious lot. British Rail also had a home there for people who had, so to speak, gone off the rails, some of whom might jump at you from behind the bushes or buses - a rum lot. Rum in another sense where my countrymen working on the nuclear plant in Dungeness: we had some good music. By mid-1964, however, it was to be Africa again, this time Sierra Leone.

The unspeakable miseries of recent times in that sad country come between me and our time there in the sixties. Domestically it was a good interval in our lives. Leave arrangements for the children were generous and with the sea 200 yards away and a twenty-two foot dugout to race around the bay in, plus surf boards - the short ones, not the stand-up kind - and snorkels, a six foot tractor tube etc., the children did well. We also had a good garden and a good gardener. This was a Guinean named Kamara. He spoke good French and no English. He was on the run from the Guinean army. One day he smartly grounded his rifle forgetting that there was a live round up the spout. Gun goes off. Kamara goes off. A neat crease along the muscle at the top of his arm was his only mark. They never caught him. An endearing feature of the local people was that, if they came visiting, they often brought a cutting or a potted seedling as a gift. Kamara did the rest.

Freetown was as near as we ever got to the Caribbean. For a long period it was the headquarters of the West India Regiment and Sierra Leone's Creole language with its mixture of Yoruba forms and English and Portuguese vocabulary has an attractive West Indian lilt.

Until we went to Kenya in 1969 we had never been anywhere that hosted a white settler population. The big up-country ranches were still mostly in settler hands and between them and transient expatriates - civil servants, police, missionaries and non-government agencies - there was no love lost. The Muthaiga Club, nexus of the Happy Valley set, was going strong, but so now too were other clubs of a much more democratic kind. The Norfolk Hotel, where one settler not too long previously had been in the habit of visiting, mounted on a thoroughbred, and emptying a revolver into the ceiling - or so tradition said - was now managed by an Irishman who had made it one of the best hotels anywhere - not just in Africa. There was a symphony orchestra in Nairobi and we needed a transport rota for rehearsals. I found myself sharing with, amongst others, a charming second or third generation settler.



Reception in Freetown c. 1966 with H.E. Tunji Omolodun, Nigerian High Commissioner to Sierra Leone.

She turned out to be a descendant of the Knox after whom Knox's Street Ballyhaunis was named. She was friendly and an excellent musician. However our prize and star friend in Nairobi was Henry Forde with whom, happily, my family and I are still in touch, and with Norma his wife. They were, and remain, true friends. We had the benefit of Henry's company - between Mombasa and Nairobi - for most of three years.

1971-1974 we spent in Sudan, and from there, out of Africa after twenty-four years, to Saudi Arabia. The Sudanese are people I like and admire and it goes to my heart that, no more than Liberia and Sierra Leone, or for that matter Uganda, they have experienced and continue to experience dreadful events. My only personal regret is that I was too old - turned fifty - to learn Arabic properly. I got the script easily enough and that is a real help to memory, but effective fluency, no. Rather like the school where I was pretty unhappy but through my companions picked up a real love of Irish (which, incidentally, I missed every day I was overseas), so in Saudi I grew avid for the language whilst coming to think poorly of the country. I was lucky in that I made good and trustworthy friends amongst the Yemeni and Sudanese communities.

1977-1980 in Rome was, I think, partly a pat on the back for surviving certain difficult postings. The alternative might have been Greece but my masters may have felt that yet another new alphabet might be pushing me a bit. My only regret from Roman days is that we hadn't Jack Halpin to stay. Henry Forde came though, just after the death of his father (R.I.P.) and we had good links with the Augustinians - five minutes one way - and the Franciscans - five minutes the other way. Being able to give a cup of tea to Fr. Seán Fitzgerald and Fr. Enda Lyons was a real pleasure. It was fun too rattling my tonsils in Irish when Padraic Ó Sé covered the induction of Cardinal Ó Fiaich for Radio na Gaeltachta.

So, like Goldsmith's hare, I'm back again "from whence at first he flew." I have now spent longer with T. Dillon-Leech & Sons, minding their apostrophes, than we spent in any one of the exotic places we at various times called home.





*Tree Planting in Clare Street 6th of April 1999. L-R: Pauline Curley, Máisín Meath, Agnes Heaney and Kitt Freeley.*



*Hilary Madden pictured at the top of the Millennium Spire. View towards The Square, The Abbey, Station Rise and beyond.*



# Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union

1983 saw the doors of Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union open for the first time. Having been given permission, the first business was carried out in the front room of the Parochial Hall. The first members belonged to a study group who came together with the help of Paddy Glynn and Michael Gormley - both of Chapter 18 - to learn how Credit Unions worked. Members of this study group also formed the first Board of Directors.

After some time, with more members joining, savings grew and loans started to be taken out. It was decided to move from the Parochial Hall to Columba Jordan's shop across the road, where the first Credit Union sign was proudly placed over the front window. The following years saw a very rapid increase in membership with earnings growing and bigger loans being made available to members. Once again it was decided that a move would be in the best interest and that a Credit Union Office owned by the Credit Union was possible. As luck would have it Joe Tighe was retiring from his shoemaking business in Main Street and his shop came on the market. The board decided that this would make a good location for the new office. After closing the deal and when a refurbishing plan was completed the new Credit Union Office, with its distinctive logo on the gable wall, was opened for business. Here it continues to carry out its business today. Over the past sixteen years the faces on the Board have changed - some have stayed on carrying out the work they started sixteen years ago, while others have moved on to other things and, sadly, some have passed away. This year saw the death of Paddy Brennan, a founder Director and a long serving President. The Credit Union Movement is continuing to grow. Credit Unions can now be found all over the world. The movement is particularly strong in Ireland where there are now about 535 Credit Unions affiliated to the Irish League of Credit Unions with a membership of about 2.2 million members. The Credit Union Movement in Ireland is going through several changes as a result of the provisions of the Credit Union Act 1997, which allows Credit Unions to enhance the services offered to its members.

Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union is continuing to grow with membership now around the 3,500 mark. We hope the new services being provided will help our members cope with the demands that modern day living places on us all.

Our new opening hours: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

We hope this would make things more convenient for our members. So, why not give credit where credit is due and come along and join us! Our aim is to make our members gain more control of their own finances. It is recommended that you save regularly even if it is only a small amount, it

will be of benefit to you if you seek a loan later. Credit Unions have become a very popular source of credit, the most important point is that interest is paid on a reducing balance. Credit Unions carry no hidden fees or charges, and all repayments are tailored to suit the member.

Here are some reasons why you should join your local Credit Union.

1. Life Insurance on Savings and Loans - Free of charge.
2. Members transactions - Free of charge.
3. Discount on Medical Insurance.
4. Discount on Auto Union Insurance, V.H.I. and B.U.P.A.
5. Home Insurance (up to 35% savings on premium).

Of Credit Unions it can be said: "Not for profit; but for service." We, the Board of Ballyhaunis and District C.U. hope as we go into the new Millennium that you, our members, enjoy health, wealth and success and an even better and brighter future with your Credit Union.

## Present Board of Directors for 1999

Chairman: Aidan Kelly; Vice-Chairperson: Hélène McCafferty; Hon. Secretary: Pat Fitzgerald; Hon. Treasurer: Pat O' Connor; Assistant Treasure: Marie Murphy; Office Administrator: Kathleen Meenan. **Credit Committee:** Margaret Byrne, Ina Freyne, Justina Lyons, Aidan Kelly, Pat Fitzgerald. **Training and Promotion:** Cynthia Fitzgerald, Hélène McCafferty, Catherine Kilbride, Patricia O'Connor, Mary Rudden, Madeline Niland, Sean McNamara. **Credit Control Committee:** Francis Mulhern, Eileen O'Brien, Hélène McCafferty. **Supervisors:** John Toughey, Helen Lyons, Wendy Dowler. **Membership Officer:** Hélène McCafferty. **Planning Committee:** Rita Lundon, Pat O'Connor, Kathleen Meehan.



Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union, founding Board of Directors 1983. Front l-r: Pat O'Connor, Christina Lyons, Maura Fitzmaurice, Catherine Sloyan, Mary Freyne, Peter McCafferty, Fr. Des Walsh (middle). Back l-r: Michael Greally, Paddy Brennan R.I.P., John Touhy, Aidan Kelly, Pat Fitzgerald, Vincent Freeman, Terry Coleman.



# Legion of Mary

*Helen Hoban*

The members of the Legion of Mary meet every Wednesday night. The meeting starts promptly at eight o'clock with the Rosary and Legion prayers. This is followed by spiritual reading. Then the members get down to the business of the night.

Among the works we undertake are visiting the sick, lonely and bereaved in their homes, visiting the Carewell Nursing Home and hospitals, promoting the Rosary through the Pilgrim Virgin which is brought to many homes during the year. One member takes Holy Communion to the residents in the Carewell Nursing Home three mornings each week. They also call to Mrs. Katie Johnston with Communion. We congratulate Mrs. Johnston on celebrating her 100th birthday on October 23rd. Care of the parish Church is another important part of our work. One member, with the help of three other ladies, spend many hours at this work every week.

We recruit Auxiliary members also, they are the people who pray in their own homes for the success of the Legion all over the world. This year we again organised a day pilgrimage to Lough Derg.

An aspect of the Legion of Mary which may not be well known in Peregrinatio Pro Christo or Journey for Christ. This means going to another country to do Legion work and spread the Good News. In July I went to Kilwinning, Scotland for a week. There was a team of twelve Legionaries - all from different parts of Ireland. Each day started with Mass, then we had a short meeting and then out to work. We worked about seven hours each day. Of course we had lunch and tea, provided by the ladies in the parish.

We called to every house in the area allocated to us. We met people of many different religions, but despite this, we got a great reception. On the final evening of the week there was a special Mass to which we invited many people.

My greatest memory of the week is the man who had not been to Mass of the Sacraments since his wife died thirteen years previously. He came to the special Mass, went to Confessions and received Holy Communion. His joy cannot be described.

One afternoon we went to Lough Lomand but as it was a dull misty day we did not get full advantage of the scenery.

As we are approaching the Millennium, I would like you to do something special for God and Our Lady. Why not join the Legion of Mary. You would be very welcome.

Officers: Spiritual Director: Fr. O'Grady; President: Helen Hoban; Vice President: Freddie O'Brien; Secretary: Christopher O'Neill; Treasurer: Frances Maye.

## Junior Legion Of Mary

The Junior Legion of Mary Praesidium meets every Monday at



Lunch-time for the Legion of Mary team in Kilwinning, Scotland, July 2nd 1999.

5 pm. At present there are thirteen members ranging in age from nine years to twelve years. Their meeting follows the same pattern as the Senior meeting - Rosary, Legion prayers, Spiritual reading and work. They do a variety of works - delivering Catholic papers in the town, visiting grandparents, Our Lady's Hour which is an hours work done at home in honour of Our Lady. They string Miraculous Medals which are sent to Russia. They give out bottles of Holy Water after the Masses in both churches and occasionally they entertain the residents in the Carewell Nursing Home.

Officers: President: Freddie O'Brien (senior member); Vice President: Christina Concannon (senior member); Secretary: Elaine Carney (junior member); Treasurer: Lisa Carney (junior member).



Junior Legion of Mary group after Mass at the Holy well in Carrownedan on Garland Sunday 1999. Back l-r: Patricia Quinn, Helen Hoban, Lisa Carney, Margaret Cribben, Freddie O'Brien and Maria Hunt. Front l-r: Carol Quinn, Lydia Concannon, Isobel Morrissey and Elaine Carney.





*Taken in Dublin following the 1965 All-Ireland Senior Football Semi-Final. L-R: John 'Doc' Healy (R.I.P.), Patsy Keane, Mick Tarmey (R.I.P.), Mick O'Connell and Kieran Benson.*



*John and Paddy Hunt, sons of the late Garda Superintendent James Hunt and Baby Hunt (née Haugh) of Clare St., Ballyhaunis.*



*Ballyhaunis Group Lourdes August 1999. L-R: Murt Hunt, Jeanette McCormack, Mary Higgins, John Casey, Eileen Comer, Brendan Carroll, Dell McGuire and Gerry McGuire*



# Thomas M. Neary, Ballyhaunis

*An obituary from the Western People 2nd January 1902*

It has seldom fallen to my lot to announce the demise of a townsman with such deep and sincere feelings of regret as I do that of the above esteemed and highly popular gentleman. The sad event, which deprives the town of one of its most valued inhabitants, the church of a devout member, and the family of a prudent adviser and an excellent model, occurred on St. Stephen's morning, about 9 a.m. during the celebration of Mass by his son, Rev. John Neary, C.C. Cloonfad. Mr. Neary had been ailing for some days. He passed to his reward fortified by all the consolations which our holy Church affords. The deceased had been one of the largest provision merchants in the West, and his business won for himself the invariable testimony of all for honesty, ability, courtesy, and promptitude. His death is regretted by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. On Saturday last Solemn High Mass de Requiem was celebrated at eleven o'clock in St. Mary's Church in the presence of a very large congregation. The officiating clergymen were Rev. J. M. Neary, C.C. (son) Cloonfad, celebrant; Rev. J. Greally, C.C. Ballyhaunis, deacon; Rev. A. Eaton, St. Jarlath's Tuam, sub-deacon; Rev. F. McDermott, C.C. Hollymount, master of ceremonies. In the choir were Ven. Archdeacon Kilkenny, D.D., Claremorris; Very Rev. Canon Lynskey, P.P., Dunmore; Rev. John P. Canning, P.P. Ballyhaunis; Rev. B. G. Freely, P.P. Bekan; Rev. J. Fallon, P.P. Knock; Rev. M. Diskin, Ballindine; Rev. J. Mulloy P.P. Aughamore; Rev. P. O'Connor, P.P., Kiltullagh; Rev. Father Brady, O.S.A. Ballyhaunis; Rev. John McEvelly, C.C. Claremorris; Rev. J. Ronayne, C.C. Ballinlough; Rev. T. Reidy, C.C., Dunmore; Rev. M. J. Conroy; Bekan; Rev. T. Hughes, C.C. Knock; Rev. Fr. Kelly, C.C. Milltown; Rev. Father Macken, C.C. Kilkerrin; Rev. Martin McEvelly, St. Jarlath's Tuam, Rev. John Waldron, C.C. Ballinrobe; Rev. Father Varden, C.C., Ballindine; Rev. Father Nicholson, C.C. Claremorris; Rev. P. Flynn, C.C. Strokestown; Rev. Fr. Higgins, Dunmore.

The funeral took place to the new cemetery at one o'clock. The cortege was of very large and representative proportions. The chief mourners were: Mrs. Neary (wife); Rev. J. M. Neary, C.C. Messrs., James Neary, Maynooth College, Patrick and Laurence (sons); Mrs. Kearns (daughter) and Mr. Kearns, Creggs; Mrs. James Lyons (daughter), and Mr. James Lyons, Ballyhaunis; Mrs. Healy (sister), Aughamore; Misses Healy (nieces), Aughamore; Mr. Eneas Noone, Corbally; Mr. Martin Griffith, senr., Claremorris; Mr. Michael Noone, Claremorris, (brother-in-law); Mrs. Martin Griffith, junr.; Mr. Patrick Griffith and Mr. John Griffith, Claremorris.

Amongst the laity present were - Henry Doran, Esq. J.P. C.D.B.; Dr. Crean, J.P.; Myles O'Donnell, Esq. J.P., Craggagh House, Kiltimagh; Martin Curran Esq., J.P. Logboy; J. Carbery, D.I. R.I.C. Claremorris; Michael Delaney, Esq., M.C.C.; Messrs. M. Gilligan, J. Killeen, Pat Walsh, P. Kileen, J. Flanagan, M. Prendergast, Claremorris;

M. Keane, N. Smyth, J. Greally, Ballinlough; T. Melia, Pat McCormack, M. Higgins, J. Stanton, M. Lavan, Cloonfad; Thomas Kearns, P. Brandley, J. Shanagan, M. Curley, P. McGinley, Creggs; M. Connaughton, Corbally; Wm. J. Waldron, Aughamore; Mr. P. Kerins Ballyvary; J. Hillard, Hall's, Westport; Bernard Lyons, Dublin; Mr. Reilly, Athlone; Mr. J. W. Davis, Castlereagh; Mr. O'Neill, North City Mills, Dublin; Mr. Elwood, Carrowbehy; John Burke, Knock; Mrs. Reilly and son, Castlereagh; Mrs. McCormack and children, Williamstown; Michael Flanagan, Brickens; Patrick J. O'Connor, Kiltimagh; Mr. Kelly and son, Churchfield; and all the Ballyhaunis merchants &c.

The following sent wreaths; Mrs. Neary (wife) and Patrick, Laurence, and James (sons); Rev. John M. Neary, C.C. Cloonfad (son); Mr. and Mrs. James Lyons, Ballyhaunis; Mr. and Mrs. Kearns, Creggs, Co. Galway; Mr. Eneas Noone, Corbally, Claremorris; Mr. Martin Griffith, Claremorris; Mr. Bernard Lyons and sister; Mr. James Neary and family Forthill, Ballyhaunis; Mr. P. McGivney, employee of Mr. Neary; Mr. John O'Malley.

Do. - May he rest in peace!



Thomas M. Neary and his wife Cecilia pictured with their son Rev. Fr. John Neary, on the occasion of his ordination to the Priesthood on 17th June 1900. A native of Crossard, Thomas was a prominent provisions merchant in Ballyhaunis with his premises on Main Street, where Ryan's Supermarket is now. He died on St. Stephen's Day 1900 aged 59 years. His wife was formerly Cecilia Noone from Corbally, Claremorris, and had been married previously to Laurence Reilly. She died on Christmas Eve 1916 aged 70. Fr. John, later Canon, was Parish Priest of Turlough and later of Cong, where he died on 30th March 1951. He carried out extensive research into the history of his own area and the various parishes where he ministered: he published histories of Dunmore, Turlough and Cong. (Courtesy of Catherine Dyer, Brackloon South, Grand-niece of Thomas M. Neary)



# Baptisms

## 1st November 1998-1st November 1999



Eamonn Martin Phillips  
 Kathleen Louise Haugh  
 Derbhla Mary Phillips  
 Ellen Frances Maughan  
 Eimear Brigid Finan  
 Emma Louise Lyons  
 Diarmuid Martin Keane  
 Caoibhe Maria Lilly  
 Callyn Thomas Murphy-Maitland  
 Darren Cyril Coyne  
 Chloe Pauline McGuire  
 Garry Matthew Higgins  
 Ethan Joseph Webb  
 Megan Marie Morley  
 Gemma Catherine Lilly  
 Ciara Walsh  
 Shirley Louise McGowan  
 Eamonn Anthony Cloonan  
 Barbara Louise McDonagh  
 Danielle Marie McDonagh

Shannon Pamela McGinty  
 Sinéad Corinne McGinty  
 Tadhg Michael McGinty  
 Siobhán Ann Lyons  
 Helen Mary Gallagher  
 Olivia Marie Cleary  
 Laura Louise O'Connell  
 Claire Agnes Fahy  
 Liam Patrick Herr  
 Aibhinn Marie Herr  
 Aron Padraic McCabe  
 Chloe Marie Naughton  
 Mark Michael Quinn  
 Roisín Caitriona Lyons  
 Dylan Thomas Gough  
 Evan Myles Henry  
 Aoibheann Mary Gallagher-Carton  
 Andrew Sweeney-Hickey  
 Arhian Christine O'Donnell



Mike Tarmey, Derreens and Frank Loughran, Upper Main St.



The Fahey Sisters l-r: Tess (Forde), Mary (Bree), Margie (Grole).  
 Daughters of Stella and Tommy Fahey late of Knox St. & New York.



Minister for the Environment Noel Dempsey chatting with Edward Mulhern and Mike Griffin after presenting them with certificates for twenty years of service with Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade



Mrs. Delia Regan (Abbey St.) with Mrs. Maureen Gallagher (Main St.) On Corpus Christi Procession Day.





*Four County Squash winners 1988. L-R: Cáit Webb, Fiona Prenty, Moira Noone, Della Webb and Karina King*



*Pictured at the Mart Store, Spring 1999. L-R: Joe Finn, Stephen Finn, John Murphy, John Joe Flanagan, Kevin Durkan, Bill Comer, Jimmy Quinn*





## *Marriages of the Parish*

November 1998 to November 1999

Joseph Curry and Sinéad Cribbin  
Tobias Dreher and Maeve McManus  
Karl Clarke and Rita Garvey  
Gerard Concannon and Colette Dyer  
Robert Traves and Sharon Walsh  
John Fleming and Caroline Murphy  
Paul Curran and Sheila Hunt  
Padraic McHugh and Mary Carney  
William Freyne and Laurie Griffin

James Molloy and Michelle Keane  
Barry Kerrigan and Ann Marie Regan  
Anthony Morley and Maeve McGrath  
Vincent Salmon and Marie Gallagher  
Michael McHale and Bridget Kelly  
Liam Molloy and Cliona Cribbin  
Thomas Horan and Anna McKermitt  
Seán Coffey and Stephanie Murphy  
Thomas Caulfield and Eavan Webb

## *Marriages elsewhere*

Shaun Murphy and Josephine Cribbin  
Owen Maughan and Bridget Moylan  
Jason Morley and Rebecca Ganley  
James Davitt and Emer Ward  
Vivian Hussey and Ann Carney  
Michael Duffy and Mary McGann  
Tom Colleran and Celine Devaney  
Tomás Burke and Kathleen Connell  
Alan Rattigan and Fleur McCabe

Kevin Walsh and Michelle Daly  
Paul Cooney and Letitia Mulleague  
Jonathan Cleary and Erni Yusnita  
Neil Cruise and Carmel Kelly  
Paul McGroddy and Anne Coen  
Brian Kelly and Elaine Conroy  
John Forde and Anne Marie Fortune  
Sebastien Carton and Martina Freeley

## *Deceased of the Parish*

November 1998 to October 1999

Catherine Greally  
Michael Keane  
Kieran Carney  
Patrick Rattigan  
Alan McDonagh  
Brian Egan  
Edward Egan  
Nora Farrell  
Mary Sullivan  
Hannah O'Dwyer  
William Kedian  
Mary Moran  
Katie Conroy

Thomas Keane  
James Cassidy  
Patrick Noonan  
Maureen O'Malley  
Bridie Logan  
Mide Freeley  
Baby Robert Ryan  
Padraic Heaney  
Evan Rowland  
Ann Kilbane  
Teresa McGarry  
Terence Waldron  
Rose Treston

Nicholas Carney  
Elizabeth Kneafsey  
Gerald O'Kane  
Andrew Ryan  
Jack Halpin  
Brendan Hoban  
Owen McDonagh  
Patrick Brennan  
Fred Herr  
Mary Morris  
Cora Webb  
Sarah Slevin  
Thomas Greally



# Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce

*Denise Moran*

During the course of the year, Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce have continued to work with bodies such as Mayo County Council, The Western Development Commission and CCI West Region to develop our town, its future and its role in the greater scheme of things. Earlier in the year, Mr. Simon Wall, architect, visited the town every two weeks to meet with the business people to discuss improvements to local shop fronts. The response has been very encouraging and reflects the commitment of the business people to improving the overall image of the town, which will ultimately benefit business.

It has been a busy year on the IT front for Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce. Eighteen participants successfully completed a Teleservices course held in the Parochial Hall, which was initiated by the Chamber of Commerce so as to improve the local skill level regarding Information & Communications Technology. Our own website was developed by Pdraig Beirne, Enterprise East Mayo, and launched in April 1999. It has seen ongoing development over the past few months with the Knock Novena being broadcast live in both audio and video for the first time ever in August. A number of bookings with regard to accommodation and angling have been made and our chatroom and interactive stories have proved popular. Persons with an interest in Ballyhaunis and East Mayo can view our news section with local, regional and sports stories updated weekly and a top national news story which is updated daily. Bulletin boards and an online community calendar whereby anyone can contribute to the web site, make our internet presence more interactive.

Visitors can sign up for a free e-mail address, send a digital postcard or browse through some of the audio and video footage available which includes highlights from this year's Community School Play "The New Oliver." A listing of local business is also featured including grants and incentives available for investing in the area. Visit <http://www.eastmayo.com> or contact [ballyhaunis@eastmayo.com](mailto:ballyhaunis@eastmayo.com) for further information.

In October 1999, the Galway Technical Institute, Fr. Griffin Road, and Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce announced the launch of a new and dynamic initiative which incorporates all that is progressive in both the educational and commercial worlds. It is a project which very much reflects the changing face of the workplace and indeed education in the 21st century. The project involves the GTI and the Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce working in co-operation so as to assist eight companies in the Ballyhaunis area market their businesses via the Internet. The GTI students are participants on the Business Studies-Internet Applications PLC course.

With the huge increase in the amount of business being conducted over the Internet, the GTI in association with the City of Galway VEC researched and developed an E-Commerce based PLC course. With regard to the Internet, E-commerce (electronic commerce) allows goods and services to be purchased via the supplier or merchant's web site. In addition, E-commerce includes business-to-

business connections that make purchasing easier for big corporations. The GTI course, which commenced in September 1999, provides students with Business, IT and Internet skills that will prove vital for all companies wishing to succeed in the new millennium. The Ballyhaunis-based companies participating on the project are Ronoco Ltd., Interflow Ltd., Rochford Motors, EPS Pumping and Heating Systems, Nestor & Co., Ballinlough Refrigeration, Mac Transport and Cashels Engineering. Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce are delighted to have been chosen as partners with the GTI in this unique venture and look forward to exploiting further opportunities afforded by IT over the coming year.

To conclude, I must say that there are times I have been disheartened, I look around me and see what a good town Ballyhaunis is, and the potential it has to develop further. The determination to develop this potential is what keeps me motivated. A small Chamber can only achieve a small portion of the work needed. It is up to everybody to play his or her part and become involved.

Objectives for the year ahead include the broadening of our membership base, the further expansion of our endeavours in IT-related projects and full development of the 4.5 acre site on Clare Road.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all who helped and supported me this year, in particular my fellow officers - Mary Smyth, Peter Cunnane, Donal Shanaghy, Robert Potter-Cogan, Tom Finn, Eugene Carney, John Dillon-Leetch and Barry Butler. I wish to thank them and others who have supported our efforts over the past year and for their continued commitment to the Chamber of Commerce and their personal help to me in my Presidency.

## The Candle In The Window

*Michael Godfrey*

*O beautiful candle, fond memories you bring  
Of Christmas we knew and carols we'd sing  
How holy and peaceful you flicker your light  
To welcome the travellers like that first Christmas night*

*You're the symbol of Christmas what a story you tell  
Of the child in the manger and mother as well  
Of Saint Joseph, the shepherds what a picture benign  
As they offered their gifts to that Saviour Divine*

*May that candle at Christmas be lit in each home  
And carry that custom wherever they roam  
For our people are exiles who travel afar  
Like Mary and Joseph as they followed the star*

*How sad for these children who at Christmas won't know  
Of the candle in the window, sleighbells and snow  
No present from santa or no candle to glow  
In a world of plenty that don't want to know*

*You have come though dark ages but got pride of place  
Through devotion and love of a true Irish race  
They have given us gimmicks that lack beauty and grace  
But the candle in the window they can never replace*



# That Was The Year That Was.....

*Michael Byrne*

1999 was a year of ups and downs for Ballyhaunis and Mayo senior footballer, David Nestor. From the high, of scoring the all-important goal which helped to dethrone All-Ireland champions, Galway, in the Connaught Football Final, to the low of a disappointing defeat in the All-Ireland semi-final against Cork. On a personal and professional level, however, the year got off to a flying start for the popular young Ballyhaunis man when, in the first week of **January**, David took up a full time job as a sales representative for the pharmaceutical company, Leo Laboratories Ltd. David Nestor was not the only Ballyhaunis footballer who was going places in January: his club colleague and neighbour from Doctor's Road, Patrick Keane, set off for North Carolina, U.S.A., where he commenced a two year scholarship in woodwork in one of the State's colleges. Brian Flanagan, another member of the local Senior Football team was using his talents in another way, when he made his first recording and received air-time on Midwest Radio..... Boxer, Billy Schwer, a nephew of Mrs. Kathleen O'Boyle from Carrowkeel, wins the European Boxing Lightweight Championship in London..... Tadhg Buckley tees off on New Year's Day as the new Captain of Ballyhaunis Golf Club. Jenny Glynn assumes the role of Lady Captain at the club..... Ballyhaunis native, Joseph Webb, is appointed Deputy Advertising Director with Independent Newspapers in Dublin, while his cousin, English professional footballer, Simon Webb, Jets in to town to celebrate his twenty-first birthday with his former school pals..... Long time GAA activist, Tom McCormack, is appointed President of the Ballyhaunis GAA Club.

In **February**, County Westmeath native, Colin Ledwith, joins Ulster Bank, Ballyhaunis as assistant manager..... Well known Ballyhaunis Publican and Entrepreneur of the 1950s and '60s, Kevin Griffin, dies in Derbyshire, England. Kevin will be remembered by many, as the first person to operate a "singing pub" in Ballyhaunis, when he opened for business on March 16th 1958..... The first fund-raising project for the Millennium Spire gets underway on February 26th in Midas Nite-Club. The successful quiz raises over £2,000 for the spire project..... Archbishop Michael Neary, speaking at St. Patrick's Church, fully endorses the Millennium Project and congratulates the local community for their dedication and vision..... Community School students, Oisín Cleary of Clare Street and Carlene Mulrennan from Tooreen, perform exceptionally well in the RTÉ television quiz show 'Gridlock' going on to reach the semi-final stage of the prestigious competition.....

Well known Ballyhaunis GAA personality, Bernard Keane, who has been residing in Coventry for the past thirty years, is appointed Treasurer of the Provincial Council of the GAA in Great Britain..... Ballyhaunis Musical Society presents their seventh annual stage production. Based on John Millington Synge's, 'Playboy of the Western World', 'The Hearts a Wonder'



L-R: Eddie Humphreys (Chief Executive, Nestlé Ireland), Frank Greally (Editor 'Irish Runner' magazine) and Michael Hunt (President of Irish Schools Athletic Association). Frank Greally is being honoured for his outstanding contribution to the promotion of athletics in Ireland.

proves one of the most successful shows to date..... The month of **March** was certainly most lucky for Liam Lyons from Aghamore. Liam, husband of Grace O'Connor, Doctor's Road, Ballyhaunis, found himself spinning the wheel on Mike Murphy's 'Winning Streak', and won for himself £40,000 for his trouble..... The main talking point in Ballyhaunis throughout the month of April was the community's concern about the possible closure of the Avonmore meat factory, as speculation about that company withdrawing from the meat-processing business grows..... Fine Gael man, John Cribbin, launches his campaign for the County Council elections..... Devlis native, Ted Webb, is elevated to the prestigious position of Director of IBI Corporate Finance, Dublin.... at Easter, Eddie Thornton's twenty two year reign as Principal of the Community School, Ballyhaunis, comes to an end when the Swinford native announces his retirement.....

Mayo Person of the Year, Mr Sean Hannick, launches the Ballyhaunis Community and Business website on the internet. The project is under the aegis of the Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce.... The Community School and St. Joseph's Primary School make it a double for Ballyhaunis when the representatives from both schools win first prize at the All Ireland Slogadh Finals in Mullingar..... The month of **April** sees Mr. Jarlath Fahey appointed Principal of Ballyhaunis Community School. Mr. Fahey, who has been attached to the Community School since its foundation in 1977, has been involved in the teaching profession in the town since the mid 1960s..... In **May**, Bernie and Jarlath Walsh, Gurteen, win the first prize of a Mitsubishi car in the monster Millennium Spire Project draw. The draw raises over £40,000 towards the project fund..... Bob and Phil Fox, Carrowreagh, celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary..... A Parish Committee to look after and maintain the local cemetery, is set up in May: the committee's first chairman is Henry Madden..... The word on everybody's lips in May is "RoMa", as Ballyhaunis sets the trend in getting its own currency..... Monday, May 31st was a black day for Ballyhaunis. Private Billy Kedian is killed while on active duty with the Irish Peace Keeping Forces in the Lebanon. On the same day, long time Annagh Magazine President and committee member, Jack Halpin, dies suddenly at his home in Main Street..... Over two hundred people are turned away from





Justice Bernard Brennan (centre) on his last day prior to his retirement at Ballyhaunis Court last week. Pictured from l-r: Garda John Commins, Evan O'Dwyer (Solicitor), Padraig Kelly (Solicitor), John O'Dwyer (Solicitor), Judge Brennan, Ward McEllin (Solicitor), John Browne (Court Clerk), Michael Bohan (Solicitor) and retired journalist Mick O'Connell.

Midas Nite-Club on the June Bank Holiday Sunday night, as Brendan Bowyer attracts crowd to the Clare Street venue..... and speaking of Clare Street, the traditional route and format for the Corpus Christi procession is altered [pardon the pun], as the procession reaches its climax with the celebration of benediction on the newly-installed pavements of Clare Street, instead of the traditional setting of the Square..... In the **June** elections to Mayo County Council, John Cribbin and John Carty [Knock], are among the successful candidates to be elected..... Ballyhaunis is invaded by Viking warriors in June, as the Medieval Mid-Summer Madness take place..... Agnes Freyne of Clare Street celebrates her 90th birthday..... In early June, Dawn Meats become the new owners of the local meat processing plant..... Ballyhaunis becomes the centre of national media attention, when President McAleese, is among the mourners for the state funeral of Private Billy Kedian. Thousands of local people line the streets to pay their final respects. RTÉ television personality, Ms. Tracey Piggot, takes part in the 200 Kilometres cycling tour of Mayo, held under the auspices of the Ballyhaunis Cycling Club..... Alan Fitzpatrick of Aisling Drive is selected for the Irish team which competes in the World Junior Pool Championships in Morecombe, England.

Hugh Rudden is appointed Chairman of the Connaught Colleges Council of the GAA..... Popular Bank of Ireland official and hurling personality, David McConn, is promoted to the position of Bank Manager in Ballygar, Co. Galway, in the month of June..... In **July**, Judge Bernard Brennan, retires from court duty when he sits for the last time in the Ballyhaunis Court House. His vacancy is filled by Judge Mary Fahy.

In the month of **August**, all Irish eyes were focused towards the sky, as a total eclipse of the sun was recorded for the first time in over eighty years in this part of the world..... Concepta Moran, a native of Islandeady, Castlebar, is appointed Vice-Principal of the Community School..... The Ballyhaunis Parent and Toddler Group hold its inaugural meeting on August 31st..... Ballyhaunis Pioneer Association celebrates eighty years of activity in the town with a special celebration mass in St. Patrick's Church, followed by a function in the Hazel..... On

Thursday August 5th the first steps for the erecting of the Millennium Spire are taken, when Mick Murray's crew from Connaught Scaffolding move in to erect their scaffolding around the church..... Disappointment again in Croke Park in August as we suffer at the hands of Cork senior footballers: Cork 2-12, Mayo 0-12..... Margaret O'Connor wins the President's Prize at the local golf club. She is presented with her prize by her husband Rory, who happens to be this year's Club President..... Indeed, all round, it was a great year for golf in Ballyhaunis, when the club won its first Connaught Championship title [the Jack O'Sullivan Cup] in twenty-eight years. The winning team members are: Tommy Prenty, Pat Curley, P.C. Curley, Shane Freeman, Christy Freeman, Kevin Henry, Eamonn Freyne, Paul Walsh and Pat Freeley.

The Parent and Toddler Group elect their first committee; their first Chairperson is Paula Grogan [Knockbrack]..... Tuesday morning **October 4th** was probably the most memorable day of 1999 for

the majority of local residents. In the early hours of that morning [2 a.m., to be precise], Yvonne Byrne from Knox Street, was greeted by a few hundred ecstatic supporters at the Square, when, together with her Mayo footballing colleagues, she arrived by coach with the Brendan Martin Cup - the All-Ireland trophy which she and her county team mates won by defeating red-hot favourites, Waterford, the previous Sunday..... Later that morning, over two hundred people gathered outside the gates of St. Patrick's church, to watch the magnificent sight of the Millennium Spire's seventy-foot steel structure being lifted by crane up on top of the church's roof..... Great disappointment in October when Ballyhaunis loses out in Tax Designation Status..... Preparations for 'Sound of Music' begin. Nuala Fitzgerald is the Musical Society's newly appointed Chairperson..... In October, Sarah Waldron of Cave celebrates her 90th birthday with family and friends, and Marie Cribbin, one of the town's best known and most popular ladies, celebrates her 80th birthday; further down the town, Mrs. Katie Johnston, just a little older, celebrates her one hundredth birthday and receives her cheque from the President Mary McAleese courtesy of Canon Joseph Cooney P.P. Ballyhaunis native, Mr. Frank Greally, is honoured for his outstanding contribution to the promotion of athletics in Ireland. The honour is bestowed on Frank by Nestlé's [Ireland] Ltd. The National Millennium Committee, under the chairmanship of Minister Seamus Brennan, allocates £100,000 towards the Ballyhaunis St. Patrick's Church Millennium Spire project, almost completing the cost of the programme..... Ballyhaunis Action Group is established in October, in an effort to help put an end to the smell problem which the town has been experiencing for some time. The owners and the directors of Dawn Meats give an assurance to the community that the problem would be eradicated by **December 13th**. The chairman of the Action Group committee is Mr John Higgins..... and finally..... after a hectic few weeks of celebrating, All-Ireland winning team member, Yvonne Byrne, goes back to school, but not without the Brendan Martin All-Ireland trophy, which she proudly displays to her colleagues in the Leaving Cert. class of Ballyhaunis Community School.

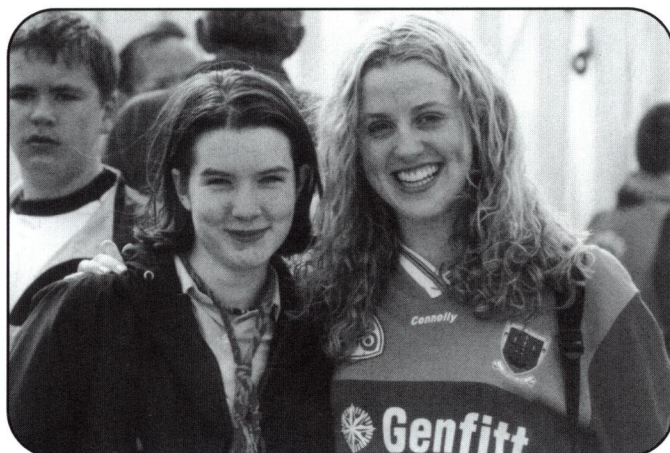




*Ballyhaunis Community School 1977, 5th years. Back l-r: Sarah Regan, Carmel Lynch, Catherine Lynskey, Mary Flanagan, Breeda Boland, Caroline Keane, Mary T. Lyons, Kathleen Niland. Middle l-r: Marie Gormally, Maeve Waldron, Catherine Burke, Maureen Ronan, Martha Folliard, Ann Marie Moran, Mary T. Carroll, Breege Folliard. Front l-r: Chris Forde, Joan Keegan, Marie Murphy, Margaret Waldron, Audrey Hannon, Patricia Curley, Mary Mitchell*



*Dave and Pat McConn, Doctors Road. Dave has just been promoted Bank Manager at Bank of Ireland, Ballygar, Co. Galway. He has been attached to the Ballyhaunis branch as Assistant Manager for the past twelve year. All their Ballyhaunis friends wish them well*



*Ann Marie Mullarkey and Ann Marie Madden at the Mayo v Cork All-Ireland Semi-Final 1999*



*Christina Concannon, John O'Connell and Grace D'Arcey at the Medieval Banquet in Ballyhaunis.*



*New Year's Eve Ball 1998. Front l-r: Iris Lynch, Nancy and Sean Jordan. Back l-r: Bertie Lynch, Sandra Jordan, Fionnuala Jordan and Joe Jordan*



# Ballyhaunis Millennium Project (Mayo Millennium Spire)

*Luke Murray, Chairman*

*"Lives of great men all remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints in the sands of time"  
(H. W. Longfellow 1807- 1882)*

And so, readers, we have reached the end of a year, a Century and a Millennium. In years to come you will look back and recall the fuss and the hype which attended these days. However, if you are one of the twenty-two people who comprised the Ballyhaunis Millennium Project Committee, you will require no reminders to prompt you into remembering what occupied your mind, exercised your wit and sapped your energy for much of 1999. Last year's issue of Annagh carried an article, penned by yours truly, outlining the outrageously ambitious plans of the Committee to celebrate the Millennium. They would, if you don't mind, complete the building of St. Patrick's Church - adding in the region of seventy feet to the tower which had remained unfinished for nigh on a century.

The seeds for this lofty idea were sown at Parish Pastoral Council level. The Council felt that this was an eminently appropriate project taking all criteria into consideration. Apart from the fact that it would greatly enhance the appearance of our town and the panorama of our parish it would have a Christian dimension: in keeping with the celebration of the jubilee of the birth of Jesus Christ. It would, we felt, commemorate the sacrifice and toil of our ancestors at home and abroad who provided the parish with one of the finest and most beautiful ecclesiastical buildings in the West of Ireland. The Parish Council was also of the opinion that a Millennium Spire would be a fitting legacy upon which future generations could look with pride and devotion, thereby inextricably linking the past, the present and the future.

Having 'put to sea' from the relatively calm waters of the Pastoral Council on Sept. 23rd 1998 the proposal could have expected a more turbulent passage at a Public Meeting in the Parochial Hall on October 1st '98. Here, after lengthy deliberations the spire was enthusiastically endorsed without a single voice of dissent. Two weeks later our crew of twenty-two hauled anchor and set sail on what will be remembered by all as a wonderful adventure. Throughout the voyage we navigated stormy seas and perilous depths. On occasions we feared we might be becalmed. But the log would be less than accurate if it did not record the many fair winds we enjoyed along the way. Confidence and morale were always high because of the outstanding calibre of those on board. When called upon, all hands were on deck, willing and able. Evidence of the fact that they never gave of less than their best can be seen in the newly-revealed and graceful form of St. Patrick's Church Spire.

Erecting a structure costing approximately £250,000 is one thing. Paying for it is another. Doing both inside a year in a parish the size of Ballyhaunis is a

phenomenal achievement and can only be explained in terms of the overwhelming support which the project enjoyed. This support took many forms. Obviously there were many voluntary donations, some of which, we are told, were truly amazing. Internationally we ran a campaign of letter-writing to emigrants, simply informing them of the project and inviting support. This, in addition to hits on our web-site, reaped us a bountiful harvest.

On the home-front the project enjoyed huge financial support and became a labour of love for so many. A wonderfully organised raffle yielded a rich dividend to all who toiled so diligently - thanks to organisers, sponsors, sellers and buyers. Finances were further bolstered by subventions from Mass collections. Our gratitude also to organisers, sponsors and supporters of our table-quiz, bridge night, tea-party, slate-sponsoring scheme and the other lucrative activities.

The crowning glory of our fund-raising came two months ago with the news that the National Millennium Committee announced a grant of £100,000 to what had become known by then as The Mayo Millennium Spire. A delegation representing our committee had met with the Minister involved as well as with staff of the National Millennium Committee at Government buildings during August. At this meeting our project was outlined and the Minister was presented with a very strong case for including us on the list of National Projects for awards from the N.M.C. We are acutely aware, however, that behind the scenes, our endeavours were well matched by representations on our behalf by local and National Political figures. Our Committee is indebted to them for their whole-hearted support at crucial times. The magnitude of our grant-aid was beyond our wildest dreams. Having been accorded national recognition and affirmation was also important to our Committee.

And so, as we leave the second millennium and enter the third it is fitting that our Millennium Spire should be "unveiled" by the removal of scaffolding by a local firm which has been of such "support" to us in every sense of the word. As a committee we extend our deepest gratitude to all who contributed or assisted our campaign in any way. You now have a stake in the newest and most striking landmark in our region. Look with pride on it and think of what and whom it represents. Finally, it is not accidental that no individual's name appears in this article. This is, in fact, a reflection of the selfless dedication which the project has enjoyed from its inception to its conclusion.



Ballyhaunis Millennium Project Committee. Front l-r: Ann Nestor, Rita London, Brigitta Burke, Luke Murray, Canon Cooney, Nell Rochford. Second row l-r: Fr. O'Grady, Gerry Lyons, Alacoque McManus, Paula Donnellan, Mary Donnelly, Tom Finn, Austin Grogan. Back l-r: Mike Griffin, Matt O'Dwyer, Martin Fitzmaurice, Edward Mulhern, Mike Byrne, Gerry Cribbin. Missing: Rachel Cleary, Peter Meenan & Paul Waldron.



# "Look Down That Town!"

*Micheál Smyth*

I haven't lived in Ballyhaunis since 1995 and, as I start this ten year progress report, I'm thinking of the Tom Jones song - yes, my "old town's still the same" but different!

The last time I spoke to late Seamie Webb, who died in 1998, he used the expression "Look down that town!" which he told me was a saying of the late Patrick Freeley as he stood outside his store. From a distance I'm going to look at the changes in the business life of the parish in the last decade. Who were Annagh's commercial heroes and heroines this decade just closing? A glimpse through the Patrons' list is revealing.

That aforementioned store of the late Patrick Freeley was a pub known as Horan's Tudor Inn from 1990 to 1997 when it changed to The Hazel. Across the road from the Garda Station, Eddie Murphy, a former employee of McGarry's has bravely and successfully set up his own menswear shop, Eddie Murphy & Sons, Menswear Specialist and this year a shop called Part 2. Val's Lounge has been replaced by just Val's, under the new management of Michael and Bernie Quinn. Billy's Nite Club changed hands and was known as Alberto's until 1998, when new owners named it The Full Shilling, while the business across the road from it, for years in the Concannon name, is run in part as a shoe shop by Charlie Phillips & Sons. A smaller section of it has been taken over by Harvest Fresh Fruit & Veg. John and Breege Halpin altered their Bar & Lounge to a Tele florist and Coffee Dock. John O'Brien, Auctioneer and Building Society Agent, retired and that enterprise is now in the hands of John Higgins and his family. Pat Freeley took over Newsround in 1997.

In Upper Main Street, the long established General Merchants, Austin Jordan & Sons closed its doors in 1992, and relatives of that family, Tom and Noreen Hopkins retired from their Grocery business in 1997.

Down Knox Street, Jimmy O'Brien's property has new owners and is the location of a much needed Nursing Home - Carewell. At the corner of Main Street and Clare Street, the Corner Bar, with the deaths of Joe and Sally Regan, was bought by Ger McGarry, and is known as Nestor's Corner Bar where Billy Nestor is mein-host.

Clare Street's Byrne's Bar and Foodmarket, of 1989, now reads Byrne's Bar while across the road, where the boutique Originals was, is Obair, a Local Employment Agency. Further out the Clare Road, Halal Meat Packers, who had built up a huge meat exporting business was bought out by Avonmore, who set up Irish Country Meats, and this in turn has now been taken over by Dawn (Ballyhaunis).

In Bridge Street, Micheál's Meats was closed for sometime but is now open again as T. J. Webb, Catering and Retail Butcher,

with Micheál's brother, Tommy, in charge. A few doors away Jim Smyth's was bought by the Delaneys and is now the Oak Bar under Niall Delaney's stewardship. The Silver Dollar became Curran's Pub and, fairly, recently transferred to Nicholson's. Abbey Dry Cleaners have been replaced in another building by Wash Tub, an enterprising venture set up in 1992 by sisters Barbara and Denise Moran, while the premises of the former was taken over by Kieran Sherry for the Abbey Electrical business.

Out in Devlis, Durkan's Drink Distributors have ceased operating, while John Durkan has made a whole career change and has taken over one of the town's oldest establishments - The Central Hotel - now called Durkan's Central Inn.

It is good to see the Barrack Street area being developed with places like Helen's Launderette, Gerry's Barber Shop, Freyne's Ceramics and Valerie's Hair Salon.

In the local Industrial Estate at Tooraree, Fitzpack Cartons Ltd. Has replaced Malee, Print & Packaging (Holding) Ltd. Farah Exports (Irl.) have gone and has been replaced by Rom-Plas Ltd. Milo Henry and his family have enterprisingly launched Hazlehill Timber Products Ltd.

If I've neglected to mention some changes you'll have to excuse me on the grounds that I'm no longer a resident of the parish. Be that as it may, to the question "Where are you from?" I still proudly reply "Ballyhaunis" and I'll always be interested in what's happening there.

## Lord Dillon And His Tenants

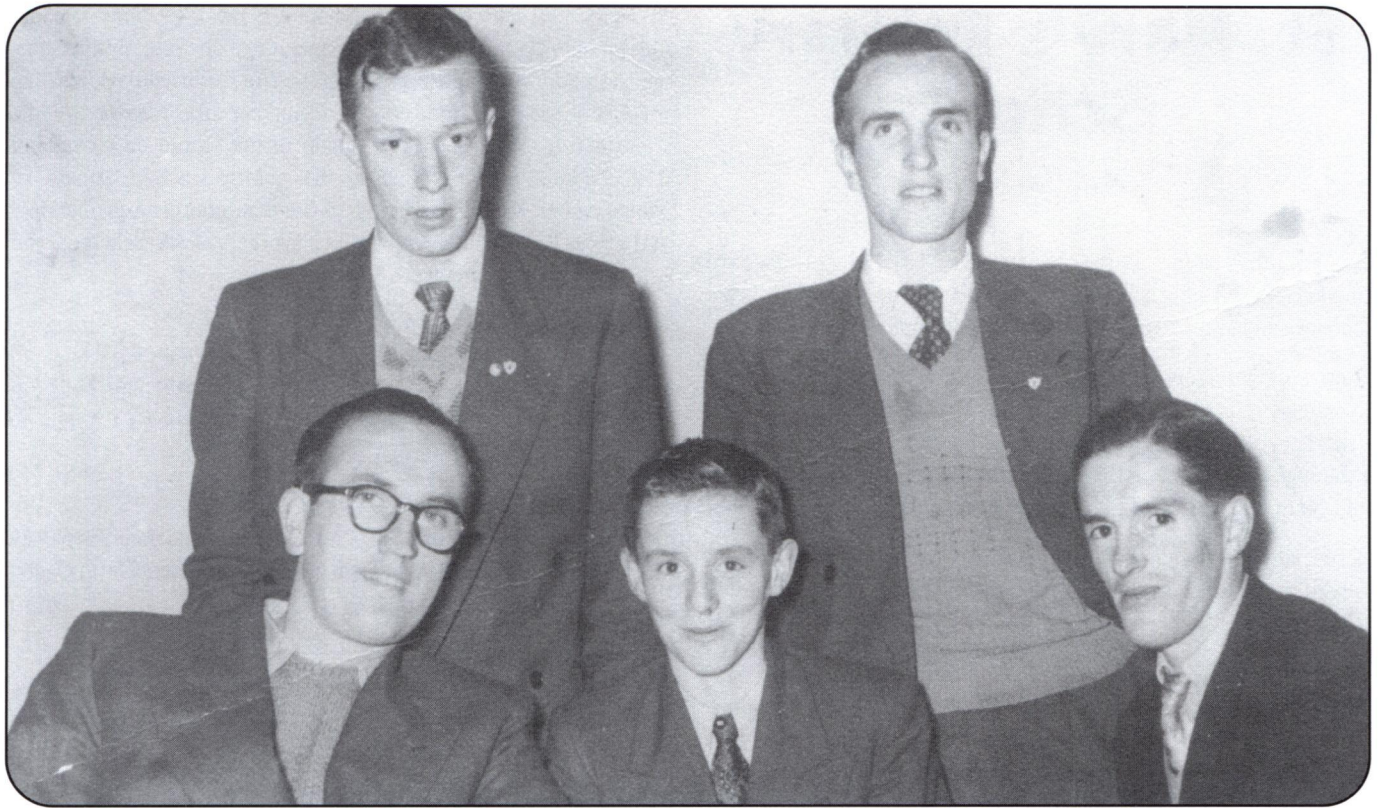
*Extract from Connaught Telegraph. (Contributed by Gerry Cribbin)*

### Ballyhaunis Sunday Night Oct. 1879.

This morning there was a notice posted on the chapel gate intimating to Lord Dillon's tenants that he would give them a reduction of thirty percent on the half-year's rent now due. This reduction coming from Mr. Dillon is a matter of great consideration, for the simple reason that for the past sixty years there has not been a single instant of an advance of rents on his very extensive properties, in Mayo. This may be attributed in great measure to the interest his agent - Mr. Charles Strickland - evinced towards his tenants, who always held him in the highest esteem. At the close of the evening there were bonfires lighted on every hill-top and village for miles around Ballyhaunis. The town was beautifully illuminated, not a square of glass but there was a lighted candle in. A large fire was set down opposite the house of Mr. William Flynn, in this town, who gave several half-barrels of porter in consequence of the news.

The Ballyhaunis Temperance Band discoursed some beautiful music during the evening through the town and around where the fire was burning. Many hearty cheers were given for Mr. Strickland and his lady. Mr. Flynn's generosity was not forgotten by the very many who were assembled, while Mr. Dillon was cheered to the echo.





At the "Top Hat Ballroom", Dun Laoghaire in 1955. Back l-r: Micheál Robinson, Joe Webb. Front l-r: Eddie Webb, Mickey Webb and Bertie Curley



Abbey Pattern 1998. A selection of Ted Maughan's craftwork.



Investiture in the old Scout Den. Included are Scout Master Seamus Durkan, Fourth Mayo Troop: David Dwanne, Mick Griffin and Hugh Campbell



Canon Cooney celebrates his last Station Mass of the Millennium at the home of the Burke family, Devlis, Saturday 13th November 1999. L-R: John Burke, Canon Cooney, Breda, Eamon and Brigitta Burke and Paul Webb. Front l-r: Ailee Webb, Erica Webb and Laura Webb.



Yvonne Byrne comes back to playgroup with the Brendan Martyn Cup. L-R: Claire Moran, Stephen Ryan, Charlotte Lyons, Jim Reidy, Jamie Duggan, Yvonne Byrne, James Lyons, Tessa Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Sean McDermott, Caoimhe Henry and Kevin McNamara. Rita's Playgroup 1999-2000



# St. Mary's Primary School

*Jim London*

It is hard to imagine but it is twenty years last October since we moved into our new school in Abbeyquarter. It is also ten years since we added the two new classrooms. Tempus Fugit!

**Board of Management:** Chairperson: Canon J. Cooney P. P.; Secretary: John Griffin (Elected Parent); Treasurer: Kathleen Lyons (Teacher Representative); Elected Parent: Agatha Higgins; Principal: Jim Lydon. (Elected by the Board): Pauline McGarry and Liam Lynskey, Martina Gallagher (Patrons nominee)

A special word of thanks to Kay Curley (Outgoing Secretary) who served on the Board of Management as a Parents' Representative for many years.

## Parents Association

Chairperson: Martin Keane; Secretary: Marie Cregg; Treasurer: Bridie McDermott. Committee: Mary Mulrennan, Marie Jordan, Rosaleen Keane, Christina Concannon, Eamon Healy, Mary Finan, Manar Cherbatji, Bernadette Lyons, Bridie Waldron, Agatha Higgins and John Griffin.

## Our Teaching Staff

Jim London (Principal), Augustine Kearns (Deputy Principal), Kathleen Lyons, Jimmy Duggan, Aisling Toal, Margaret O'Flaherty, Betty Regan (Resource Teacher), Maureen Reddington (Shared support Teacher with St Joseph's Primary School).

## Mayo Cleaner Community Award Winners

St. Mary's Primary School Ballyhaunis is the 1999 Mayo Cleaner Community Award outright Winner in the Tidy Schools Category sponsored by Mayo County Council. The Certificate and cheque for £350 was presented to the Principal Jim London by the Chairman of Mayo County Council in the school on November 24th. Great credit is due to the pupils, teachers, Board of Management, Parents Association, Student Summer Scheme 1998 and 1999, Ballyhaunis Community Workers (FÁS Scheme), and especially school caretaker John Hurley.

## Confirmation Day

5th and 6th class attended a retreat in Ballintubber Abbey in preparation for Confirmation. On 21st March 1999 pupils of Fifth and Sixth Classes were confirmed in St. Patrick's Church by Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam.

## First Communion

On May 9th 1999 pupils of Second Class received their First Holy Communion in St. Patrick's Parish Church Ballyhaunis from Canon J. Cooney P.P. Ballyhaunis.

## End Of Year Mass June 1999

Canon Cooney celebrated the End of Year Mass, after which he presented certificates to the departing 6th Class and the girls from 2nd class (who were returning to St Joseph's)

## Kenny/Naughton Primary Schools Competition

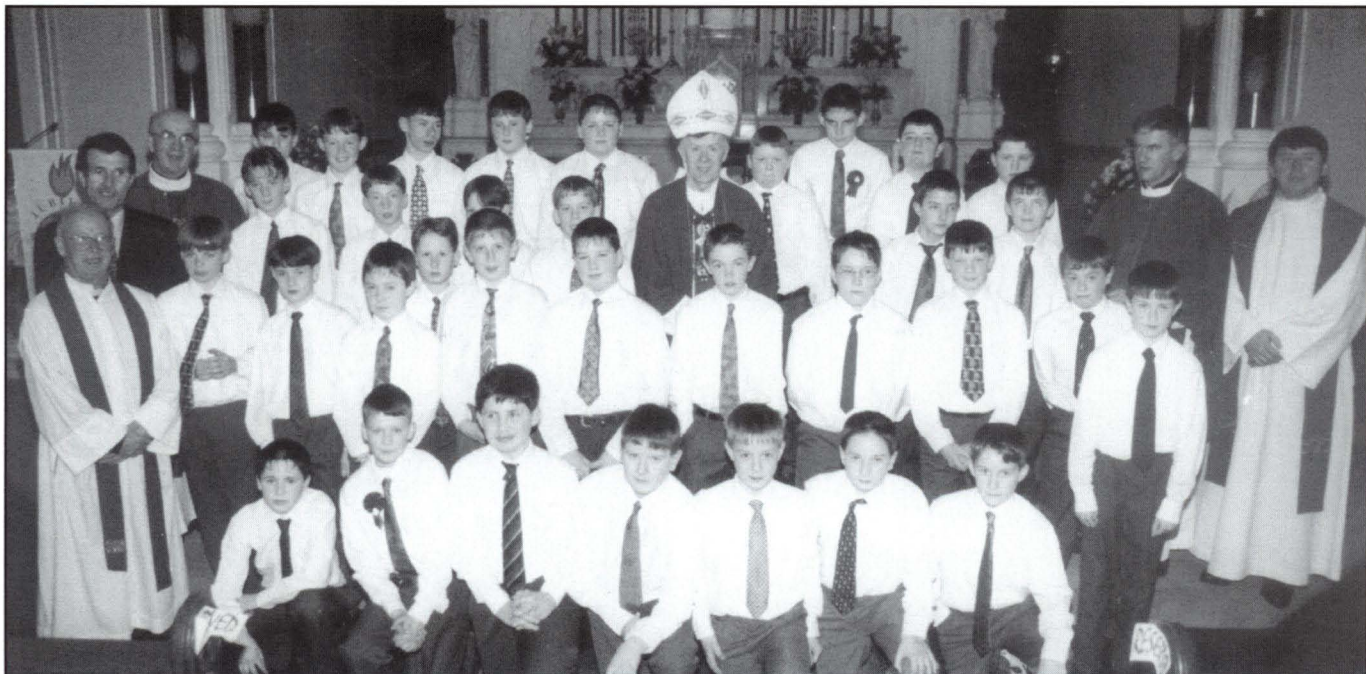
Lorcan Finan was 2nd in the School Story Competition while Tomás Concannon was 3rd in the poetry competition.

## Credit Union Art Competition

Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union Art winners were Stephen Hoban, Clare O'Dwyer and Maria Naughton.

## School Activities

Our School Concert was held in the Scout Den. Our pupils are



Fifth and Sixth classes Confirmation Day 21st March 1999 in St. Patrick's Church. Front l-r: David Herr, Paul Fitzmaurice, Lorcan Finan, Joseph Waldron, Pdraig Cribbin, Robert Potter-Coogan, David Healy. Second row: Rev. Fr. Timmy Walsh O.S.A., Daniel Carroll, John C. Halpin, Joseph Neenan, Andrew O'Brien, Mark Madden, Mark Kelly, Anthony Murphy, Aidan Healy, Stephen Jenkins, Graham Egan, Kevin Curley. Third row: Jim London (Principal), Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons, Thomás Concannon, Michael Cunningham, Archbishop Michael Neary, Simon Freeley, Colin Egan, Rev. Fr. James O'Grady C.C., Rev. Fr. Michael Collendar Prior. Back: Canon Joseph Conney P.P., Ian Byrne, Jarleth Mellett, Robert Grogan, Ciarán Waldron, Joseph Kelly, Alan Fitzpatrick, Paul Ward, Barry Byrne and Paul Kelly.





Ballyhaunis Under 11, Cumann na mBunscoil County Champions 1999 Mini Sevens receiving plaque from I.N.T.O. officer Mark Kelly. Back l-r: Mr. J. Landon (Principal), Jarlath Mellett, Austin Lyons, Joseph Kelly, Fergal Lyons, Patrick Kelly. Front: Conor Mulrennan, Mark Madden, Anthony Murphy, Brian Gallagher, Ciaran Lucey and David Herr.

Altar Servers in both churches. Sr. Josephine Parke provides Speech and Drama classes for all pupils. Guitar, banjo, accordion, keyboard and tin whistle are taught by Tom Lyons. We formed a school band during the year. Gráinne Freyne is our Irish dancing teacher. All classes from First to Sixth have daily access to computers. Junior Credit Union is run each Friday in the school. Sixth class visit the library each week. Our pupils took part in N.P.C. Credit Union, Gael Linn and Pioneer quizzes.

#### Sport

Our hurlers won the Mayo I.N.T.O. Mini Sevens Hurling finals and competed in the Connacht Finals in Sligo. The panel was: Conor Mulrennan, Mark Madden, Anthony Murphy, Brian Gallagher, Kieran Lucey, David Herr, Mark Kelly, Jarlath Mellett, Austin Lyons (Capt.) Fergal Lyons, Joseph Kelly and Patrick Kelly.

Fergal Lyons was chosen in Sligo to play in Croke Park during the Clare v. Kilkenny All Ireland Semi-finals half-time break. His brother Austin was linesman that day. The hurling mentors are: Kevin Kelly who coached our hurlers every Thursday at school. Club Mentors are: Peter Higgins, Ray Lucey and Gerry Kilbride. In football our pupils compete at U-8, U-10 and U-12 and National School levels. The U-8/U-10 mentors are Barry Butler, Sean McNamara, Michael Gallagher and Martin Finan. The U-12/N.S. mentors are Martin Finan, John Halpin and Michael Gallagher. Sincere thanks is due to all involved in the training of all under-age teams.

Congratulations to Yvonne Byrne and the Mayo Ladies' Football team on their All-Ireland success. We really enjoyed her visit with the Cup!

Other former pupils Derek McConn, Jason Powers, Stephen Gately, Hughie Carney, Brian Mulrennan, Declan Ward, Keith Higgins and Patrick Waldron won All-Ireland Under-16 C Hurling medals. Minor All-Ireland C medals went to Christopher McCrudden, Tadhg Buckley, Stephen Carney, Michael Walsh and Anthony Curley.

#### Thanks

Once again to FÁS we have the services of John Hurley (Caretaker) and Mary Dillon (Secretary). Thanks to all involved in the Student Summer Scheme for all the work done in the School. Thanks to Tom Waldron and the Lyons family - Bus drivers. To the Board of Management for the refurbishment of four classrooms and the Assembly Area.

We wish our pupils, parents, and our past pupils, both in Ireland and abroad, every happiness and success in the New Millennium.

## *I was a Changeling Child*

Lucie Kavanagh

I was twisted into shape out of warm straw and frozen dewdrops.

Another child in my cot was

Stolen;

Taken away in the dead of night and replaced with me,

Not even enough for thieving, immoral fairies!

Or ugly little elves.

Trying to understand their language,

And smiles that might hold you tight or swallow you whole,

(Nothing like childhood nightmares and facetious neighbours-

"Couldn't you just eat her up!!?")

I am reminded of this by a man I met last week,

Who was talking in a foreign language for a good

Ten minutes before I realised he was addressing me and I

was staring in a

mirror wearing headphones so that

His words and the song words and the secret language with

which I must address

myself were all mixed up.

And somehow I remembered another life where I was something,

And became something else in the blink of an eye;

When people grieved for what they never fully understood,

And survival was the alternative to becoming a substance rather than a solid.

And I remembered a summer evening when proud parents

left the nursery window

open.

Well

Imposters grow up and mingle and resemble,

To pretend to become

Part of a world that is not accepting,

And not understanding

The betrayal

It seeks in silence,

To avenge.



# Gone To The Dogs

*Eamon Murren*

When "Jacko" and "Lulu" Rushe died in the late 60s the whole parish was upset. When "Max" Caulfield died there were tears in Upper Main Street. When "Trudy" Curley died, the pub in Clare Street was closed as a mark of respect. I'm not writing of the death of people but of dogs.

Such is people's affection for dogs that we have all at some stage been affected by them. As Goldsmith wrote:-

And in that town a dog was found  
As many dogs there be  
Both mongrel, puppy, whelp and hound  
And curs of low degree

In Ballyhaunis many is the mongrel or pure-bred that has captured our affection. Names that bring back memories are "Shep" Glynn, "Whiskey" Freeley, "Randy" Grogan, "Rocky" Herr, "Jacko" Webb, "Grouse" O'Brien and "Penny" Curley, to mention just a few. New laws and regulations mean that nowadays not as many dogs roam our streets. However, "Brandy" Forde, "Rex" Rattigan and "Sandy" Caulfield are still to be seen.

When Mike Webb's greyhound "Reserve Tank" won the Midland Greyhound Derby in Longford last August it was another greyhound success for Ballyhaunis. In my younger days my father kept a few greyhounds: "Speedy" and "Peggy" were two of them. Other prominent men in the greyhound business at the time were Frank Glynn, Pat Hughes, Vinnie Caulfield, Brod Moran, Eddie Fitzgerald and Ned Egan. All, alas, have passed to their eternal reward. I recall Vinnie Caulfield having a good dog called "Blank Cheque." He was fed on mince and brown bread; an odd sheep's head was thrown in to supplement his diet. His training entailed a long walk everyday plus some speedwork in the field out in Hazelhill. I remember us going down to Ned Egan's in Clagnagh to try the dogs out of traps. Ned had constructed his own trapping system.

The greyhound business is still going strong in Ballyhaunis. Peadar Kilcourse of Ashling Drive trains several dogs. Murt Hunt of Lecarrow has had great success. Sean Waldron of Cave has also been successful in recent years. Edward Fitzgerald of Upper Main Street and his brother Tom in Galway keep up their great family tradition in the sport. Last but not least, Mike Webb is after having a fantastic year with "Reserve Tank" and "Tank Team."

The late Peter Hannon told me a story once about my paternal grandfather. There was coursing in Tubbercurry and my grandfather had a dog entered. The dog happened to be a 'ringer' - that is to say he was running under another dog's name. In order to get a good price from the bookies the dog had been dyed in pig's blood and iodine to disguise him. In the first course he trotted up. However, before the second race it started to rain, the dye started to drop, my grandfather started to run and the rest of the day is history!

Yes, my friends, dogs have provided some entertainment for us. They have also provided some great stories and tales. Incidentally, the "Jacko" and "Lulu" Rushe I mentioned at the

outset were owned by the late Fr. Rushe. They were Scotch Terriers. My good neighbour Kathleen Caulfield could tell a story about them. Then again they say "a man's best friend is his dog", there is no mention of woman!

## "Gracenotes" What is it? Who is involved?

*Nuala Fitzgerald*

"Gracenotes" is a group of people from the female community in Ballyhaunis, who come together on a Thursday night to sing for pleasure. Their focus is on entertainment for everybody. 1999 was their first year in operation and they have been very active. They paid a visit to the Church Festival in Limerick last March and won a prize in their section. They also participated in the Cork Choral Festival where a great weekend was enjoyed by all.

During the Summer season they were asked to sing at the Medieval Banquet. They decided to get into period costume to match the evening and this added greatly to the mood of enjoyment. Participation at local events is their objective so once again they appeared at the Golf Club, where they were very well appreciated and a return visit is on the cards here. Would you ladies out there like to get in on the fun? - then telephone any of the Committee members listed below.

They commenced the 1999/2000 Choir season with a visit to Renvyle House Hotel for a workshop in voice production. The tutor for the weekend was Niamh Ó Ceallaigh, vocalist, currently based in Newport, Co. Mayo. The Choir surprised themselves with the depth of sound which surfaced during this weekend. It is planned to make this an annual event.

### Committee

Chairperson: Laura Brogan; Secretary: Nuala Fitzgerald; Choral Director: Anna Butler; Treasurer: Moira Stratford.



Gracenotes. Back l-r: Moira Stratford, Xanthe Pratt, Nuala Fitzgerald, Emer Thornton, Anna Henry, Mary Lyons, Maureen Thornton, Laura Brogan. Front: Tina Coyne, Hilary Murray, Ita Fahey, Mary Dawson, Úna Shiels, Geraldine Collins and Mary Hannah O'Connor.





*Katie Johnston, Knox St., who celebrated her 100th birthday this October, receiving her cheque for £300 from Very Rev. Canon Joseph Cooney P.P., Ballyhaunis on behalf of President Mary McAleese*



*Maria Cribbin, Main St., who celebrated her 80th birthday, pictured with her son Rev. Fr. J.J. Cribbin P.P. Milltown.*



# Mayo Roscommon Hospice

*Nuala Fitzgerald*

Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation is a registered charity which was established in 1992. To date our Palliative Care Teams have cared for over 1,700 patients and their families. The Foundation provides skilled medical, nursing and counselling care for patients in their own homes, in hospitals and nursing homes throughout the two counties. Our specially trained teams also offer help and support to the family, the doctors and the nurses of the patients in order to offer the highest standard of care.

The Hospice is a voluntary organised hospice support group. Members are volunteers who give their time steadfastly to the community without payment. Funds raised locally stay



L-R: Joe Hosty, Patricia Grogan, Helen Lyons and Dr. Alan Delaney. locally. On behalf of all who benefit from the services of the Hospice, thank you for caring.

Local Hospice Volunteer Committee: Chairperson: Dr. Alan Delaney; Secretary: Nuala Fitzgerald; Treasurer: Joe Hosty.

## The "S" Word

*David Freyne*

*Ssshhh!*

*"It's all in the past now so be quiet!"*

*"Drinking to forget?"*

*remember that day? When heartbeats slowed down?*

*It was the news that vaporised smiles faster than*

*They had appeared. Question the motive,*

*Question the questions. Liberty at last or just*

*Escapism? Not those left behind; forever*

*Freeze framing memories.*

*Fall to the floor and scream and burn inside.*

*Intense moment. Peace of mind died with those*

*Last words. Something beginning with g or h?*

*Why can't anyone remember? Why?*

*Maybe those words didn't mean as much as they*

*Do now but they should. Bad day for street corner*

*Gossips. Hypocrites. Tragedy is always interesting.*

*Underneath the silence the footsteps and visits*

*Fade away. Back to normality but what is normal?*

*A short lifetime remains a long term guilt trip.*

*Who remembers or really wants to?*

*Only a minority. Seven day wonder in these towns.*

*Suicide. Shock horror. Everyone turns away.*

*No one wants another sorrow in life and who*

*Really knows at that level? And how do you say*

*The 's' word to loved ones?*

*You can't.*

## Untitled No. 94

*David Freyne*

*Here we go again! Saturday night pub crawl.*

*Set the clocks by the ritual because nothing*

*Ever changes does it?*

*The same conversations rewound and replayed*

*Just out of sentimentality.*

*Is there anything else to say?*

*Pensive and passive. Smiling as not to give the*

*Wrong impression.*

*Switching channels on fingernails T V waiting*

*For the advertising to finish.*

*Wallpaper, watches, lampshades and closed*

*Doors are always interesting under intense*

*Observational boredom.*

*But behind the smiles and the banal chat*

*Lies a place where no one hears the silent*

*Screams and bitter memories shall remain*

*Black and white and never photographed...*



Friends from Tooraree and Ballindrehid L-R: Delia Flanagan, Gerry Cribbin, Phyllis Flanagan, Tom Daly, Joe Freeman, Brian Flanagan



# Patrons

*Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present.*

*(Prefix for all phone numbers is 0907 unless otherwise stated.)*

A. Care Service Ltd., Car Valeting & Carpet Cleaning (Prop. Gerry O'Boyle)	31055
A.I.B. Bank, Bridge Street	30464 / 30726
Alma's Ladies & Gents Hair Salon, Clare Street	30354
Annagh View Guesthouse (Prop. Dolores Halpin Murphy), Rooms en Suite	31000
Augustinian Fathers (Hon.), St. Mary's Abbey	30031
Avondale, B&B and Holiday Homes, Clare Street (Prop. Bridie Levins)	30345
Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union, Main Street	30998
Ballyhaunis Plant & Tool Hire, Knox Street	30979 / (093) 38559
Ballyhaunis Transport Service, to/from Dublin	30477 / (088) 549077
Ballyhaunis Tyre Centre (Prop. Edward Mooney)	30573 / 31377
Bank of Ireland, The Square	30073
Beauty For You, Bridge Street (Prop. Anita Duffy)	31424
Boyle, Tony; 35 Riverside Drive, Galway	
Braydon Properties, Coolnaha Directors, P. & A Waldron	31311
Bridge Club, Ballyhaunis	
Burke, Tom; M.R.C.V.S., Abbey Street	30225
Byrne, Pat; Victualler & Grocer, Knox Street	30283
Byrne's Bar, Clare Street	30039
Campbell's, Auctioneers & Insurance Brokers, Knox Street	30082
Carewell Registered Private Nursing Home, Knox Street	30833
Car, Tractor Repairs (Prop. Eamon McNamara), Devlis	30386 / (089) 2451908
Carty, Cllr. John, Carramore House, Knock	(094) 88149
Carney's, The Gem, Newsagents, Toys, Jewellery, Grocery	30840
Caulfield's Grocery & Newsagents, Upper Main Street	30637
Chamber of Commerce (Mary Smyth, Sec.)	
Churchfield House Hotel, Knock	(094) 88281/88556
Clock Tavern, Knox Street	30344
C.M.B. Constructors, Morris Bros. Ltd.	49353/49354/(088) 577053
Colleran's Pharmacy, Bridge Street	30028
Community School, Knock Road	30238
Connacht Scaffolding Ltd.	Tel. 30198 Fax. 30336
Connaught Arms, Knox Street	31053
Connolly's Kitchens, Galway Road	30327
Cooney, Very Rev. Joseph Canon P.P.; Parochial House	30006
Cosmo Local Superstores, Upper Main Street	30482
Crehan, Una; B & B and evening meal, seven days £70	30328
Cribbin, Cllr. John, Knockanarra	(Home) 30847 (Office) 30052
Cribbin, Jim	
Cunniffe Construction Ltd., Tooreen	49035 / (087) 2612838
Cunningham's, Londis Foodmarket, Abbey Street	30730 / 30162
Curley's Bar, Clare Street	30077



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Curley's Chemist, Main Street . . . . .	30110
Curley's Jewellery & Cosmetics, Bridge Street . . . . .	30110
Daly's Electrical, Domestic Appliances, Bridge Street . . . . .	30987
Dawn Ballyhaunis, Clare Road . . . . .	30555 / Fax. 30561
Delaney's, Paddy; Select Bar & Lounge, Abbey Street . . . . .	30024
Delaney's Ltd., Hardware, Paint, Household, Gifts, Bridge St. . . . .	30296
De-Luxe Cleaning, Carpets, Upholstery etc. (Vincent Higgins) . . . . .	30284
Dillon's Travel Agency, The Square . . . . .	30269 / 30021 / Fax. 30721
Doherty's Betting Office, Main Street . . . . .	30628 / 30738
Dolan, Eugene; Long Island, New York, U.S.A.	
Donnellan's Joinery, Undertakers, Funeral Home, Clare St. . . . .	30045
Donnellan's Service Station, Devlis, Heating Oil and Motor Diesel . . . . .	31151
Durkan's Central Inn, Main St. . . . .	30030
Eagney Insurance Services Ltd., Bridge Street . . . . .	30793 / 30794 / Fax. 30795
Electrical & Pump Services Ltd. . . . .	30226 / Fax. 30761
Fallon, Marcella & Walter; New Jersey, U.S.A.	
Finn Footwear Specialists, Ballyhaunis . . . . .	30141 & Kiltimagh(094) 81970
Fitzgerald's Grocery & Confectionery, Bridge Street	
Fitzpack Cartons Ltd., Tooraree, Folding and Laminated Cartons. . . . .	30808 / 30309 / 30811 / 31120
Flanagan Motors, Tooreen, New and Used Cars. . . . .	49433
Flogas Ireland Ltd. . . . .	30883 / Fax. 30040
Folliard, Noel, Barber, Knox St. . . . .	30606
Forde Bros., Ballinlough (Alum., PVC Windows & Doors) . . . . .	40525 / (086) 8120324
Forde's Ltd., The Square, The house for all the family . . . . .	30013
4Ds Off-Licence, The Square, Best Value selection of Wines, Beers and Spirits . . . . .	30013
Forkan's B & B, En-suite rooms, private parking, Knox Street . . . . .	30888
Freeley, David, Cab & Mini-bus hire . . . . .	31164 / (087) 2510908
Freyne, Bernard, Gas Service, Hazelhill . . . . .	30152 / Fax. 30040
Freyne Ceramics, Barrack St., For all your tiling needs . . . . .	30722
Freyne's Garage and Service Station, Clare St. . . . .	30043
Full Shilling, Restaurant, Carvey, Lunch Daily . . . . .	30443
G.A.A. Club (Chairman: Padraic Regan, Carrowreagh) . . . . .	31123
Gallagher, Martina & Michael, Hazelhill . . . . .	30605
Gallagher's Builders' Providers, Furniture, Main St. and Clare Rd. . . . .	30314 / 30020
Garvey-Moran, C., School Supplies, Knox St. . . . .	30079
Gerry's Barber Shop, Barrack St. . . . .	31014
Glynn, Pat, Photographer, Doctor's Rd. . . . .	30026 / Castlereagh: 20094
Godfrey, Michael, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon	
Golf Club, Coolnaha . . . . .	30014
Greene, Tony & Pauline, New York, U.S.A.	
Griffin, John, Orthodontist, Knock Rd. . . . .	30534
Griffin, Mike, Taxi Service, Clare Rd. & Devlis . . . . .	30213
Grogan, Austin, & Sons, Concrete Products, Cave . . . . .	30072
Guinness Ireland Group, Abbeyquarter . . . . .	30130 / 30192/ Fax. 30158
Gun Club, Ballyhaunis and District (Chairman: Eamon Burke) . . . . .	30151
Halpin, John & Breege, Floral Occasions, Tele-florist & Coffee Dock, Main Street	30012



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Harvest Fresh, Fruit and Veg., Main Street . . . . .	30736
Hazel, The; Bar & Restaurant, Contact: Margaret/Michael, Main Street . . . . .	30885
Hazelhill Timber Products Ltd., Europallets (Milo Henry) . . . . .	30094 / Fax. 30825
Healy, Joe; Registered Building Contractor, Annagh . . . . .	30481
Helen's Laundrette, Barrack Street . . . . .	30841
Heneghan Carpets & Furniture, Knox Street Car Park . . . . .	Tel./Fax. 30770
Herr, Fred; Grocer, Knox Street . . . . .	30315
Higgins, Jim TD; Devlis . . . . .	30052
Higgins, Pat; Devlis; Adult Education Officer, Co. Mayo . . . . .	(094) 23159
Higgins Business and Property Ltd., Main Street . . . . .	30088
Hopkins, Tom and Noreen; Main Street . . . . .	
Horse Shoe Inn, Abbey Street . . . . .	30178
Irises Florist, Interflora, Main Street . . . . .	30015
Jennings, Bernard, BDS; Knox Street . . . . .	30315
Johnston's Machinery, Farming Community Specialists, Knox Street . . . . .	30019
Jordan Windows, Clare Street . . . . .	30641
K.F. Antiques, Ballaghaderreen Rd, Ballyhaunis (Contact Kieran) . . . . .	31149/(087) 8037335
Kay's Salon, Knox Street . . . . .	30065
Keane Kitchens Ltd.; Kitchen/Bedroom Furniture, Clare Rd. . . . .	30038
Keane, Joe; Merchant Tailor, Knox St. . . . .	30751
Kearns, Tom; Plant Hire, Lavallyroe . . . . .	46193 / (087)2528894
Kelleher's Spar; Grocery, Newsagents & Wines, Main St. . . . .	30023
Kelly, Padraic; Furniture Manufacturer, Drimbane . . . . .	30089
Kelly, Rosaleen, RPN, MIRI, SK, CPP; Kinesiology, Learning Difficulties . . . . .	30022
Kenny, Joe; Tullamore, Co. Offaly . . . . .	
Lilly, John J.; Plant Hire, Johnstown . . . . .	30352
Little Brook House, Bed & Breakfast . . . . .	30151
Loughran, F. J.; MVB, MRCVS, Upper Main St. . . . .	30017
Lyons, Michael; Coach and Mini-Bus Hire, Lecarrow . . . . .	30347
Lyons, Michael G., Agricultural Contractor, Cloonfaughna, Knock . . . . .	(094) 80249
Lyons, Tommy; Publican, Main St. . . . .	
M. B. Kitchen Manufacturers, Gurteen . . . . .	30797
McGarry, Development Consultants, Architects, Engineers . . . . .	30170
McGarry's Ladieswear . . . . .	30084
McHugh, Terence, High Class Victualler, Abbey St. . . . .	30061
McKay Construction, Levallyroe . . . . .	Tel./Fax. 46320
McNamara Car Dismantlers, Dublin Road . . . . .	30439
MacSiurtáin's; Publicans, Live Music, Main St., . . . . .	30854
Madden, Gerald, Snooker Tables, Gurteen . . . . .	30228
Mercy Sisters (Hon.), Upper Main St. . . . .	30108
Moran Bros. Ltd, Building, Public Works Contractors, member 6 yr Structural Gaurantee Sch. . . . .	30146 / 30725
Moran, Donal; Television Systems Ltd., Knox Street . . . . .	30569
Moran, Donal K. & Sons; Building Contractor . . . . .	30079
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Moran, Tommie; Sweets, Ices, Fancy Goods, Fuel Merchants, Main Street . . . . .	30493
Morley, Tony & Sons; Exterior & Interior Decorations, Knox St. . . . .	30944



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Morrissey Transport Services, Cave.	30565
Mulhern, Edward; Bar & Taxi Service, Clare Street	30249
Mulrennan, James & Sons Ltd.; Fitted Kitchen & Bedrooms (Keane Kitchen Centre)	30038
Munro, Brian & Sons Ltd.; Insurance Broker.	30343
Murphy's Auto Sales, Service Station and Shop, Dublin Road Tel. / Fax.	30307
Murphy, Eddie & Sons; Menswear Specialists & Part Two, Main Street	30651
MWR FM, 96.1, Abbey Street	Ads. 30553; Requests: 30169
Red Square Fast Food and Restaurant (prop. Seamus Grogan).	31360
NCF Ltd., Mart and Sales	30166
Nestor and Co., Accountants, Dalgan House, Oakmount Ave.,	32000; Fax: 30294
Nestor's Corner Bar	31011
Newsround (Prop. Pat Freeley), Newsagency, Toys, Giftwear, Cards, Main Street	30897
Nicholson's Bar, Bridge Street	30357
Nolan's Pub and Undertakers, Knox Street	31174
Noone, Moira; Ard Patrick, Hazelhill	
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
P & P Plastering Service Ltd.	30715/30144
Parochial Hall Bingo	30212
Patterson, Noel, MRCVS; Main Street	30113 Fax: 30865
Phillips, Charlie & Sons; Shoes; Main Street	30368
Phillips, Charlie & Sons; Drapers; Main Street	30368
Phillips, Eamon; High Class Victualler; Main Street	30381
Phillips, Paddy; Publican Main Street	30118
Rattigan's Bar, Knox Street	30157
Royal Breffni Pub, Knox Street	31078
Rochford Motors, Main Mitsubishi Dealers, Knock Road	30163 / 30350; Fax: 30570
Ruane, P.; Radio & TV Dealer/Repairs, Knox Street	30129
Ryan's SuperValu, Main Street, (Free Parking at rear)	30359
Shop 'n News, Foodstore & Newsagents, Abbey Street	30950
St. Mary's Primary School, Abbeyquarter	30310
St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School, Abbey Street	30505
Stratford Photography	(086) 2469355 / 30293
Timoney, Martin; Carrownedan, RECI Electrical Contractor	(087) 2398402
Tynan Dillon & Co., Chartered Accountants, Clare Street	30261
Ulster Bank Ltd., Abbey Street	30049
Val's, for food and accommodation, Main Street	30068
Valerie's Ladies & Gents Hair Salon, Barrack Street	30681
Waldron, Anthony, Excavation Contractor, Clagnagh	(087) 2449313 / 31326
Wash Tub, Laundrette & Dry Cleaners, Same Day Service, Ironing Service	30449
Webb, M. J., Master Butcher, Main Street	30003
Webb, T. J., Catering and Retail Butcher, Bridge Street	30041 / (088) 679190
Western Brand Chickens Ltd., Fresh & Frozen Daily	30069; Fax: 30834
Winston, Gerard, Family Grocer, Devlis	30395

*The Annagh Magazine Committee wishes all the compliments of the Season to its readers and patrons.*



